



**ST. LEONARDS
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
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EXCURSIONS POLICY

RATIONALE

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 a venue external to the school.
- 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 FOR ACTION

- All excursions must be approved by the Principal or his nominee(s)
- The Principal or his nominee(s) 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 or his nominee(s). The Principal will complete the 'Notification of School Activity' at : www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp three weeks prior to the excursion departure date, and ensure relevant details are entered on the daily planner.

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 excursion.

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

Satisfactory arrangements will be made to provide continuous instruction for the students remaining at the school during the absence of staff accompanying an excursion.

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 students' expenses.

Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in excursions. Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during an excursion.

The emergency management process of the school will extend to and incorporate all 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](#)

. In approving an 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

Students not attending an excursion will be placed in another class and have an appropriate learning program provided by the class teacher.

Prior to the excursion, parent/carers are to be made aware that DEECD does not provide student accident cover and that they need to make their own arrangements for cover.

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 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 finalization dates. Children whose payment have not been finalized at least 24 hours prior to the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organized with the Principal.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organizing teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- A designated “Teacher in Charge” will coordinate each excursion.
- In the case where an excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the organizing teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the excursion.
- 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 these prior to leaving.
- 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 will be informed prior to students leaving for the excursion, that they can phone 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 sensible, reliable 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 in consultation with the organizing teacher. 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 School’s Well Being and Restorative Practices policy.

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 or their nominee may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented.

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

LINKS

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

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as necessary, due to changes in regulations or circumstance