

1. RATIONALE

The camping program is a valued part of the learning culture at Doncaster Primary School. It provides a certain unique set of values and opportunities for the students, which justifies its inclusion in the curriculum. Camping provides the opportunity to broaden students' experiences, to take classroom activities into the outdoor environment and to present challenges not otherwise available in the normal school setting.

2. AIMS

The aims of the school camping program are to:

- 2.1 Build independence, self-reliance and confidence.
- 2.2 Develop maturity.
- 2.3 Expose students to activities and experiences out of the school environment.
- 2.4 Promote interest in outdoor pursuits and a greater awareness of the environment.
- 2.5 Instil a sense of responsibility toward others and an awareness of the need for team building within the camp environment.
- 2.6 Promote healthy staff/student relationships and improve students' attitudes to school and their learning.
- 2.7 Align with the Victorian Curriculum and the school's teaching and learning plan.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The Principal will be responsible for the implementation and supervision of this policy and ensure that all camps and excursions are conducted within DET and School Council guidelines.
- 3.2 Teachers should take particular care to comply with the requirements for excursions that are set out in the compendium of Administration Notices, the Regional Policies, Procedures and Practices, and in DET Notices and instructions that are issued from time to time.

The following program is suggested as a guideline to be adapted as the need arises:

- *Level 4: 3 Day / 2 Night base camp*
 - *Level 6: 5 Day / 4 Night base camp*
 - *Level 5: Sommers Camp places offered through the Department of Education*
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- 3.4 The participation of class teachers with their own class is a major factor in the success of a camping program and it is anticipated that each class teacher will be involved in the program.
 - 3.5 Education Support Staff who volunteer to attend a camp will receive full day payment whilst on camp in place of time in lieu. The full time equivalent to the current time fraction allocation. For example, if an ESS is in a 0.6 time fraction normally (three days per week) and they attend camp for five days, they will be paid an additional two days pay in place of time in lieu.
 - 3.6 Parents that volunteer to attend and assist on camp must have a valid Working With Children's Check.
 - 3.7 Level Leaders will take responsibility for the planning, preparation and implementation in collaboration with the Camping Coordinator, School Council, Principal Class Officers, staff and parents.
 - 3.7.1 Planning is to be undertaken in accordance with the *Living, Working and Learning at Doncaster Primary School Staff Handbook of Best Practice*.
 - 3.7.2 School Council has the ultimate responsibility for approving plans, arrangements and costs
 - 3.7.3 At the discretion of the Principal, School Council funding support may be sought for special cases only. Parents may be given the option of paying by instalments.

- 3.7.4 Camps involve teachers in added responsibility and care for students. If, in the opinion of the Principal, any student who constitutes a danger to themselves or others, because of misbehaviour or incident, may be excluded from the camp at any time. Behaviour expectations will be in line with the Student Wellbeing Program.
- 3.8 The camp policy is an important part of the Outdoor Educational Program at Doncaster Primary School and is assessed and monitored as required by the DET.

4. BUDGET

- 4.1 Cost should be kept to a minimum, however, the camp level coordinator must ensure that camps are carefully costed to avoid a financial loss.
- 4.2 Costs are to be met by parents.
- 4.3 Fundraising options may be explored to offset costs of the camp.

5. EVALUATION

This policy is subject to a major review every third year.

