

Outdoor Education Policy (Camps)

2018

Rationale

Outdoor Education focuses on personal development through interaction with others and responsible use of the natural environment.

Outdoor Education involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values that enhance safe access, understanding and aesthetic appreciation of outdoors, often through adventure activities. Through involvement in activities that promote team building and self-esteem, students will enhance all areas of their life skills.

1. Aim

- The P-6 Outdoor Program aims to assist the overall social and educational development of each child
- Outdoor experiences are designed to stimulate and motivate learning by providing a variety of experiences.

Outdoor Experiences aims to provide students with opportunities to:

- enhance learning by complementing the regular curriculum, extending their experiences and be introduced to outdoor adventure activities
- develop intellectual, physical and leadership skills
- develop greater independence, increased confidence, co-operation, shared responsibility and tolerance
- extend student/teacher relationships
- broaden friendship groups
- participate in a wide range of cultural experiences
- develop the capacities to apply knowledge in making choices, reflecting on past experiences and taking responsible action
- develop awareness of a healthy and fit lifestyle
- develop sustaining attitudes, values and behaviour that promote respect and appreciation for the outdoors and environment

2. Implementation

Moorabbin Primary School will liaise with all external agencies to ensure successful implementation of the program. The following will be organised by the school:

- All camps to be organised and undertaken in accordance with DET requirements.
- Where required, school uniform must be worn.

- All necessary documentation must be submitted for approval by School Council and the Principal.
- Appropriate staff/student ratios will be maintained as per DET guidelines.
- All staff and where appropriate, students, must be familiar with emergency procedures for each camp or outdoor education setting.
- When staying at a residential campsite, emergency procedures should be explained as soon as practicable after arrival and a trial evacuation exercise should be carried out immediately to ensure that procedures are appropriate and staff and students are familiar with them.
- The Outdoor Education program will include:
 - Prep disco evening
 - Year 1 & 2 Twilight Evening
 - Year 3 & 4 bi-annual camp consisting of 2 nights and 3 days – school sleepover in non-camp year.
 - Year 5 & 6 annual camp consisting of 4 nights and 5 days

3. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every four years according to the policy review structure implemented by the Education Committee.

4. Resources

- Documentation resources from the DET website.
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/excursions/Pages/outdoor.aspx>