

# EXCURSIONS

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

- The school's excursion program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

### **Aims:**

- To reinforce, complement and extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom.
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school, and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world.

### **Implementation:**

- An excursion is defined as any activity beyond the school grounds.
- School Council must approve all excursions. In doing so, School Council will ensure that all excursions are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, that timely notice is given to parents and carers, and comply with all DEECD requirements.
- All endeavours will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend an excursion, 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 excursions. Parents will be sent notices before the excursion date reminding them of the need to finalise payment. Children whose payments have not been finalised at least 24 hours before the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements had been previously organised with the Principal.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide classroom teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.
- A designated 'Teacher in Charge' will coordinate each excursion.
- Prior to any child attending an excursion, parents/guardians must have provided to the school a signed permission form, a signed "Confidential Medical Information for School Council Approved Excursions" form, and must have paid the costs involved.
- Information will be provided to all parents of non-English speaking families in a manner that allows them to provide an informed consent to their children attending excursions.
- The Teacher in Charge of each excursion will complete a risk assessment.
- The Teacher in Charge will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements and excursion activities comply with DEECD guidelines.
- The online DEECD 'Notification of School Activity' information will be completed in advance of the event if required
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend excursions.
- The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills.
- The school will provide a mobile phone (if staff don't have one) and a first-aid kit for all excursions.

- Copies of completed Permission forms, and signed “Confidential Medical Information for School Council Approved Excursions” forms must be carried by excursion staff at all times.
- A senior staff member will be in attendance at school whilst the children are returning from any out-of-school-hours excursion. The Teacher in Charge will communicate with this person with regards to the anticipated return time. Alternatively, the school may use an SMS service to communicate with parents.
- Parents of children involved in excursions may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions. When deciding on which parents will attend, the Teacher in Charge will take into account –
  1. Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. eg. bus licence, first aid etc
  2. The need to include both male and female parents.
  3. The special needs of particular students.
  4. Availability of seats on buses etc.
- Parents selected to assist with an excursion may be required to pay costs associated with the excursion.
- Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher and the Teacher in Charge.
- All excursions require School Council approval. Information presented to the School Council will include: -
  1. The educational aims and objectives of the excursion.
  2. The names of all adults attending and their expertise and experience.
  3. Travel arrangements and costs.
  4. Venue details and an itinerary of events.
  5. Risk analysis and procedures followed to ensure the safety of the children.
- The above information will be provided to the Principal at least a week before the School Council meeting date.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

**August 2013**