



Swinburne Senior Secondary College

Camps Policy

Purpose

Camps are seen as an important part of the College 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 College. 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

Guidelines

- All camps must be approved by the Principal and 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 at least eight weeks beforehand.
- Staff wishing to organize a camp must complete a camp proposal with all appropriate documentation and lodge this with the Principal for reference to the College Council for approval. All camps must be approved prior to running. 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.
- Teacher in Charge of the camp must complete an online notification of school activity form is completed at least three weeks prior to the camp using the [Student Activity Locator \(SAL\)](#) NOTE: The SAL should be used by all Victorian schools.
- The Principal and Assistant Principal in consultation with organizing teachers will ensure that all camps, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and student/staff ratios comply with [DET Excursions](#) guidelines.

Implementation

Access to Camp

- 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 College 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 College. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal in consultation with the organizing teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the camp. All students participating in a College camp may be asked to sign a contract agreeing to abide by all camp and College 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, organization 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.
- The Teacher in Charge will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents.
- The Teacher in Charge must put on COMPASS a final student list.
- In the case where a camp involves a particular class or year level group, the Teacher in Charge will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the camp.
- The College will provide a first aid kit for each camp. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving and ensuring they have a mobile phone.
- For high risk Outdoor Education activities the staff member organizing 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 students' medical information 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)

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.

- On days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban or the excursion is to a location at risk of bushfire, the Principal or Assistant Principal may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented. **In any event Risk Assessment documentation must be completed prior to approval.**

Refer: [Excursions and Outdoor Education](#)

- 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 College in the case where camps are returning out of normal College 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.

For further ratios refer to Appendix A.

For further information regarding safety please check the policy documents below.

Resources

- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/Principals/spag/safety/Pages/excursions.aspx>
- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/excursions/Pages/outdoorguidelines.aspx>

Certification

This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at Hawthorn on the 25 day of March 2019.

Signed: Michael O’Brien
Principal

Signed: Craig Hickman
School Council President

Endorsed by School Council and effective as of: 25/03/2019

Reviewed Annually

APPENDIX A
Staff/Pupil Ratios

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| Abseiling and Rock Climbing 1:1 Rock Face 1:10 Others 2 Experienced Staff | Ropes Course 1:12 3 students to any one element, 1 participating, 2 spotting NOTE: No student on any element unless supervised |
| Bass Camping 1:10 Residential; canvas 1:15 Study: residential | Scuba Diving 1:8 Pool training 1:4 Diving, 2 buddy systems NOTE: 2 qualified staff |
| Board Sailing 1:3 Beginners 1:5 Novice; intermediate; advanced 2 Experienced sailors | Shooting 1:1 New or inexperienced 1:5 On the track or mound 1:15 Observers or waiting |
| Boats, Small Sailing - (Dinghies, Catamarans) 1:8 Enclosed Waters 1:6 Open Waters 1:4 Open Waters, Adverse | Snorkelling 1:8 Closed water: pool 1:4 Open water NOTE: 2 qualified staff |
| Bushwalking 1:5 Overnight 1:10 Day | Snow Activities 1:8 Alpine, Nordic – overnight 1:10 Alpine, Nordic – day 1:10 Non-skiing |
| Canoeing 1:6 2 Staff members | Surf Activities 1:10 Beach 1:8 Surf NOTE: 1 teacher/instructor in water and NOTE 1 teacher/ instructor on beach |
| Cycling 1:10 | Swimming 1:20 Enclosed pools 1:10 Open water |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Horse Riding</p> <p>1:1 Basics</p> <p>1:5 Beginners</p> <p>1:8 Semi-experienced</p> <p><i>Riding School:</i></p> <p>1 Experienced teacher with instructor</p> <p>2 Experienced teachers if no instructor or group exceeds 10</p> | <p>Water Skiing</p> <p>1:20 Shore</p> <p>1 Student on two at any one time; if highly experienced two may be taken together</p> <p>2 People in boat – driver and observer; one must be staff member</p> |
| <p>Orienteering</p> <p>1:10 Bush</p> | |

APPENDIX B

[Excursion Forms](#)

Approval Proforma for all Excursions and Activities Requiring School Council Approval

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

This proforma details minimum requirements for council approval. It must be submitted to the principal for school council approval prior to the excursion.

All information on this proforma is required. Add attachments if necessary.

School councils are responsible for approving:

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

Complete the [Student Activity Locator online form](#) three weeks prior to the excursion. Sections with an * have explanatory notes included at the end of this document.

Ensure you have the most current version of this template

Download from [Excursion Forms](#)

PROGRAM NAME, YEAR, LOCATION, DATE(S), TEACHER-IN-CHARGE

Name of program:

Year level(s):

Location(s):

*** Date(s):**

Name of teacher-in-charge:

* EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

PROGRAM DETAILS

*** Program outline, including:**

- Detailed daily itinerary (including morning, afternoon and evening activities)
- Supervision strategy for all aspects of the itinerary
- Alternative program in the event of changed circumstances

*** Overnight accommodation**

Type of accommodation

Accredited residential campsites Tents/camping Other

Physical location. For example, name, address, or map and grid reference.

