



# PARK ORCHARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Policy: Camping

### 1. PURPOSE

The school's camping program enables students to further develop their learning and social skills development. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

### 2 AIMS

- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learning.
- To provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to a lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits.
- To provide a program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night's accommodation, including sleep overs at school.
- The program will be developed sequentially throughout the school.
- School Council will ensure that all school camps comply with all Department of Education and Training (DET) requirements.
- Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable.
- Students will not be excluded from camps simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial 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.
- Children whose payments have not been finalised at least two school days before the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Principal.
- School camps are an outdoor education activity and as such, are subject to specific planning and approval guidelines.
- School Council is responsible for approval of all overnight excursions; camps; interstate and overseas visits; excursions requiring sea or air travel; excursions involving weekends or vacations; and adventure activities.
- The school only uses residential campsites accredited by the *Australian Camps Association* or the *National Accommodation, Recreation & Tourism Accreditation Program (NARTA)* for overnight camps.

- Prior to seeking School Council approval for the camp, organising staff document the information relating to the camp relating to staffing, activities, medical and all relevant arrangements for the camp on the school proforma
- Submit the online [Notification of School Activity](#) three weeks prior to the camp
- School Council requires that students only travel on buses fitted with seatbelts.
- School Council requires that a report be tabled after each school camp, detailing feedback regarding the event, in particular any mishaps or areas for future improvement.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the supervision of school camps.
- Parents selected to assist with the camps program will be required to undertake a Working with Children Check.
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the camping program. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher.
- Students will sign a behavioural contract which will be countersigned by parents.
- A document outlining behavioural expectations is provided to parents and staff attending camping activities
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.
- Parents will be responsible for collecting students who become ill on camp and need to return home
- The primary references that must be consulted when considering all camps is the Safety Guidelines for Outdoor Education Activities website:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/edoutdoors/default.htm> as well as the Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety & Risk Management.
- To be read in conjunction with the Excursions Policy

### **School Camping Program**

**Foundation** - Camping day at school

**Years 1 & 2** - Camping activities and dinner at school and

**Years 3 & 4** - Three day camp

**Years 5 & 6** - Five day camp

#### **4. EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed annually at the conclusion of the school's camps program, and as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by School Council on...

**August 2015**