

NAZARETH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL GROVEDALE

Camp Policy

Gospel Values

Justice
Compassion
Love

Truth
Reconciliation
Integrity

Respect
Understanding
Acceptance

Dignity
Cooperation
Tolerance

Openness
Care
Honesty

Policy

Rationale:

The school's camping program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:

- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learnings.
- To provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to a lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits.
- To provide a program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance.

Implementation:

- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night's accommodation, including sleep overs at school.
- The program will be developed throughout the school.
- Nazareth School Advisory Committee will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all Catholic Education requirements.
- The school will provide parents with information through school communication platforms (e.g. newsletter) regarding approximate dates and costs associated with the year's camps. Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable.
- Students will not be excluded from camps simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend camp, will be required to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a case-by-case basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual camps. Parents will be sent reminder notices a fortnight before the camp departure date reminding them of the need to finalise payment.

Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed school camp, the organising teacher and other key members must meet with the Principal, to discuss the proposed camp, and to seek 'in principle' support for the event. If the principal's approval is granted, detailed planning should commence.

When presenting information to Principal, organising staff must be aware that the Principal will consider the following:-

- What is the purpose of the camp and its connection to student learning?
- Do staff members attending have the competence to provide the necessary supervision of students throughout the camp?
- Is an appropriately trained member of staff able to provide first aid?
- Have staff members who are not registered teachers completed a Working with Children Check?
- Is the location of staff and students throughout the camp, including during travel, known?
- Is a record of the names and family contacts for all students and staff available?
- Are copies of the parental consent and confidential medical advice forms for students available?
- Have details of the offsite activity been entered on the CEVN Student Activity Locator?
- Has a Childsafe 'Activity Risk Assessment Report' been completed to address potential risks or hazards?
- Adventure activities are those that involve greater than normal risk such as base camping, bushwalking, canoeing, snow activities, orienteering, cycling, horse riding, rock climbing and abseiling, challenge ropes courses, swimming (other than school swimming programs), surf activities, sailboarding, and similar activities.
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend camps
- The school will ensure a mobile phone is available for all camps.

Parents will be invited to assist in the supervision of school camps and when deciding which parents will attend, the school will take into account –

- The children of the parents are independent of adults and especially parents.
- Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. e.g. bus licence, first aid etc
- The need to include both male and female parents.
- The special needs of particular students.
- Non-threatening, co-operative team players who relate to all children.
- The teachers would feel relaxed and comfortable in their company.
- Discretion and confidentiality is valued.
- Parents selected to assist with the camps program must be the holder of a Working with Children Check.

Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the camping program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in a camping experience due to poor behaviour at school. If the unsatisfactory behaviour continues, the child will then be excluded from camp. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher.

Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

To be read in conjunction with "Excursions" policies

Date: September 2019

Next policy review: September 2021