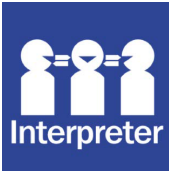


FLEETWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Community Liaison Officer office: 9705-2281

Purpose

Excursions 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. 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

Guidelines for Action

- All excursions must be approved by the principal or her nominee(s)
- Staff wishing to organise an excursion must complete an excursion proposal form including all costs and lodge this for approval. All excursions must be approved prior to running. 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 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 her nominee(s) will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and staffing comply with DET guidelines. Refer to: [DET Excursion Policy](#)
- Once the excursion has been approved all relevant documentation must be completed and returned to the school office. This is available from the principal or her nominee(s). The person in charge of the activity 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.
- School Council is responsible for the approval of:
 - Overnight excursions
 - Camps
 - Adventure activities
- The principal or her nominee is responsible for the approval of all single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by the school council as mentioned above.

Expectations

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

The principal or her nominee will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the camp/excursion.

The principal or her 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 Early Childhood Development (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 a camp or 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 camps or excursions. Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during a camp or an excursion.

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

All DET requirements and guidelines that apply to the conduct of excursions are also applicable to all overseas and interstate (domestic) camps/excursions.

Program

Prior to conducting a camp or 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 her nominee will ensure that full records are submitted to the School Council regarding the camp/excursion well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no camp/excursion occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved.

Prior to conducting any camp, 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
- Anaphylaxis/allergy risks

Students not attending a camp or excursion will be placed in another class and have an appropriate learning program 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. Parents are informed of the need for personal insurance to cover their child/ren in the first newsletter of the school year.

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 Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made 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 as well as being on Compass . Children whose payment has not been finalised by the closing date as advised through Compass will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Principal.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents. The teacher in charge will check these records on a regular basis to ensure relevant staff have the information required and can follow up, where necessary with their students.
- Refunds will not be given for camps, excursions or incursions unless a medical certificate is provided.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- A designated “Teacher in Charge” will coordinate each excursion.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the General Office with a final student list of students both attending and not attending the excursion. This information will also be communicated with any other relevant staff.
- 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.
- 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 with the office staff. If an issue arises on the excursion, the teacher in charge or their nominee will contact the school office for further direction.
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion and a first aid kit is to be taken on each bus used for transporting students to these events. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving.

- Where a child requires their personal EpiPen the teacher in charge of that student must have the EpiPen available at all times and that child shall remain under the care of that teacher. Parents are to supply personal EpiPen for their child for excursion use.
- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the general 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 Well Being and Restorative Practices policy. In extreme cases the camp or excursion staff, following consultation with, and the approval of, the principal or her nominee, may determine that a student should return home during a camp or excursion.

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

- of the circumstance associated with the decision to send the student home
- of the time when the parents/carers may collect their child from the camp or excursion
- of the anticipated time that the student will arrive home
- of 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 her 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.

Risk assessment booklets for incursions, excursions and camps are located in the office. The teacher in charge will be required to complete these prior to the event taking place.

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	October 2022
Approved by	Principal + School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2026