Contact phone number(s):

- Residential campsite (if applicable)
- Staff mobiles
- Other

Adventure activities

Tick the adventure activities that have been planned to occur during the program:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abseiling | <input type="checkbox"/> Base camping | <input type="checkbox"/> Bushwalking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/kayaking – low | <input type="checkbox"/> Challenge ropes course – high | <input type="checkbox"/> Challenge ropes course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse riding | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor rock climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Rafting | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing | <input type="checkbox"/> SCUBA diving | <input type="checkbox"/> Snorkelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snow activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Surfing | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Windsurfing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

The conduct of each activity will comply with the requirements outlined in the [Safety Guidelines](#) for that activity.

Staff providing instruction activities have read the relevant safety guidelines YES



A risk management plan for the excursion must be completed and attached with this submission. Guidance on the risk management process is available in the section of the website called [Excursion Risk Management](#)

*** Transport arrangements**

Internal External Both

Type of transports and seating capacity:

Will a member of the supervising staff be driving students? Yes No
If yes, list driver(s).

Approximate distance between school and destination:

All transport requirements comply with the advice in the School Policy and Advisory Guide, [Transporting Students](#) and [VicRoads](#) regulations. YES

| Budget | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <i>INCOME</i> | <i>EXPENDITURE</i> |
| Student Fees <i>Other income:</i> | Transport Food Accommodation Staffing Equipment <i>Other expenditure:</i> |
| Total income: | Total expenditure |

STUDENTS AND STAFF

Students

Number of female students:

Number of male students:

List required [student preparation and behaviour](#), if any:

* Supervising staff

Where possible all staff members including teachers, school support staff, parents, volunteers and external contractors should be listed. Indicate those who have a current first aid qualification. Indicate staff members with first aid and CPR training including the qualification or certification held.

DOCUMENTATION TO BE LODGED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Copies of the following completed documents will be lodged with the principal or nominee and the designated school contact, before the program commences.

- Signed informed consent from parents/guardians
- Completed medical form for all students and staff
- Detailed itinerary with specific locations and contact numbers
- A copy of map(s), including map name, access routes and grid references if required
- Staff and student equipment and clothing lists
- Group equipment list(s) if necessary
- A supervision plan that outlines staffing allocations for activities and for non-programmed periods.
This may form part of the detailed itinerary. It must maintain at least the minimum prescribed staffing for adventure activities.
- Completed staffing details proforma
- Risk management plan

- Emergency response plan, including contacts for police, ambulance, doctor, hospital, fire brigade, 24-hour school emergency contact number. This is to be held by staff on the excursion and by the nominated school contact person
- Other school-specific information:

Acknowledgement by the teacher-in-charge that all required documentation indicated on this form will be completed prior to the program starting.

Teacher-in-charge:

| | |
|------|--------|
| Name | Signed |
| Date | |

Acknowledgement of receipt of *approval proforma* for activities requiring school council approval.

Principal:

| | |
|------|--------|
| Name | Signed |
| Date | |

Approved and minuted at a school council meeting on _____

School Council President:

| | |
|------|--------|
| Name | Signed |
| Date | |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Dates

Consider how the time of year may impact on the wider school program or the effect of seasonal weather conditions.

Educational purpose and program outline

Whatever you hope the students will learn from the program is its educational purpose. The program overview should give school council a basic understanding of how the program aims to achieve the educational purpose.

For example: A three-day residential camp including bushwalking and orienteering to encourage an understanding of the natural environment; develop team working ability; and, introduce map reading and navigational skills in an experiential way.

The supervision strategy should include the nature and level of supervision provided throughout the excursion or activity. You must consider all programmed and non-programmed periods.

Each different location in must be detailed, including the dates at each location. This will have an impact on transport requirements and the emergency response needs of the program.

Contact land managers to determine if permit or access requirements apply for activities that are conducted on public land or in state/national parks.

Joint excursions with other schools must be approved by each school council. Each school must submit an online notification to the Emergency Management and Security Branch.

Overnight accommodation

This includes all forms of overnight accommodation.

Residential camping is at sites with permanent facilities like dormitories, kitchen, showers, toilets, phones and recreation options.

Residential campsites operated or used by Victorian government schools must be accredited with a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recognised accreditation provider. Refer to the School Policy and Advisory Guide, [Venue Selection](#) for current accreditation providers.

When using venues that do not require accreditation such as caravan parks, motels/hotels or ski lodges, schools may wish to refer to the accreditation criteria of a recognised accreditation provider when developing their risk management plan.

Provide details of all accommodation being used with your submission to school council.

Transport

Internal transport is provided by school-owned or private, staff-owned vehicles. External transport is transport provided by contractors, parents or other external providers.

The parent consent form should include a statement advising parents if a private vehicle is used as part of the emergency management plan for a camp or excursion.

If a teacher or staff member will be driving students, the program should allow them adequate rest time prior to driving, consistent with the advice on the [Transporting Students](#) page of the Safety Guidelines.

Give careful consideration to securing equipment during transportation, including equipment on trailers, roof racks and inside vehicles.

Supervising staff

A [Working with Children Check](#) is required for staff members who will supervise students and who are not registered teachers. This does not apply to parent volunteers whose child is participating in the activity/excursion.