

CAMPS POLICY

RATIONALE

The camping program enables students to explore, extend and enrich their learning and their 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 by Yarraville SDS. A camp may be defined as any activity that involves at least one night's accommodation. This policy applies to Yarraville SDS

- To provide students with the opportunity to participate in a camping program that is linked to social and educational outcomes for students.
- To provide shared class experiences, team building 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.

CHILD SAFETY

This policy is written in accordance with the DET Child Protection Mandatory Reporting Policy and Education and Training Reform Act, Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools, Ministerial Order No. 870.

Yarraville SDS is a Child Safe School and has a ZERO TOLERANCE OF CHILD ABUSE.

Therefore, we fully implement and practice the Child Safe Standards. Yarraville Special Developmental School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

IMPLEMENTATION:

References: The primary references that must be consulted when considering all camps is the Safety Guidelines for Outdoor Education Activities website: and the School Policy & Advisory Guide: Student Safety.

Financial

- School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DET requirements.
- 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 and the Business Manager on a case-by-case basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual camps.
- School Council may set aside a budget each year that will cover the cost of replacing teachers who are involved in camps, or the costs for replacement staff may be factored into the camp costs of participants.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organising teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

Approval & Planning

- School camps are an outdoor education activity and as such, are subject to specific planning and approval guidelines.
- Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed school camp, the Teacher in Charge must familiarise themselves with DEI's Safety Guidelines for Educational Outdoors:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor.aspx>
- All camps must be approved by the Principal or Assistant Principal and the School Council.
Staff wishing to organise a camp must first complete an excursion/camp proposal form and provide it to the Principal or Assistant Principal for approval.
- The Teacher in Charge must ensure that all the camp, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and student/staff ratios comply with DEECD guidelines.
- The Teacher in Charge will complete the DET Notification of School activity form online at four (4) weeks prior to the camp departure date.
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorforms.aspx>
- All food, equipment, staffing, organisation of activities and student management procedures must be addressed prior to the camp.
- Consideration needs to be given to students with special dietary and medical requirements. Parents should notify the staff in writing regarding special dietary requirements when returning consent forms.

Venue

- The school will only use residential campsites accredited by the 'Australian Camps Association' or the 'National Accommodation, Recreation & Tourism Accreditation Program (NARTA)' for overnight camps.
- Camp venues will be assessed for their inherent safety and suitability, as well as for the risks associated with the activities that may occur during the camp or excursion.

Safety

- The school will ensure that all camps comply with all DET requirements. All safety requirements must be considered and adequately resolved prior to the camp.
- Telephone numbers of all emergency services must be provided to the school, and be taken on camp by The Teacher in Charge and accessible to all staff.
- If any swimming activities are to occur, there must be sufficient staff in attendance with a approved DET nominated swimming qualification. Refer: Swimming Supervision and Water Safety

Communication

- All aspects of the camp will be outlined to parents in writing, including cost, sleeping arrangements, itinerary, activities, clothing and equipment lists, contact phone numbers, transport arrangements, student management processes, permission and medical forms and clearly stated payment options and payment finalisation dates.
- All parental consent and medical forms must be completed, signed and returned prior to the date of the camp.
- Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be accessible by staff at all times at the camp location.

Staffing

- All camps will have an experienced teacher in attendance where possible.
- A designated Teacher in charge will coordinate each camp.
- The Teacher in charge must provide the Principal and office with a final student list before departure to the camp.
- The Teacher in charge is responsible for ensuring that a mobile phone/satellite phone and first aid kit are taken to the camp.
- The Teacher in charge will ensure all students and adults attending the camp are aware of evacuation and emergency procedures.
- The Teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the school office in the case where camps are returning out of school hours.
- In special circumstances, parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of school camps. When deciding which parents will attend the organising teacher will take into

account any valuable skills offered (e.g. bus licence, first aid, etc), gender balance and special needs of particular students. Parents selected to assist with the camps program will be required to undertake a Working with Children Check.

Students

In the case where a camp involves a particular class group, the organising teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the camp.

Transport

When transporting students to and from school camps the school will comply with DET Guidelines relating to Excursion Support-Transport

Adventure Activities

Adventure activities are those that involve greater than normal risk such as base camping, bush walking, canoeing, snow activities, orienteering, cycling, horse riding, rock climbing and abseiling, challenge ropes courses, swimming (other than school swimming programs), surf activities, sailboarding, and similar activities. Staff should consult the DET Adventure Activities website, or seek advice from peak bodies or skilled and experienced staff with recent experience instructing the activity to satisfy Council's requirements. Refer: Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors

Planning & Organisation Questions

- What is the purpose of the camp and its connection to student learning?
- Do staff members attending have the competence to provide the necessary supervision of students throughout the camp?
- Is an appropriately trained member of staff able to provide first aid?
- Have staff members who are not registered teachers completed a Working with Children Check?
- Is the location of staff and students throughout the camp including during travel known?
- Is a record of telephone contacts for supervising staff accompanying the camp available?
- Is a record of the names and family contacts for all students and staff available?
- Are copies of the Parental Consent and Confidential Medical Advice forms for those students on the camp available at the school?

- Has a copy of the completed School Council approval proforma been submitted and approved?
- Will the online Notification of School Activity form be submitted four weeks prior to the excursion?
- Do all activities including the bus travel have Risk Assessments?

Considerations for students with medical conditions e.g. Anaphylaxis - see anaphylaxis policy:

Pre- camp preparation:

1. Parents requested to supply a second epi-pen for camp
2. Staff to collect details of
 - a. nearest emergency medical treatment in the area and b. how far is the nearest ambulance base.
 - b. mobile phone reception in camp location
3. Staff to ensure the planned menu does not contain allergens
4. Parents of all students requested not to send snacks contain nuts etc.
5. At least one first aid officer to be familiar with the student and his needs
6. All accompanying staff to revise the symptoms of Anaphylaxis, strategies to prevent contact with allergens and student's Management Plan, students Emergency Action Plan and use of practice Epipens. Class teacher of student to organ

REFERENCES:

- School Policy & Advisory Guide - Student Safety
- Safety Guidelines for Educational Outdoors
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor.aspx>
- DET Notification of School activity form
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorforms.aspx>
- Swimming Supervision and Water Safety
- Excursion Support -Transport
- Adventure Activities website
- Parental Consent
- Confidential Medical Advice
- Notification of School Activity
- Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide
- Circular 246/2007- Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors

REVIEW CYCLE:

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

This policy was ratified by school council on: 23rd March 2021