



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

CAMPS

POLICY

Rationale:

School camps provide a valuable opportunity for students to assert their independence and build confidence, resilience and autonomy. Iramoo Primary School is committed to providing a variety of social and learning experiences for our students through the attendance of a school camp.

Aims:

- To incorporate a social awareness/self-esteem/camping program that is seen as an integral part of the Grades Four and Six curriculum.
- To encourage self-confidence, independence, manners, positive attitudes of cooperation, interdependence, acceptable self-hygiene, leadership and sharing.
- To encourage an awareness of differing environments and skills necessary for successful interaction within them.
- To foster a positive attitude to leisure and the potential of the outdoors as a medium for leisure.
- To develop competence in activities associated with outdoor adventure.
- To build and foster positive relationships between classmates and teachers.

Implementation:

- Recommended program:

Grade 4 ~ A two and a half day Base Camp

Grade 6 ~ A five day Base Camp

- Camp activities are to be approved by the School Council within the guidelines of the Department of Education and Training (DET).
- Bus book to be used and camp dates put on the yearly planner (through office).
- Notification of camp and payment will be provided to parents at least 12 weeks before camp.
- Parents will be sent reminder notes a fortnight before the camp departure date reminding them of the need to finalise payment.
- Our school strongly prefers that all children attend camp but issues regarding student personal safety override other considerations when the school has responsibility for a large group of children in an unfamiliar and challenging environment 24 hours a day.
- Any child whose behaviour is such that staff, in consultation with the Principal, consider he/she may be a danger to him/herself or others in outdoor adventure type activities, or that he/she needs closer and more direct supervision than that provided on camp may be excluded from camp.
- A letter will be provided to the parents of children who may be excluded from camp at least 8 weeks prior to the camp date.
- Students will not be excluded from camp for financial reasons alone. Parents experiencing financial difficulty will be encouraged to discuss their individual situation with the Principal/Assistant Principal. The Principal/Assistant Principal will make decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements on a case-by-case basis.
- Ensure that all information about the school camp is entered into the Student Activity Locator – (SAL) online database:

<https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp>

- The DET 'Approval Proforma for all Excursions and Activities' and the 'Iramoo Primary School's Excursion and Camp Application and Planner Proforma' must be completed and submitted to the School Council President via the Principal at least one full week before the School Council meeting immediately prior to camp.
- Ensure that a copy of the DET Proforma – Excursions and Activities requiring School Council approval with school contact details is taken on the camp.
- Provide copies of the following to the School Principal prior to the camp:
 - DET and School Camp Approval proforma
 - Iramoo's Excursion and Camp Application and Planner Proforma
 - Confirmation of entry of Student Activity Locator
 - Camp contact details
 - Parent consent forms
 - Staff/Student medical forms
 - Risk Management Plan proforma
 - Camp schedule/itinerary
 - List of non-attenders
 - Contact details of staff and parents attending camp
 - Bus lists (names of students and adults on each bus).
- Other than exceptional circumstances classroom teachers are expected to attend camps for their year level.
- All medication must be handed to the designated First Aid camp coordinator.
- Suitable campsites must meet the following requirements:
 - Within close proximity to Iramoo Primary School (less than 2 ½ hours bus travel).
 - Must be able to cater for relevant numbers.
 - Must be accredited by The Australian Campsite Accreditation Program.
- Where possible, a group of parents and teachers, preferably from School Council or with school camp experience, visit these campsites to check and review suitability.
- Parent helpers who attend school camps are selected by staff in consultation with the Principal and School Council.
- *Only* selected/authorised parents are permitted to attend school camps.
- All volunteers attending school camp must have a current Working with Children Check.
- Students not attending camp must be allocated to grades and information provided to the office.

Resources Required:

- This program should be a no cost program to locally raised or DET funds as it is financed by direct payment by the parents of participating children.
- An anticipated budget for each activity and cost per child must be formulated prior to seeking permission for the activity.
- In formulating budgets, thought must be given to cost of items such as transport, accommodation, meals, entries to attractions, photographs, special equipment, resources required, and G.S.T. costs.

Evaluation:

- Grade leaders/teachers in charge of camps are to advise the School Council via the school Principal of the appropriateness of the activity.
- Perceived development in children of personal, social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic traits.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.