

EXCURSIONS POLICY

We are committed to providing a safe, secure, disciplined and quality learning environment in which students can develop their individual talents, interests and abilities through a curriculum that fosters the intellectual, physical, social and moral development of the student. *Excursions are a valuable teaching and learning vehicle and are often integral to quality curriculum delivery.*

PURPOSE:

Experiences beyond the classroom contribute to the all round growth and development of students. Educational visits and excursions provide opportunity for experiential and integrated learning and reinforce and supplement the school's curriculum.

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. Determining the educational value of an excursion must take account of the needs and resources of the school, the needs of the students and the total learning program.
2. Excursions are inclusive, and all students within the specific learning group are to be given the opportunity to participate.
3. A duty of care is owed to students in the school environment and while on excursions
4. The Department's duty of care owed to students for the duration of an excursion cannot be delegated from the school to parents, caregivers, volunteers or employees of external organisations.
5. The obligation to report suspected risk of harm to children and young people applies throughout all stages of an excursion, as it does in schools.
6. A risk assessment is to be conducted and a risk management plan developed before seeking approval for any excursion.
7. Signed consent forms granting permission for students to participate in excursions and a medical information form are to be obtained from parents or caregivers.
8. Safe transport or a safe walking route is to be organised for excursions.
9. Students must behave appropriately at all times while on excursions, including when animals are encountered.

GUIDELINES:

- Excursions should be well planned and be an integral part of the school or class program.
- All educational excursions must have the approval of the principal.
- Parental permission for a student to participate in an excursion is required in writing.
- Teachers are encouraged to foster the involvement of other teachers, students, parents and community members in planning, implementing and evaluating excursions.
- Each one-day excursion must be accompanied by at least one teacher.
- As circumstances can change each year, a flexible approach to excursions is necessary. The class program must be a priority in determining educational visits and excursions.
- The school's Student Welfare and Discipline Policy applies to excursions. When individual children put the safety of others at risk they will not be allowed to attend.