



# EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS POLICY

## EXCURSIONS & CAMPS POLICY

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Excursions and camps are seen as an integral part of the curriculum as they enable students to explore, extend and enrich their learning and their social skills development, in a non-school setting. Excursions and camps complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at the school.

### 2. PLANNING

The principal is responsible for the conduct of all excursions and camps and must comply with the Department policy on the *Schools Policy Advisory Guide*.

*In planning the camp and excursions, staff must complete the Forest Street Primary School Risk assessment register for excursions and camps with emphasis on the risk title and existing controls.*

### 3. APPROVALS

School Council considers all excursions and camps proposals in November prior to the following year. The excursions, camps and visiting performers schedule will be approved prior to events occurring. These include:

- Grade 2 sleepover
- Camps
- International visits
- Adventure activities

### 4. DUTY OF CARE

All school staff attending the camp or excursion owe a duty of care to the students. This means that they must ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent any reasonably foreseeable harm to students. This duty is non-delegable, which means that it cannot be delegated to external camp or education providers, parents or volunteers. The designated teacher in charge has ultimate responsibility for all students in their care.

External education providers and para-professionals must have appropriate certification (e.g. Working with Children's Registration) and ensure that supervision guidelines are followed.

Prior to the camp or excursion parent/carers should be made aware that DET does not provide student accident cover and that they need to make their own arrangements for cover.

### 5. FIRST AID

At least one member of staff responsible for each group of students will hold an appropriate first aid qualification. For adventure activities, the minimum acceptable level of first aid training is the senior first aid certificate (often referred to as a level 2 first aid qualification) or its competency based equivalent HLTAID003 Apply First Aid.

Staff must also have a first aid kit appropriate to the excursion location and activities undertaken..

## **6. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students should not be denied attendance to any excursion or camp because of disability or medical condition. Parents and carers will be consulted about reasonable adjustments that may be implemented by the school to enable the student to safely attend the excursion or camp.

Principals will ensure that appropriate emergency and risk management planning is undertaken for students with disabilities attending excursions and camps.

## **7. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Parents or carers will be advised of the telephone numbers (both during and outside school hours) for the designated school contact person in the event of an emergency at camp.

Consent forms and emergency contact details will be taken on the excursion by staff. Consent forms will be archived following the excursion.

In the event of an emergency, accident or injury:

- staff on the excursion will:
  - take emergency action as documented in the excursion and camp's emergency and risk management plan
  - immediately notify the school principal
- the principal will make arrangements for the Department's Security Services Unit to be telephoned on 9589 6266.

## **8. FIRE DANGER OR BAN**

The Principal may need to cancel excursions and camps at short notice on days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban. On such days, the Security Services Unit liaises with fire authorities to obtain up to date information for communication to schools that may be affected by wildfire, including schools with students attending camps in areas affected by wildfire. If an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be required.

When required, Forest Street Primary School will follow the Department's emergency management (bushfires) procedures for off-site activities.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT**

An assessment of excursion risks will be undertaken in accordance with Department guidelines - [Planning – Managing Risk](#). Staff are to complete the risk management proforma. See Forest Street Primary School Risk Assessment register for excursions and camps.

For excursions requiring school council approval, an excursion risk assessment plan will be completed which includes consideration of risks across the entire excursion (including transportation, activities undertaken and excursion venues). Venue managers and activity providers should be consulted in the preparation of the school's risk management plan and where appropriate, the risk management plans of venues or activity providers should be used to inform the school risk assessment process.

## **10. PAYMENTS**

Students will not be excluded for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend an excursion, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Principal.

All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Parents will be provided with permission forms and excursion information clearly stating payment information.

## **11. TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Teachers participating in an excursion and/or camps will:

- understand the purpose of the program and its connection to student learning
- be aware of their supervisory responsibilities throughout the program. Refer to Duty of Care policy and *the* Forest Street Primary School Risk assessment register for excursions and camps.
- know who is the nominated member of staff who will provide first aid if required.
- know the exact location of students they are responsible for at all times including during travel.

