CAMPING 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 enhance the development of social cohesiveness, involving contact with both natural and developed environments.
- 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, 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.
- The School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DE&T 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 simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend camp, will be required to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a case-by-case basis.
- Any family who has not met the required payment for a previous camp will be unable to participate in the camping program until this payment is finalised.
- All school camps will be visited prior to the event by the ‘Teacher in Charge’ and a risk analysis report completed.
- The designated “Teacher in Charge” of each camp will ensure that all camps, bus arrangements and camp activities comply with Department of Education and Training guidelines.
- Only Camping Association of Victoria accredited camp sites will be used.
- Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed school camp, the Teacher in Charge must familiarise themselves with the Department’s Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors website.
- The online DE&T ‘Notification of School Activity’ information will be completed at least three weeks prior to the camp as required at: www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp

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