

## CAMPS POLICY

### Rationale

Camps are seen as an integral part of the school curriculum as they enable 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 at our school. A camp is defined as any activity that involves at least one night's accommodation.

### Aims

- to provide students with the opportunity to participate in a camping program that is linked to social, cultural and educational outcomes for students
- to provide shared class and year level 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
- to further develop their problem solving and life survival skills
- to extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment.

### Implementation

#### *Child Safety*

- As a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the Victorian Government introduced a range of measures to better protect children. These measures include:
  - The Child Safe Standards
  - Reportable Conduct Scheme
  - Organisational Duty of Care
- Whittlesea Secondary College (WSC) uphold our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety (refer to the WSC Child Safe Environment Policy, Appendix A).
- All staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work will be informed about, and expected to adhere to, the Whittlesea Secondary College Child Safety Code of Conduct (refer to the WSC Child Safe Environment Policy, Appendix B).
- The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.

#### *Approvals and Consent*

- All camps must be approved first by the Principal, then by School Council.
- The Principal or their nominee will ensure that full records are submitted to council regarding the camp well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no camp occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved.
- Ideally all camps should be submitted to Council for in-principle approval in the November/December Council meeting in the preceding year.
- Staff wishing to organise a camp must ensure they refer to all relevant preparation documentation (including and not limited to student/teacher ratios, refer Appendix A), complete a camp proposal form (refer to Appendices B and C) and lodge these with the Assistant Principal for reference to the Principal for approval. All camps must be approved prior to running. This decision will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- The Principal in consultation with appropriate staff will consider the educational outcomes of the camp as

well as the impact on the school program for the proposed dates.

- The Principal and Assistant Principal in consultation with organising teachers will ensure that all camps, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and student/staff ratios comply with DET guidelines.
- The School office will complete the “Notification of School Activity” online at [www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp) four weeks prior to the camp departure date, and pass on to the Assistant Principal to ensure relevant details are recorded in the Daily Organisational Diary and are entered on the daily absence/planning sheets.
- All approved camps will then be presented to School Council for their approval.
- Student attendance, participation and medical information and needs must be provided and consented to by parents/carers prior to the camp.

### ***Access to Camps***

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend a camp, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Business Manager. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Business Manager in consultation with the appropriate staff, on an individual basis.
- 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 finalization dates.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for camps. All parental consent and medical forms must be completed, signed and returned and all money must be paid prior to leaving. Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be accessible at the camp location by staff at all times.
- Only students that have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school camps. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in a camp due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, Assistant Principal, Director of Well Being, in consultation with the organising teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the camp. All students participating in a school camp will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to abide by all camp rules.
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable or a danger to others. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with a member of the leadership team, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

### ***Organisation***

- 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 and medical requirements when returning consent forms.
- 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.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the General Office with a final student list as well as posting a copy on the staff excursion notice board and on the intranet.
- In the case where a camp involves a particular class or year level group, the organizing teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the camp.
- The school will provide a mobile phone and first aid kit for each camp. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving.
- 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.
- For high risk Outdoor Education activities the staff member organising must have suitable training and current qualifications. All staff members must be aware of the increased duty of care.
- The teacher in charge will ensure that student medical forms are available at the site and all camp staff are aware of special medical issues or medication requirements of any student.

- One staff member will be designated to take responsibility for administering student medication if required. (following consultation with parents and/or appropriate medical practitioners).
- Prepare students for the excursion (refer to [DET Student Excursion Support and Preparation](#))
- Teachers prepare the required documentation for School Council approval (refer to relevant policies and Department links below, and Appendices B, C & D).

### **Site Safety**

- All safety requirements must be considered and adequately resolved prior to the camp. Telephone numbers of all emergency services must be provided to the College, and be taken on camp. If any swimming activities are to occur, there must be sufficient staff attending with appropriate swimming qualifications to enable safe supervision. Refer to: [DET Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)
- A designated “Teacher in Charge” will coordinate each camp. All camps will have an experienced teacher in attendance where possible.
- 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. Parents will be informed prior to students leaving for the camp, that they can phone the office to receive an updated anticipated return time.
- Student-staff ratios must be adhered to. Refer to Appendix A Pupil/Teacher Ratios and the [DET School Policy and Advisory Guide](#)
- For additional information regarding safety, please check the policy documents below.

