



GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Camp Policy

Last Reviewed: 2024

AIM:

Camps and excursions support and enrich a range of curriculum areas and provide deep learning experiences to students in a variety of environments. Camps and excursions also provide a valuable opportunity to promote the school's values of Best Effort, Show Respect and Be Kind and to participate in learning experiences offered within the community and natural environment. Teachers make a great personal contribution of time and effort by spending time away from family and other commitments in order to be an integral part of their student's experience away from school. The philosophy of the school reflects a model involving same/similar year levels attending camp together. Teachers will work as year level teams when planning camps, excursions and incursions so that all students within the specific learning group are given the opportunity to participate unless exceptional circumstances exist.

A **CAMP** is defined as an element of a student-learning program involving one or more overnight stays at a location in or beyond the school grounds.

An **EXCURSION** is defined as an element of a student-learning program involving a same day return from a location beyond the school grounds.

Programs aim to:

- provide shared experiences and opportunities for student cohorts to develop a sense of group cohesiveness, cooperation, inclusivity and tolerance.
- promote self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, good judgment and resilience.
- encourage an appreciation of the natural environment.
- build upon curriculum outcomes through experiences away from school, and linked to the Australian Curriculum.

For all camps and excursions, our school will follow the Department for Education's Camps and Excursions Policy which states expectations for:

- planning and undertaking camps and excursions
- roles and responsibilities and obligations
- inclusivity
- risk management
- consent
- medication/health support plans, and behavioural needs.

INCLUSIVITY

Grange Primary School is committed to ensuring students with additional needs are provided with an inclusive camps and excursions program and will work with families during the planning stage, as needed, to support all students' attendance and participation in camp and excursion activities.

All efforts will be made to ensure that students are not excluded from camp or excursions for financial reasons. Families experiencing financial difficulty are invited to discuss alternative payment arrangements with the Principal and Business Manager. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made in consultation on an individual basis. Students participating in camps and excursions are required to cooperate and display appropriate behaviour to ensure the camp or excursion is a safe, positive and educational experience for all students involved. In the instance of a child displaying inappropriate behaviour whilst on camp, parents will be requested to collect their child. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with a member of the leadership team, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

STAFFING AND SCHEDULING

Staff to student ratio is set as per department guidelines. Camp staff will initially be identified from members of the year level teaching team and if needed, the broader staff cohort. SSOs and student teachers will also be considered. If parents/carers are required to meet required supervision ratios, expressions of interest will be sought (refer to next section).

The school will provide a camp or overnight experience in 2024 and 2025 for the following grade levels:

- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

This scheduling arrangement will be reviewed every 2 years.

PARENT HELPERS/ ACCOMPANYING ADULTS

Parent/carer involvement in school camps and excursions is valued. Parent and carers will have the opportunity to register their interest once the camp arrangements have been finalised. School staff will notify parents/carers of any costs associated with their attendance. When deciding which parents/carers will attend, the school will take into account any valuable skills they have to offer (e.g., first aid) and the special needs of particular students. Whilst on camp parent volunteers will be required to take directions from nominated leader.

MANDATORY TRAINING

All people working or volunteering with children and young people on a department site or with a department program must undertake mandatory training related to their child protection responsibilities. The training ensures an understanding of roles and responsibilities in keeping children and young people safe, as well as reporting of reasonable suspicion that a child or young person may be at risk. For camps and excursions, mandatory training includes all department employees and volunteers attending the camp or excursion. In most instances, Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care (RRHAN-EC) is the required training.

PERSONAL DEVICES AND FOOD

Students are not permitted to bring electronic devices (such as iPads and mobile phones) or their own supply of food items, unless medically indicated and discussed and approved with the adult leader.

STUDENT HEALTH AND MEDICATION

Parents and carers need to ensure the school has up-to-date student health information prior to camps and excursions. A member of staff will be appointed with responsibility for the health needs of the students for each camp/excursion. Teachers will administer any medication provided according to the student's Health Plan. If a student becomes ill during a camp and is not able to continue at camp it is the parent/carer's responsibility to collect them and cover any associated costs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Accident and Ambulance Cover

Any costs associated with student injury rest with parents/carers unless the Department is liable in negligence (liability is not automatic). Unless otherwise indicated, Grange Primary School and the Department do not provide student accident or ambulance cover. Parents/carers may wish to obtain student accident insurance cover and/or ambulance cover, depending on their health insurance arrangements and any other personal considerations.

REFUNDS

If a camp or excursion is cancelled or altered by the school, or a student is no longer able to attend part or all of the camp or excursion, our school will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents/carers on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances. Generally, we will not be able to refund payments made for costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will provide information about refunds to parents/carers at the time of payment.