



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

CAMPS

POLICY

Rationale:

School camps provide a valuable opportunity for students to further develop 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 Years 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 towards 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:

Year 4 ~ A two and a half day Base Camp **Year 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) and to meet Child Safety Policy guidelines.
- Camp Information evenings will be held for parents/guardians and students.
- The Bus book is to be used and the camp dates put on the yearly planner located in the office.
- Notification of camp and payment will be provided to parents/guardians at least 12 weeks before camp.
- Parents/Guardians will be sent reminder notes each fortnight before the camp departure date, reminding them of the need to finalise payment.
- Our school encourages all children attend camp but understand that issues regarding student personal safety and wellbeing 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 they may be a danger to themselves or others in outdoor adventure type activities, or that they need closer and more direct supervision than that provided on camp, may be excluded from camp.
- A letter will be provided to the parents/guardians 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/Guardians 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 and parent helper forms
 - Risk Management Plan proforma
 - Camp schedule/itinerary
 - List of non-attenders and their onsite class allocation
 - Contact details of staff and parents attending camp
 - Bus lists (names of students and adults on each bus).
- Adjustments will be made for any child presenting with specific medical needs; e.g. Anaphylaxis, diabetes.
- Classroom teachers are expected to attend camps for their year level and only on exceptional circumstances will teachers be excused.
- All medication must be handed to the designated First Aid camp coordinator by the morning of departure.
- 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.
- Children are not permitted to bring electronic devices containing a SIM to camp including ipads, phones and smart watches.
- Where possible, a group of parents and teachers, preferably from School Council or with school camp experience, will visit these campsites to check and review suitability.
- Parent helpers who attend school camps are selected by staff in consultation with the Principal/Assistant Principals 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.
- The camp coordinator will be in contact with the Principal to provide updates for the duration of the camp.
- Camp updates and photos may be provided via the school's twitter account or COMPASS.
- 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 the items such as transport, accommodation, meals, entries to attractions, photographs, special equipment, resources required, and GST costs.

Evaluation:

- Teacher 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.

Ratified by Iramoo School Council: May 2020
Review Date: May 2023