



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 where appropriate, their global awareness and key facets of their emotional and social learning. Camps 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.
- Provide opportunities to motivate children for learning and to acquire specific activity related skills.
- Provide children with an opportunity to learn about themselves and to have fun in a safe and secure environment.
- Develop in children an appreciation of their natural environment
- Provide children with the opportunity to learn about living with others, to develop their interpersonal and team building skills. (Links made to AusVELS Interpersonal and Personal Learning Strand)
- Provide children with an opportunity to develop independence and skills and experience in being away from home and school.
- Provide children with the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Guidelines for Implementation

Ex/Incursions

- Grades/year level teams will organise excursions/incursions that will enhance the units of inquiry and provide experiences that will engage students in their learning, 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 electronic yearly planner and the dates entered on the website.

- Parents will be charged an excursion levy at the beginning of the year that will cover the expenses of any excursions/incursions that occur throughout the school year. This levy is designed to provide office staff and budget coordinators the flexibility to manage and plan these events more effectively. This levy does not include the optional items such as interschool sports events and swimming.
- The process for the collection of monies is organised and managed by the office manager. Families will be informed of the cost of each incursion at the time of notification. The annual excursion levy cost will be published in the annual school fees letter sent to families at the end of each year for the following school year.

Camps Grade 3-6

All children in grade 3-6 will be offered the opportunity to participate in the camping program. The camp for grade 3-4 will be a 3 day camp ex-Melbourne (Victoria) and up to a 5 day camp for Grade 5-6 (Victoria or interstate)

- All camps will be tabled at school council for ratification before parents are notified about the camp details.
- Travel would occur by bus and the number of students taken would depend on staff availability. In the case of an interstate camp, the viability of air travel may be considered and parents will be consulted well in advance.
- 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.
- Camp coordinators will endeavour to source camp venues that provide places for as many students as possible.*
- Staff attending will be prioritised in the following order: first from the grade 3-6 area, specialist staff and then other staff as required, to minimise disruption to classes.
- Camps will have a Level 2 First Aid trained adult in attendance.
- Camps will be aligned with the Units of Inquiry, the Learner Profile and attitudes as well as programs such as You Can Do It, as much as possible to compliment the programs conducted during the school year.

* This will depend 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.

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.

Status: *Reviewed and ratified 2015*

Review: 2018

- Buses that provide seat belts are to be used on any itinerary where the speed of the bus is likely exceed 60 KPH.

Resources

Attendance at camps/excursions will be user pays but the school will assist in cases of hardship to provide for students with the opportunity to attend camps /excursions. This will be considered on a case by case basis.

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.

This policy will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle.

Proposed Camp program for Wales Street PS

Grade 34 camps – focus on You Can Do It foundations and the Learner Profile.

Bush camp venues and outdoor education based on a two year rotation.

E.g. Arrabri (Warburton) – even year

Baanyibiami (Brisbane Ranges) odd year

Grade 56 camp- focus on Units of Inquiry and Leadership/ community service Programs based on a two year rotation.

Beach and Bush venues eg,

Horse riding camp

Portsea camp