### **Related Legislation and Policies**

- [Ministerial Order No. 870](#)
- [DET Child Safety Policy](#)
- [DET School Policy and Advisory Guide](#)
- [DET Excursions and Activities Policy](#)
- [DET Student Excursion Support and Preparation](#)
- [DET Staffing and Supervision Ratios](#)
- [DET Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)
- [DET Adventure Activities](#)
- WSC Child Safe Environment Policy
- WSC First Aid Policy
- WSC Anaphylaxis Policy
- WSC Welfare and Discipline Policy
- WSC Student Code of Conduct

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Pupil/Teacher Ratios
- Appendix B: Pro-forma for school approval for all camps
- Appendix C: Guidelines for teachers planning a camp or excursion
- Appendix D: Notification of School Activity (camps and excursions)

### **Evaluation**

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

**This Policy was last ratified by School Council in: 2017**

## APPENDIX A

### Pupil/Teacher Ratios

<p><b>Abseiling and Rock Climbing</b></p> <p>1:1 Rock Face 1:10 Others 2 Experienced Staff</p>	<p><b>Ropes Course</b></p> <p>1:12 3 students to any one element, 1 participating, 2 spotting <b>NOTE:</b> No student on any element unless supervised</p>
<p><b>Bass Camping</b></p> <p>1:10 Residential; canvas 1:15 Study: residential</p>	<p><b>Scuba Diving</b></p> <p>1:8 Pool training 1:4 Diving, 2 buddy systems <b>NOTE:</b> 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><b>Board Sailing</b></p> <p>1:3 Beginners 1:5 Novice; intermediate; advanced 2 Experienced sailors</p>	<p><b>Shooting</b></p> <p>1:1 New or inexperienced 1:5 On the track or mound 1:15 Observers or waiting</p>
<p><b>Boats, Small Sailing - (Dinghies, Catamarans)</b></p> <p>1:8 Enclosed Waters 1:6 Open Waters 1:4 Open Waters, Adverse</p>	<p><b>Snorkelling</b></p> <p>1:8 Closed water: pool 1:4 Open water <b>NOTE:</b> 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><b>Bushwalking</b></p> <p>1:5 Overnight 1:10 Day</p>	<p><b>Snow Activities</b></p> <p>1:8 Alpine, Nordic – overnight 1:10 Alpine, Nordic – day 1:10 Non-skiing</p>
<p><b>Canoeing</b></p> <p>1:6 2 Staff members</p>	<p><b>Surf Activities</b></p> <p>1:10 Beach 1:8 Surf <b>NOTE:</b> 1 teacher/instructor in water and <b>NOTE</b> 1 teacher/instructor on beach</p>
<p><b>Cycling</b></p> <p>1:10</p>	<p><b>Swimming</b></p> <p>1:20 Enclosed pools 1:10 Open water</p>
<p><b>Horse Riding</b></p> <p>1:1 Basics 1:5 Beginners 1:8 Semi-experienced <b>Riding School:</b> 1 Experienced teacher with instructor 2 Experienced teachers if no instructor or group exceeds 10</p>	<p><b>Water Skiing</b></p> <p>1:20 Shore 1 Student on two at any one time; if highly experienced two may be taken together 2 People in boat – driver and observer; one must be staff member</p>
<p><b>Orienteering</b></p> <p>1:10 Bush</p>	

## APPENDIX B

### Pro forma for School Approval for all Camps

*\*This form must be complete and handed to the Principal five days before School Council. If possible Council approval is required TWO normal meetings before the camp date and for interstate and overseas trips Council needs to approve the trip in the November Council meeting of the preceding year. It is suggested that a Teacher-in-charge attend the Council meeting if possible.*

The processes outlined below provide adequate and appropriate supervision of students in the school yard so that the school fulfils its duty care to its students in terms of on-site supervision.

**1. Camp Location / Phone**

Name of Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nearest town: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone of Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

*Emergency Services Phone Number and Locations:*

**Police** - Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire** - Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctor** - Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

**Hospital-** Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

**Ambulance-** Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

**Other** - Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

*Type of Camp Accommodation:*

Canvas  Bunkhouse  Chalet

Motel  Hotel  Other

If *other*, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Dates / Times**

Leave School at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm on \_\_\_\_\_ (day/month/year)

Arrive back at School \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm on \_\_\_\_\_ (day/month/year)

No. of days of Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this Camp in: School time only? YES  No

Holidays time only? YES  No

School time and holidays/weekends time? YES  No

Does this camp clash with any major school activities on the School calendar? YES  No

If *YES*, list these activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Staff included**

Teacher(s)-in-charge: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

No. of extra staff required to meet safety ratios:

Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers of any teacher aides/parents/student teachers who wish to be included in the staffing (not camp staff). In most cases non-teaching staff will require a police check (paid by the School).

Mr / Mrs / Ms: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr / Mrs / Ms: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr / Mrs / Ms: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

It is the responsibility of the teacher-in-charge to ensure that all activities are adequately staffed. School Council will adopt the Guide to staff supervision ratios (Appendix A).

