

WALKERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL CAMPS POLICY

CONTEXT

- *Valued social and educational learning.*

School camps are valued ways of children experiencing learning in a wider world. This learning can be about relationships and getting along with others, as well as about curriculum learning.

Prospective parents and teachers find it useful to be aware of the school's expectations with regard to Camps.

AIM

- *Mainly social aims with some curriculum emphasis.*

The overall aim of our school camps is to focus upon the building of positive relationships and interdependence amongst students and their class teachers. The school themes of care, co-operation and commitment should be a feature of each camp. There is also the potential to build upon curriculum outcomes through experiences away from school.

TIMING

- *Timed for term 1, 2 or 3.*

Camps will be scheduled for terms 1, 2 or 3, where possible. This will assist in the building of relationships and provide sufficient time for further development during the year.

CO-OPERATION

- *Year levels co-operating.*

School camps will be planned for Years 2*-7 and conducted amongst year level classes to reflect the working arrangements in the school. Camps may be single year level or a combination of year levels, particularly where classes are composite year levels (eg. 4/5 or 5/6). Wherever possible, all classes, including "composite" classes will attend camps as a class unit, rather than being split. The capacity of campsites, enrolment patterns and the physical layout of the school (classes proximity to each other) inform the types of camps organised.

* For 2019, Governing Council has approved a variation to the policy, with the Year 2 Camps replaced by a series of Outdoor Education Activities / Excursions.

SELECTION

- *Co-operating teachers will select campsite and program.*

The teachers will seek feedback from parents and students about the proposed camp. However, the teachers will take the decisions related to camps.

DURATION

- *Length determined by teachers.*

The duration of a camp will vary and be determined by the teachers involved. One or two night camps are most common. There is also potential to extend the normal school day to provide flexibility.

PARENT HELPERS

- *Where possible, Camps will be staffed by school teachers and/or SSOs*
- *If needed, teachers will select from a register.*

The offer by parents to assist as supervisors at camp is much appreciated, but DCSI Police checks must be current. During term 1, parents will be asked to register their interest, availability and the skills they can provide for the class camp.

The teachers involved will select from this list and invite those parents.

FREQUENCY

- *Annual opportunity.*

Camps will be held on an annual basis, given the focus on building relationships. Where a teacher is unavailable, a replacement teacher will be sought from the current staff.

REVIEW

- *On-going Commitment*

The commitment to this 'School Camps Policy' is ongoing but may be reviewed by staff and Governing Council if considered necessary.

February 2019