In addition the nominated teacher-in-charge will:

- know the exact location of students at all times including during travel
- maintain a record of telephone contacts for the supervising staff accompanying the excursion
- know who the school contact person is and their phone number
- have a copy of the names of family contacts for all students and staff on the excursion
- have copies of the parental approval and medical advice forms for those students on the excursion

## **12. STUDENT BEHAVIOUR**

Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with the School's Student Engagement and Inclusion policy. In extreme cases the camp or excursion staff, following consultation with, and the approval of, the principal or their nominee, may determine that a student should return home during a camp or excursion.

In such circumstances, the parent/carer will be advised:

- of the circumstance associated with the decision to send the student home
- of the time when the parents/carers may collect their child from the camp or excursion
- of the anticipated time that the student will arrive home
- of any costs associated with the student's return which will be the responsibility of the parents/carers

## **13. LINKS AND APPENDICES**

The Key Links which are connected with this policy are sourced through: [DET School Policy Advisory Guide - Excursion and Activities](#)

## **14. EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

## APPENDIX A

### Student / Teacher Ratios

Click on the hyperlink to take you to the SPAG for all relevant information and the current staff – student ratios for the following outdoor activities.

<p><b><u><a href="#">Abseiling and Rock Climbing</a></u></b>  <b><u><a href="#">Abseiling Walls and Artificial Climbing Walls</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorabseilpeople.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorabseilpeople.aspx</a>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorclimb.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorclimb.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Rock Climbing</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorclimbrock.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorclimbrock.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Bushwalking</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorwalk.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorwalk.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Ropes Course Challenge</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorrope.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorrope.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Camping - Overnight</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorcamp.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorcamp.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Sailing (Small Boats - Dinghies, Catamarans)</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorsail.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorsail.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Canoeing and Kayaking</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorcanoe.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorcanoe.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Snorkelling</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorsnorkel.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorsnorkel.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Cross Country Skiing</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorskicountry.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorskicountry.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Scuba Diving</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorscuba.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorscuba.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Cycling</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorcycle.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorcycle.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Sea Kayaking</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor kayak.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor kayak.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorskidown.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorskidown.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Surfing</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorsurf.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorsurf.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Horse Riding</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorride.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorride.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Swimming - Recreational</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorswim.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorswim.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Orienteering</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoororient.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoororient.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Water Skiing</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorwaterski.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorwaterski.aspx</a></p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Rafting</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorraft.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorraft.aspx</a></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Windsurfing</a></u></b>  <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorwindsurf.aspx">http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoorwindsurf.aspx</a></p>

## APPENDIX B

### Approval Proforma for all Excursions and Activities Requiring School Council Approval

#### Department of Education & Training

This proforma details minimum requirements for school 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 the [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#) website at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor.aspx>

#### 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.** Follow the Forest Street Primary School risk assessment register for excursions and camp.

**\* 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

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

## **STUDENTS AND STAFF**

### **Students**

Number of female students:

Number of male students:

List required [student preparation](#), 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.

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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# FOREST STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL DAY EXCURSIONS NOTIFICATION SHEET

If your excursion involves overnight excursions, camps, interstate/overseas visits, excursions involving sea or air travel, excursions involving weekends or vacations or adventure activities you must complete the: ***Approval Proforma for all Excursions and Activities Requiring School Council Approval.***

This form must still be completed and handed to office at least 3 weeks prior to actual event so Karen can submit

**Purpose of Excursion:**

**the**  
.....



**Classes participating:** .....

**Bus Company:** .....

(Schools Reference Guide 4.10Transport) Schools Reference Guide 4.10 (Transport) and VicRoads regulations

**Excursion Date:** ..... **Excursion times**.....

**Type of Excursion:**      **Sport**                  **Curriculum focus**                  **Community Partnerships**

**Name of Venue:** .....

Teaching staff attending  
Please indicate if First Aid trained

**Address of Venue:** .....

**Location of Venue:** .....

**Venue Postcode:** .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Venue Phone Number:**.....

**Mobile with Group:** .....

**Mobile with Teacher:** .....

**Emergency Transport @ Venue:** .....Yes No.....

**Public Liabilities Insurance:** Amount \$.....

External providers must demonstrate they hold a current public liability insurance policy (minimum \$10 million) which covers the program activity.

**Number of Students:**.....

**Number of Staff:** .....

**Teacher in Charge:** .....

**Be sure to:**

**take at least one First Aid kit on the excursion**

**make sure the school has a copy of the Emergency Evacuation Plan/Procedure from the excursion venue.**