Has the teacher-in-charge checked these ratios? YES  No   
 Can these ratios be met with the above staff requested? YES  No

**4. Student Numbers / Age**

Actual names are NOT required when this approval application goes to School Council. Actual names must be left with the Principal/Assistant Principal two weeks before the camp.

Boys: \_\_\_\_\_ Girls: \_\_\_\_\_ Totals: \_\_\_\_\_

Age range of most students: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of camp (per student): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Educational aims of Camp (state briefly)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Method of Travel / Route**

Travel to the Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel back to School: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel while at Camp: \_\_\_\_\_

Are staff member's cars involved? YES  No

If YES, complete the details below:

CAR OWNER	TYPE	REG. NO #	INSURANCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		

**NOTE:** All staff cars must be covered by comprehensive insurance policies.

Are staff member's driving buses? YES  No

If the buses require drivers to have endorsed licences, list the staff drivers attending with such qualifications.

NAME OF STAFF	LICENCE NUMBER	EXPIRY DATE

**NOTE:** If a BUS is hired (self drive or with company driver) staff are requested to ensure the vehicle has seat belts on all seats.

**Route**

In the space below, outline the main route of travel for this camp (if you are on a set tour, attach a brochure with the mapped route).

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**7. Activities on this Camp**

A daily plan is not required here, but must be handed to the Principal within two weeks of the camp. The teacher-in-charge must ensure that all activities listed below are covered as follows:

- (i) Pupil/Teacher Ratios – (see Appendix A). You may use on-site camp staff in these activities.
- (ii) Special Qualifications – list staff with the required qualifications where appropriate.
- (iii) Student Equipment – students/parents must receive a list of equipment/dress required well before the camp.

ACTIVITY	STAFF RATIO	SPECIAL STAFF ON SITE QUALIFICATIONS	STUDENT EQUIPMENT

**8. Camp Insurance**

A member of staff need to SIGHT a copy of the Camp’s Insurance Policy and note details below for School Council.

INSURANCE COMPANY	POLICY NO.	TYPE OF INSURANCE	LIMIT OF COVER

**9. Certification**

As the teacher-in-charge, I certify that the particulars in the application are true and correct. I am aware of the safety precautions published in Department of Education and Early Childhood Development booklets for the activities above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Post Approval Requirements

If the camp receives School Council approval, based on the information under Points 1-8, the teacher-in-charge must work with the Assistant Principal to ensure the following procedures are carried out before the camp:

- (i) Notify the Region on a "Notification of School Activity" form kept by the Principal or online.
- (ii) Ensure students/parents receive four sheets.
  - (a) Camp description including clear costs, dates, modes of travel, contact numbers and aims/activities.
  - (b) Permission form and a code of conduct sheet – this form must be signed by both the student and parent.
  - (c) Confidential medical report for School camps.
  - (d) List of clothing/bedding/safety gear required.
- (iii) Provide a list of students, staff and a daily program to the Principal.
- (iv) The teacher-in-charge should work with the Assistant Principal and any local authorities to ensure they are aware of disaster plan/escape routes for the area of the camp (if applicable).
- (v) The first aid kit must be taken on all camps.
- (vi) No student may attend camp unless all forms are signed and returned and camp fees paid (unless special arrangements are made with the Principal). For some camps, School levies must be paid before a camp fee is accepted.
- (vii) The Principal must be informed of any change of planned activities/itinerary.

## APPENDIX C

### Guidelines for Teachers Planning a Camp

#### 1. Introduction

Camps need to be planned well in advance and should relate to the curriculum being taught.

Students and their parents should be provided with information about the program's educational objectives, the nature of the activities, clothing requirements, the venue and costs well in advance.

Prior to single day excursions in which students leave the school grounds for the purpose of engaging in educational activities, the approval of the Principal must be obtained.

School Council is responsible for the approval of:

- overnight excursions
- camps
- interstate and overseas visits
- excursions requiring sea or air travel
- excursions involving weekends or vacations
- adventure activities.

Before approving an excursion, consideration by the Principal and/or School Council needs to include:

- the contribution of the activity to the School curriculum
- the adequacy of planning, preparation and organisation
- the provisions of the safety and welfare of students and staff
- the experience and competence of staff relative to the activities being undertaken
- the adequacy of student supervision
- the cost.

A parent must provide written consent for their child to take part in an excursion. Parents asked to sign consent forms must be given sufficient information about the nature of the proposed activity, the risks involved and the degree of supervision.

