

Camps and Excursions Policy

RATIONALE

It is intended through camps and excursions to involve Dandenong Valley SDS students in unique opportunities to develop and implement a broad range of competencies across areas of the curriculum.

AIMS

- To expand the students' knowledge of their environment.
- To provide opportunities for the application of independence and community awareness skills which students have learned at school.
- To provide students with opportunities to develop initiative, responsibility and confidence outside the school and home environment.
- To provide additional experiences to promote language.
- To develop leisure and recreational skills.
- To enable students to experience new places and new settings and provide opportunities to learn and accept change.
- To develop social and behavioural skills appropriate to the settings.
- To provide the opportunity for enjoyment through structured and unstructured activities.
- For students to become aware of the availability of community resources for leisure activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Students to participate in excursions and camps at various times in accordance with their needs, availability of suitable venues and availability and willingness of staff.
- Excursions and camps will be comprehensively planned, maximise the safety of all participants and have specific educational aims.
- Plans will be submitted to the Department Leader and Principal for approval before notification of parents. All camps will meet DEECD guidelines and have school council approval. Applications should be submitted to school council six weeks before the camp.
- School Council approval is required for all overnight excursions, interstate visits, excursions requiring air or sea travel, excursions involving weekends or vacations and adventure activities.
- Three weeks before the camp the staff member in charge should notify the Department's Emergency and Security Management Branch using an online



form which can be found at:

<<http://eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp>>

- Camps and excursions will be designed, giving due considerations to the student's experience, age, physical and intellectual ability.
- Teacher/pupil ratio while endorsing DEECD regulations will depend on the particular needs of the group and the activities being undertaken and will be determined in consultation with the Principal. As a general rule at least three adults should be present at camps.
- Staff will carry medical and emergency information at all times including completed Epilepsy and Asthma Management Plans.
- Parents, volunteers and extra staff will be used where necessary, after satisfactory completion of a police check.
- Students will be involved in leisure programs where appropriate.
- Teachers will provide opportunities for students to develop interests in a variety of leisure activities.
- Parents will be asked to contribute towards the cost of school camps and excursions where necessary.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CAMPS

Class teachers will recommend students at their discretion depending on level of risk to themselves, staff and other children attending camp.

Staff on camp reserve the right to contact parents to collect their child if their behaviour and or health requires them to be returned home.

EVALUATION

The program and policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that:

- that the aims of the policy are appropriate to the needs of the school population
- that appropriate and sufficient resources are available
- that the policy reflects the School Strategic Plan
- that program goals are consistent with policy
- that the program meets the needs of individual students.

Ratified 19/07/2006

Last reviewed 28th March 2012

