



EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS POLICY

Small School Big Learning

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

AIMS

- To reinforce, complement and extend the 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.
- To provide a safe, secure learning experience for students in an external venue.
- To further develop social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, communication, individual and group interaction.
- To further develop problem solving and life survival skills.
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment.

GUIDELINES

- All excursions must be approved by the Principal.
- Staff wishing to organise an excursion must gain approval prior to running. This decision will be made by the Principal who will consider the educational outcome of the excursion as well as the impact on the school.
- The Principal will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and staffing comply with DEECD guidelines. Refer to: [DEECD Excursion Policy](#)
- Once the excursion has been approved all relevant documentation must be completed. This is available from the Principal. The Principal will ensure the 'Notification of School Activity' at : www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp is completed three weeks prior to the excursion departure date, and ensure relevant details are entered on the Whole School Calendar.
- School Council is responsible for the approval of:

- Overnight excursions
 - Camps
 - Interstate visits
 - Excursions requiring weekends or vacations
 - Adventure activities
- The Principal is responsible for the approval of all single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by school council as mentioned above.

EXPECTATIONS

The Department's requirements and guidelines relating to preparation and safety will be observed in the conduct of all excursions.

The principal will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the camp/excursion.

The principal will ensure that adequate pre-excursion planning and preparation, including the preparation of students, takes place.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) will not be involved in any expense associated with the conduct of excursions. The school may choose to subsidise some excursions or some student's expenses.

Prior to conducting a camp or excursion, the approval of the School Council or the principal will be obtained. Council must approve overnight or adventure activities. The Principal must approve these and other activities.

Students who have displayed appropriate behaviour at school will be invited to participate in camps or excursions. Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during a camp or an excursion.

The emergency management process of the school will extend to and incorporate all camps and excursions.

PROGRAM

Prior to conducting a camp or excursion, the Department's requirements and guidelines relating to camps or excursions, will be rigorously observed.

Consideration in planning should include:

- [Safety, Emergency & Risk Management](#) , including Bushfires
- [Student Preparation](#)
- [Student Medical Information](#)
- [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)

The principal will ensure that full records are submitted to School Council regarding the camp/excursion well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no camp/excursion occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved.

Prior to conducting any camp, the formal approval of the School Council and principal will be obtained. In approving a camp or excursion, consideration will include:

- the contribution of the activity to the school curriculum
- the adequacy of the planning, preparation and organisation in relation to the school policy and the guidelines and advice provided by DEECD
- information provided by community groups and organisations that specialise in the activity proposed
- appropriateness of the venue
- the provisions made for the safety and welfare of students and staff
- the experience and competence of staff relevant to the activities being undertaken
- the adequacy of the student supervision
- the high risk nature of some activities
- emergency procedures and safety measures
- staff-student ratios
- student experience

Prior to the camp or excursion parent/carers are to be reminded that students are insured for accident cover as part of their school contributions, if paid.

Arrangements for payments

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend an excursion, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Business Manager or Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Business Manager or Principal on an individual basis.
- 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 date.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- A designated "Teacher in Charge" will coordinate each excursion.
- The Teacher in Charge must post on the whole school planner/calendar.
- All students must have returned a signed permission note and payment to be able to attend the excursion. Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be carried by excursion staff at all times.
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting prior to leaving.
- The Teacher in Charge is responsible for collecting the 'general use' Epipen and any Epipen belonging to individual students.
- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the general office in the case where excursions are returning out of school hours. Parents may call the office to receive an updated anticipated return time.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions.
- Only students that have displayed appropriate behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school excursions. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing

the privilege to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the excursion.

- Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with the Yering Primary School's Well Being Policy. In extreme cases, the camp or excursion staff, following consultation with and the approval of the principal, 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

The school's emergency procedures do include the effects of an emergency on student supervision in the event of excursion staff being required to assist injured students or to go for help.

All excursion staff and, where appropriate, the students will be familiar with the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each excursion.

On days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban, the principal may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented. **In any event Risk Assessment documentation must be completed prior to approval. See Appendix C.**

Excursion groups will be equipped with mobile telephones and first aid kits to be used in emergency situations.

LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

The Key Links which are connected with this policy are sourced through : [DEECD Excursion Policy](#)

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Pupil/Teacher Ratios
- Appendix B: Notification of School Activity (camps and excursions)
- Appendix C: Environment and General Risk Assessment

