

Wandong Primary School – EXCURSION POLICY

**For period:
July 2019 – July 2022**

Rationale:

- Excursions are viewed 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. Excursions complement, and are an important aspect of, the educational programs offered at the school. An excursion is defined as any activity beyond the school grounds.

Aims:

- To reinforce, complement and extend the learning opportunities beyond the classroom.
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school, and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world.
- To provide a safe, secure learning experience for students in a venue external to the school.
- To further develop social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, communication, individual and group interaction.
- To further develop problem solving and life survival skills.
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment.

Implementation:

- All excursions must be approved by the Principal or his/her nominee(s).
- Staff wishing to organise an excursion must follow the process outlined in the WPS Camps and Excursions Handbook. In the first instance staff will need to complete an excursion proposal form and lodge this with the Principal for approval. Where possible, this will then be tabled at the next School Council meeting for ratification. All excursions must be approved prior to running and a risk assessment completed. Where an excursion proposal has not been submitted, that excursion will not run, unless special circumstances are pending. This decision will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal. The Principal or his/her nominee(s) will consider the educational outcome of the excursion as well as the impact on the school for the proposed date.
- The Principal or his/her nominee(s) will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and staffing comply with DET guidelines. Refer to: DET Excursion Policy
- Once ratified by School Council, the excursion coordinator will complete the 'Notification of School Activity' at www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp three weeks prior to the excursion departure date, and ensure relevant details are entered on the daily planner.
- Once the excursion has been approved all relevant documentation must be completed. This is available from the Principal or his nominee(s).
- The Principal or his/her nominee is responsible for the approval of all single-day excursions.

Expectations:

The Department's requirements and guidelines relating to preparation and safety will be observed in the conduct of all excursions.

The principal or their nominee will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the excursion.

The principal or their nominee will ensure that adequate pre-excursion planning and preparation, including the preparation of students, takes place.

Satisfactory arrangements will be made to provide continuous instruction for the students remaining at the school during the absence of staff accompanying an excursion.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) will not be involved in any expense associated with the conduct of excursions. The school may choose to subsidise some excursions or some student's expenses.

Prior to conducting an excursion, the approval of the School Council or the principal will be obtained. Council must approve overnight or adventure activities. The Principal must approve these and other activities.

Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in an excursion. Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during an excursion.

The emergency management process of the school will extend to, and incorporate, all excursions.

Program:

Prior to conducting an excursion, the Department's requirements and guidelines relating to camps or excursions, will be rigorously observed.

Consideration in planning should include:

- Safety, Emergency & Risk Management , including Bushfires
- Student Preparation
- Student Medical Information
- Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors

The principal or their nominee will ensure that full records are submitted to School Council regarding the excursion well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no excursion occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved.

Prior to conducting any excursion, the formal approval of the School Council and principal will be obtained. In approving a camp or excursion, consideration will include:

- the contribution of the activity to the school curriculum
- the adequacy of the planning, preparation and organisation in relation to the school policy and the guidelines and advice provided by DET
- information provided by community groups and organisations that specialise in the activity proposed
- appropriateness of the venue
- the provisions made for the safety and welfare of students and staff
- the experience and competence of staff relevant to the activities being undertaken
- the adequacy of the student supervision
- the high risk nature of some activities

- emergency procedures and safety measures
- staff-student ratios
- student experience

Students not attending a camp or excursion will be placed in another class and have an appropriate learning programs provided by the class teacher.

Prior to the camp or excursion parent/carers are to be made aware that DET does not provide student accident cover and that they need to make their own arrangements for cover.

Arrangements for payments:

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend an excursion, 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 families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Parents will be provided with permission forms and excursion information clearly stating payment finalisation dates. Children whose payment have not been finalised at least one week prior to the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organized with the Business Manager.
- 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.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- A designated “Teacher in Charge” will coordinate each excursion.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the Office with a final student list and a placement details for students not attending.
- In the case where an excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the organising teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the excursion and liaise with the staff involved.
- All students must have returned a signed permission note and payment to be able to attend the excursion. Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be carried by excursion staff at all times.
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving.
- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the office in the case where excursions are returning out of school hours. Parents will be informed prior to students leaving for the excursion, that they can phone the office to receive an updated anticipated return time.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions.
- Only students that have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school excursions. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, Assistant Principal, in consultation with the organising teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the excursion.
- Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with the School’s Behaviour Management and the Positive Behaviours policy. In extreme cases the excursion staff, following consultation with, and the approval of, the principal or their nominee, may determine that a student should return home during an excursion.

In such circumstances, the parent/carer will be advised of:

- the circumstance associated with the decision to send the student home
- the time when the parents/carers may collect their child from the excursion
- the anticipated time that the student will arrive home
- any costs associated with the student's return which will be the responsibility of the parents/carers.

The school's emergency procedures do include the effects of an emergency on student supervision in the event of excursion staff being required to assist injured students or to go for help.

All excursion staff and, where appropriate, the students will be familiar with the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each excursion.

On days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban, the principal or their nominee may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented.

Excursion groups will be equipped with mobile telephones and first aid kits to be used in emergency situations.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of Wandong Primary School cyclic policy review process.

CERTIFICATION

- This policy was ratified at the School Council meeting held at Wandong Primary School on the 29th day of July 2019