

Willaura Primary School DAY EXCURSIONS

POLICY

Statement:

Willaura Primary School is fully cognisant of its responsibilities under the **Child Safe Standards** – Ministerial Order 870 – effective from August 1, 2016 and will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of children on all excursions

Rationale:

- The school's excursion program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Day excursions complement and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:

- To reinforce, complement and extend 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.

Implementation:

- Day excursions are defined for the purpose of this policy as any organised and supervised school activities that require children to venture beyond the school boundary.
- The Principal is responsible for the approval of all non-adventure single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by the School Council.
- School Council is responsible for approval of all overnight excursions; camps; interstate and overseas visits; excursions requiring sea or air travel; excursions involving weekends or vacations; and adventure activities.
- A designated 'Teacher in Charge' will coordinate each day excursion.
- Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed day excursion, the Teacher in Charge must meet with the Principal, present a [planning summary](#), discuss the proposed activity and seek 'in principle' support for the event.
- If the Principal's approval is granted, detailed planning should commence using the [planning questions](#) proforma as a guide. This includes a [risk assessment](#).
- The Principal must consider the following:-
 - The purpose of the excursion and its connection to student learning.
 - The competence of attending staff members to provide the necessary supervision of students throughout the excursion.
 - If an appropriately trained member of staff will be present to provide [first aid](#).
 - A Working with Children Check for all supervisory adults who are not registered teachers.
 - The location of staff and students throughout the excursion including travel time.
- The Teacher in Charge must take a record of telephone contacts for supervising excursion staff and names and family contacts for students and staff.
- The Teacher in Charge must take copies of the [parental consent](#) and [confidential medical advice](#) forms for those students on the excursion available.

- If day excursions include adventure activities organising staff should consult the [adventure activities](#) website, or seek advice from peak bodies or skilled and experienced staff with recent experience instructing the activity to satisfy the principal's requirements.
- If approved, the online [Notification of School Activity](#) form must then be submitted three weeks prior to the activity (required if country schools travelling beyond the local town/city, rural schools travelling beyond the local area, metropolitan schools travelling beyond the greater metropolitan area).
- School Council prefers that students only travel on buses fitted with seatbelts.
- The Principal requires that a report from the Teacher in Charge occur after each day excursion if any mishaps or concerns have arisen.
- All endeavours will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty who wish for their children to attend a day excursion 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.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Children whose parents have not paid deposits by the due date, who do not make full payment by the due date, or who have not made alternative arrangements with the Principal may not be eligible to attend.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide classroom teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend excursions.
- The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills.
- The school will provide a first-aid kit for all day excursions.
- Copies of completed Permission forms and signed Confidential Medical Information forms must be carried by excursion staff at all times.
- The Principal in most circumstances will be in attendance at school whilst the children are returning from any out-of-school-hours excursion. The Teacher in Charge will communicate with the Principal with regards the anticipated return time.
- While school excursions are a team activity requiring the cooperation and common-sense of all participants, it is the Teacher in Charge who oversees the operations of the excursion, takes charge of events, makes key decisions and accepts ultimate responsibility for the excursion.
- Parents may be invited to participate in excursions. When deciding on which parents will attend, the Teacher in Charge will take into account –
 1. Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. eg. bus licence, first aid etc
 2. The preference to include both male and female parents.
 3. The special needs of particular students.
 4. Working with Children Checks
- Parents selected to assist with day excursions may be required to pay their excursion costs.
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in school day excursions. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal in consultation with the Teacher in Charge.
- The primary references that must be consulted when considering all day excursions is the Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety & Risk Management.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's two-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

October 2016