Appendix A: Pupil / Teacher Ratios

<p>Abseiling and Rock Climbing</p> <p>1:1 Rock Face 1:10 Others 2 Experienced Staff</p>	<p>Ropes Course</p> <p>1:12 3 students to any one element, 1 participating, 2 spotting NOTE: No student on any element unless supervised</p>
<p>Base Camping</p> <p>1:10 Residential; canvas 1:15 Study: residential</p>	<p>Scuba Diving</p> <p>1:8 Pool training 1:4 Diving, 2 buddy systems NOTE: 2 qualified staff</p>
<p>Board Sailing</p> <p>1:3 Beginners 1:5 Novice; intermediate; advanced 2 Experienced sailors</p>	<p>Shooting</p> <p>1:1 New or inexperienced 1:5 On the track or mound 1:15 Observers or waiting</p>
<p>Boats, Small Sailing - (Dinghies, Catamarans)</p> <p>1:8 Enclosed Waters 1:6 Open Waters 1:4 Open Waters, Adverse</p>	<p>Snorkeling</p> <p>1:8 Closed water: pool 1:4 Open water NOTE: 2 qualified staff</p>
<p>Bushwalking</p> <p>1:5 Overnight 1:10 Day</p>	<p>Snow Activities</p> <p>1:8 Alpine, Nordic – overnight 1:10 Alpine, Nordic – day 1:10 Non-skiing</p>
<p>Canoeing</p> <p>1:6 2 Staff members</p>	<p>Surf Activities</p> <p>1:10 Beach 1:8 Surf NOTE: 1 teacher/instructor in water and NOTE 1 teacher/ instructor on beach</p>
<p>Cycling</p> <p>1:10</p>	<p>Swimming</p> <p>1:20 Enclosed pools 1:10 Open water</p>
<p>Horse Riding</p> <p>1:1 Basics 1:5 Beginners 1:8 Semi-experienced</p> <p>Riding School:</p> <p>1 Experienced teacher with instructor 2 Experienced teachers if no instructor or group exceeds 10</p>	<p>Water Skiing</p> <p>1:20 Shore</p> <p>1 Student on two at any one time; if highly experienced two may be taken together 2 People in boat – driver and observer; one must be staff member</p>
<p>Orienteering</p> <p>1:10 Bush</p>	

Appendix B:

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY

(Camps & Excursions)

School councils are responsible for ensuring that the activities listed below are thoroughly planned, checked and documented in accordance with Department of Education & Early Childhood Development guidelines for the planning and conduct of camps, excursions and outdoor adventure activities.

The information on this proforma will be used to provide initial information to the emergency services during an emergency. If comprehensive information is required during an emergency, schools will be expected to provide it at any time of the day or week from the documentation prepared for the activity which is held by the school.

Three weeks prior to commencing the following:

- overnight, weekend or interstate activities
- adventure activities
- non-adventure activities which, by their nature, location or timing, may be hazardous
- school closures, pupil free days, combined sports or cluster days

schools must notify the:

- Department of any approved school camp or excursion beforehand using the [Student Activity Locator online form](#).

Notes:

1. An additional sheet listing the actual dates and locations of activities should accompany this form when the same activity is to be repeated on different occasions
2. The coordinating school should complete the form for activities involving a group of schools
3. Day excursions should be reported if activities are to be conducted by:
 - country schools - beyond the local town/city
 - rural schools - beyond the local area
 - metropolitan schools - beyond the greater metropolitan area

SCHOOL NAME AND NUMBER:

Number:

School Name:

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

(CAMP, BUSHWALKING, SCHOOL CLOSURE, EXCURSION, OVERSEAS TRIP, ETC.)

DATE OF ACTIVITY:

(SEE NOTES)

Commencing:

Concluding:

NAME OF VENUE:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF VENUE
& POST CODE:

Postcode:

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Mobile with group:

Venue:

IS EMERGENCY TRANSPORT AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE? Yes:

No:

Map reference:

TOTAL NUMBERS:

Students:

Teachers:

NAME OF PERSON IN CHARGE:

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL:

ENTER ONLINE (SAL Activities Notification Form)

Visit the Emergency and Security Management Website at <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/emerg/index.htm> for information to assist schools to plan for and manage emergencies and security related incidents.

Appendix C:

Excursion Risk Management Assessment Form

Section 1 – Environment Emergency Management Assessment

Venue Assessed _____ for month of _____

Assess each of the following hazards and any others you think relevant and complete charts below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfires • Severe storms and flooding • Earthquake • School Bus Accident/Vehicle Incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Student • Medical Emergencies • Incidents • Aggressive student behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intruders • Internal fires and smoke • Snakes and other wildlife • Other relevant to camp area
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Likelihood	Very High				
	High				
	Moderate				
	Low				
		Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Impact					

Environmental Emergency	Event	Risk Management Strategies
Very high or high likelihood / very high or high impact		
Very high, High and moderate likelihood /Very high, high or moderate impact		
Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High		
Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High		
Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High		
Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High		

Impact		

Section 2 General Excursion Risk Assessment

This form is to be completed as part of the planning process for all excursions.

Class/Group:	Date:	Supervising Teacher:
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	Dangers Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	Risk Management Strategies Strategies to reduce risks
People Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		
Equipment Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment		
Environment Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water		

Critical incident management (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.

If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Follow School Plan *What to do if a student is lost on an Excursion or Camp*. Every teacher should have a copy of this in the excursion DISPlan.

If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.

Incursion Risk Assessment Form

Duty of care resides with teachers for the period of the event:

Presenter/s-contractor/s has/have WWWC

This form is to be completed as part of the planning process for all incursions.

Class/Group:	Date:	Supervising (Duty of Care) Teacher:
Details of area to be used and safety initiatives if required.		

	Dangers Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	Risk Management Strategies Strategies to reduce risks
People Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		
Equipment Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment		
Environment Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water		
<p>Critical incident management (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.</p> <p>If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Follow School Plan <i>What to do if a student is lost on an Excursion or Camp</i>. Every teacher should have a copy of this in the excursion DISPLAN.</p> <p>If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.</p>		