

BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHOOL CAMP 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 in Year 3 – 6 with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- 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, judgment, cooperation and collaboration.

Implementation:

- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night's accommodation, including sleep overs at school.
- The program will be developed sequentially throughout the school for Year 3 – 6 students.
- School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DEECD requirements.
- 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 on a confidential basis. 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 individual camps. 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 will not be eligible to attend.
- School camps are an outdoor education activity and as such, are subject to specific planning and approval guidelines.
- 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.
- Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed school camp, the Teacher in Charge must familiarise themselves with the DEECD's [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#) website. They must meet formally with the Principal, to present the Principal with a [planning summary](#), to discuss the proposed camp, and to 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 must include a site visit and [risk assessment](#).
- The school only uses residential campsites accredited by the 'Australian Camps Association (ACA)' or the 'National Accommodation, Recreation & Tourism Accreditation Program (NARTA)' for overnight camps.
- Prior to seeking School Council approval for the camp, organising staff are required to meet again with the Principal and present him/her with all documentation, including the completed School Council [approval](#) proforma and all attachments, ensuring that time permits for the matter to be placed on a School Council agenda and, if approved, that the online [Notification of School Activity](#) form then be submitted three weeks prior to the activity.
- School Council requires that students only travel on buses fitted with seatbelts.
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend camps.

- A senior staff member will be in attendance at school whilst the children are returning from camp. The Teacher in Charge will communicate with this person in regards the anticipated return time.
- Parents will be invited to assist in the supervision of school camps. When deciding which parents will attend, the Teacher in Charge will take into account –
 - Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. e.g. bus licence, first aid etc
 - The preference to include both male and female parents.
 - The special needs of particular students.
- Parents selected to assist with the camps program will be required to undertake a Working with Children Check (Volunteer).
- Parent volunteers may be required to pay the accommodation and meals cost of the camp.
- While school camps 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 camp, takes charge of events, makes key decisions and accepts ultimate responsibility for the camp.
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the camping program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in a camping experience due to poor behaviour at school. If the unsatisfactory behaviour continues, the child will then be excluded from camp. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge.
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable or they become unwell. The Teacher in Charge will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.
- The primary references that must be consulted when considering all camps is the Safety Guidelines for Outdoor Education Activities website:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor.aspx>
 as well as the Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety & Risk Management.

To be read in conjunction with the “Excursions” policy.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually at the conclusion of the school’s camps program, and as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

Ratified by School Council: 2014 To be reviewed: 2017