Wales Street Primary School

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS
POLICY

Policy No.1.15

Preamble
At Wales Street Primary School camps and excursions are provided for children as an exciting and natural way to enhance classroom programs and expand their world view. They provide children with real life experiences, which build on classroom programs providing opportunities for knowledge and skill development including opportunities to enhance social skills.

Purpose

The purpose of camps and excursions at Wales Street is:-
• to enhance classroom programs and units of work by providing meaningful experiences that cannot normally be provided within the school setting.
• to provide opportunities to motivate children for learning and to acquire specific activity related skills.
• to provide children with an opportunity to learn about themselves and to have fun in a safe and secure environment.
• to develop in children an appreciation of their natural environment
• to provide children with the opportunity to learn about living with others, to develop their interpersonal and team building skills. (Links made to VELS Interpersonal and Personal Learning Strand)
• to provide children with an opportunity to develop independence and skills and experience in being away from home and school.
• to provide children with the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Guidelines for Implementation

Ex/Incursions

Grades/year level teams will organise Ex/Incursions when appropriate. They may be in the form of an organised on-going program e.g. swimming; a unit related day out e.g. Museum trip or a year level related event e.g. 5\6 transition visit. For detailed guidelines on the conducting of excursions staff will refer to the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide.

An excursions and incursion planner is to be used when planning and handed to office staff. All events should be written on the yearly planner and the dates entered on the website.
Camps Grade 3-6
All children in grade 3-6 will be offered the opportunity to participate in the camping program. The camp will be a 3 day camp ex-Melbourne (Victoria or interstate)

- All camps will be tabled at school council for ratification before parents are notified about the camp details.
- Camps are not to be held during Bushfire season- November -March (where possible)
- Travel would occur by bus and the number of students taken would depend on staff availability.
- Activities would vary depending on site but may include ropes, horse-riding, archery, cooking, walking and craft.
- Where possible venues will be rotated so as to provide a range of experiences for those children attending
- Cost of this camp will be kept under $250.00 whenever possible
- Student places would be allocated on a first come-first served basis but initial preference will be given to those children in higher grades.
- Staff attending, where possible, will be drawn from the 3-6 area and specialist staff
- Camps will have a Level 2 First Aid trained adult in attendance.

* The above details may change depending on staff changes, school events and availability of staff and venues.

* The Wales Street community recognises the efforts of those staff who volunteer to attend school camps in order to maintain our camping program

* For detailed guidelines on the conducting of camps staff will refer to the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide.

* Excursions/Camps that do not meet the criteria above (eg, China trip) will be governed by their own policies and procedures.

Bus Hire
- Buses hired for transport to camps, excursions and sporting events must comply with the Section 4.10 of the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide.
- Buses that provide seat belts are to be used on any itinerary where the speed of the bus is likely exceed 90 KPH.

Resources
Attendance at camps/excursions will be user pay in most cases but the school will assist where it can by providing for those children who cannot attend due to cost.

Evaluation
Staff, parents and students will generally provide feedback both informally and formally at the conclusion of an excursion/camp activity. This will allow

modifications/changes to be made to programs/procedures before future activities are organised.