Camping - 2014

Policy Coordinator: The Principal

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

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 re-enforce and extend classroom learning.
- To provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits.
- To provide a program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgment, cooperation and tolerance.

IMPLEMENTATION:
- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night’s accommodation.
- The program will be developed sequentially throughout the school.
- The School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DEECD requirements.
- The March edition of the school newsletter will provide approximate dates and costs associated with the following year’s camps.
- All camps will be budgeted for at the beginning of the year with detailed and accurate costing prepared by the principal. Parents will be notified of the exact cost 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.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payment for individual camps. Parents will be sent reminder notices a fortnight before the departure date. Children whose payments have not been finalized at least two school days before the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organized with the Principal.
- Any family who has not met the required payment for a previous camp will be unable to participate in the camping program until this payment is finalised.
- School council will set aside a budget each year to assist with the camp

References: School Policy and Advisory Guide
• Fundraising will be conducted to offset transport costs.
• The designated “Teacher in Charge” of each camp will ensure that all camps, bus arrangements and camp activities comply with the DEECD guidelines. The “Student Activity Locator” form will be completed online at least two weeks prior to the camp departure date. All students will be required to provide written permission from their parent/career to attend the camp, as well as a completed “Confidential Medical Information for School Council Approved Excursions” form.
• The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills and will provide a Level 2 First Aid trained teacher/Parent on each camp.
• The school will provide a mobile phone for all camps.
• Only students who have displayed sensible, reliable behavior at school will be invited to participate in the camping program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in a camping experience due to poor behavior at school. If the unsatisfactory behavior continues, the child will then be excluded from the camp. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher and after discussions with both the student and parents/career.
• Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behavior 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 parents/career.
• All camps require School Council approval. This approval is sought at a scheduled meeting at least three weeks prior to the departure date. Information presented to School Council will include:
  o The educational aims and objectives of the camp.
  o The names of all adults attending and their expertise and experience.
  o Travel arrangements and costs.
  o Venue details and an itinerary of events.
  o Procedures followed to ensure the safety of the children.
  o Details on the number of students excluded from camp.
  o Alternative program for students not attending camp.

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

Ratified by School Council: MONTH, YEAR

References: DEECD School policy Advisory Guide - Excursions