

Outdoor Education

Camping Policy

Rationale:

- The school's camping program enables students to develop the knowledge and skills needed to cooperate and work with others in a non-school setting.
- Students have the opportunity to build on social skills that enable them to initiate, maintain and manage positive social relationships.
- Camps may have a cultural, environmental, leadership or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the outdoor educational programs offered at Derrimut PS.

Aims:

- To reinforce and extend classroom learning's.
- To provide all students with the opportunity to participate in a camping program.
- To provide students with experiences that promotes teamwork, cooperation, self-esteem, independence, leadership, judgement, tolerance, resilience and resourcefulness.
- To provide a program that offers students with the appropriate skills and knowledge needed to act responsibly and work independently and within a team environment.
- To provide shared classroom experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.

Implementation:

- A camp is identified as a school activity involving a minimum of one night's accommodation.
- The various activities at each level are:
 - ~ Preps: School Breakfast or dinner.
 - ~ Grade 1: Dinner and Activities at school
 - ~ Grade 2: Overnight School Sleepover
 - ~ Grade 3/4: 2 night camp
 - ~ Grade 5/6: 3 or 4 night camp

The staff will follow the camp and excursion checklist when preparing for the camp.

- All camps require School Council approval. Information that will be presented to the School Council will include:
 1. The educational aims and objectives of the camp.
 2. Travel Arrangements and costs.
 3. Venue details and itinerary of events.
 4. The names and contact numbers of all adults attending; including their expertise and experience.
 5. Student safety and risk management's procedures.

A parent information session may be organised to inform parents of all details.

- The School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DEECD requirements.
- All camps will be budgeted for at the beginning of the school year with camp details and precise costing presented to the Principal. Parents will be notified of exact costs and details of the camp as soon as possible.
- Students will not be excluded from camps simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing difficulty, who wish for their children to attend camp will be required to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a case-by-case basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual camps. Reminder notices will be sent home to parents a fortnight from the departure date reminding them to finalise their camp payment.
- Final payments must be made 1 week prior to departure; otherwise the student/s will not be able to attend the camp unless an alternative payment arrangement has been organised with the Principal.
- The Office Administrator is responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide classroom teachers with detailed records weekly.
- All year level classroom teachers who are involved in the camp will be expected to attend and participate.
- There must be a qualified First Aid trained teacher or helper on the camp.

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle

This policy was last ratified by Interim School Council in 2009