Parental consent is required for the following reasons:

- to authorise the school to have the student in its care after normal school hours
- to authorise the school to take the student out of the school environment
- to alert the school to any medical condition or allergies of the student
- to authorise the school to consent to emergency treatment for the student
- for the parent to consent to any financial cost of the excursion
- for the parent to consent to the student being sent home in the event of any serious misbehaviour.

Consent forms are to be taken on the excursion by the teacher in charge, and the designated school contact person should hold a list of participants, a copy of the consent forms and contacts in case of emergency.

In addition to any teachers employed by the DET or the School Council, excursion staff may include other adults on a volunteer or paid worker basis, such as parents, school services officers, community members, campsite staff and trainee teachers.

School uniforms **must** be worn on all school excursions except whenever specialised clothing is a requirement, e.g. snow trip.

Only students who display sensible and reliable behaviour at school will be taken on camps and excursions outside the school. Sensible and reliable behaviour at camps and excursions will be expected at all times.

***Students can be sent home if their behaviour warrants a severe consequence.***

#### 2. Planning

Forward planning takes into consideration whole school demands and must ensure that the normal school program is not consistently disrupted.

Planning should include:

- a clear aim
- costing – transport, admission, etc (the costing must be realistic in terms of the nature of the experience and the resultant learning outcomes)
- the opportunity for payment in advance, by instalments or lump sum payment may be offered to parents
- staffing needs
- pre-visit if venue is new/unknown
- consideration of children whose parents may not be able to meet costs
- excursion book maintained for evaluation of the camp/excursion for future planning
- excursion approval forms to be completed and handed in one week prior to the activity
- arrangements for covering camp staff classes while they are away from school

### **3. Preparation**

Preparation for any activity should include:

- quotes for transport
- booking of transport
- confirmation time for departure and return
- informing specialist teachers, parent helpers, area coordinator
- informing parents attending activity on discipline procedures
- preliminary classroom activities
- collection of monies
- arrangement for school cheque
- medical information, precautions and First Aid kit

## APPENDIX D

### Notification of School Activity (Camps)

School councils are responsible for ensuring that the activities listed below are thoroughly planned, checked and documented in accordance with Department of Education & Training guidelines for the planning and conduct of camps, excursions and outdoor adventure activities.

If comprehensive information is required during an emergency, schools will be expected to provide it at any time of the day or week from the documentation prepared for the activity which is held by the school.

Relevant details about School Council approved camps and excursions must be entered into the DET database using the online notification form available at:

[www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/schools/sal/enteractivity.asp](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/schools/sal/enteractivity.asp)

This notification should be provided three weeks prior to commencing the:

- overnight, weekend, interstate, overseas activities
- adventure activities
- non-adventure activities which, by their nature, location or timing, may be hazardous
- School closures, pupil free days, combined sports or cluster days.

#### Notes:

1. An additional sheet listing the actual dates and locations of activities should accompany this form when the same activity is to be repeated on different occasions.
2. The coordinating school should complete the form for activities involving a group of schools.
3. Day excursions should be reported if activities are to be conducted by:
  - country schools - beyond the local town/city
  - rural schools - beyond the local area
  - metropolitan schools - beyond the greater metropolitan area

**CAMPS Risk Management Assessment Form**

**Section 1 – Environment Emergency Management Assessment**

Venue Assessed \_\_\_\_\_ for month of \_\_\_\_\_

Assess each of the following hazards and any others you think relevant and complete charts below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfires</li> <li>• Severe storms and flooding</li> <li>• Earthquake</li> <li>• School Bus Accident/Vehicle Incident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing Student</li> <li>• Medical Emergencies</li> <li>• Incidents</li> <li>• Aggressive student behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intruders</li> <li>• Internal fires and smoke</li> <li>• Snakes and other wildlife</li> <li>• Other relevant to camp area</li> </ul>
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<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Very High</b>				
	<b>High</b>				
	<b>Moderate</b>				
	<b>Low</b>				
		<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
<b>Impact</b>					

<b>Environmental Emergency</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Risk Management Strategies</b>
<b>Very high or high likely-hood / very high or high impact</b>		
<b>Very high, High and moderate likelihood /Very high, high or moderate impact</b>		
<b>Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High Impact</b>		

## Section 2 General Excursion Risk Assessment

This form is to be completed as part of the planning process for all excursions.

Class Group:	Dates:	Supervising Teacher:
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	<b>Dangers</b> Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	<b>Risk Management Strategies</b> Strategies to reduce risks
<b>People</b> Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		
<b>Equipment</b> Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment		
<b>Environment</b> Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water		

**Critical incident management** (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.

**If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe.** Follow School Plan *What to do if a student is lost on an Excursion or Camp*. Every teacher should have a copy of this in the excursion DISPlan.

**If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe.** Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.