

# CAMPING

## NARANGA SCHOOL POLICY

### Rationale:

- The school's camping program enables students to further their learning and 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.

### Aims:

- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learnings.
- 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, teamwork, cooperation and tolerance.

### Implementation:

- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night's accommodation.
- The program will be developed sequentially throughout the school.
- All camps are provided as an extension of school-based learning programs, and are directly related to the curriculum.
- All camps require School Council approval. This approval is sought at a scheduled meeting at least three weeks prior to the departure date. The information that is required to be presented to the School Council is detailed in the DET forms accessible on the DET website. These forms may change or be updated from time to time.
- The School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DET requirements.
- All camps will be budgeted for at the beginning of the year with detailed and accurate costing presented to the Principal. Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable.
- Students will not be excluded from camps purely for financial reasons. Parents/carers experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend camp, will be invited to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Alternative payment arrangements will be made on application by the parent/carer.
- All camps will offer families the opportunity to make payments for camps in instalments.
- The designated "Teacher in Charge" will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents.
- The designated "Teacher in Charge" of each camp will ensure that all transport arrangements and camp activities comply with DET guidelines. The "Notification of School Activity" form will be completed and forwarded to the Department at least three weeks prior to the camp departure date.

- Parents/carers will be required to provide written permission for their child to attend the camp, as well as a completed “Confidential Medical Information for School Council Approved Excursions” form.
- All staff will be given the opportunity to attend camps.
- The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills and will provide at least one First Aid-trained staff member for each camp.
- The school will provide a mobile phone for all camps.
- A senior staff member will be identified as the school-based contact whilst each camp is running. The Teacher in Charge will communicate with this person for the duration of the camp.
- Only students who have displayed sensible, reliable and safe behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the camping program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in a camping experience due to inappropriate/unsafe behaviour at school. If the behaviour continues, the child will then be excluded from camp. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge.
- Parents/carers, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge, will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent/carer.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed annually at the conclusion of the school’s camps program, and as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

**To be read in conjunction with Naranga School “Outdoor Education” and “Excursions” policies.**

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	<b>July 2015</b>	
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