

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the processes and procedures Western Autistic School will use when planning and conducting camps, excursions and adventure activities for students.

To provide the children with the opportunity to extend their intellectual and social development, by offering varied experiences which will complement their program objectives across the key learning areas of the Victorian Essential Standards (VELS).

SCOPE

All children will be given the opportunity to participate in excursions / camps.

This policy applies to all camps and excursions organised by Western Autistic School. This policy also applies to adventure activities organised by Western Autistic School, regardless of whether or not they take place on or off school grounds.

This policy is intended to complement the Department's policy and guidelines on excursions, camps and adventure activities which all Victorian government schools are required to follow. Western Autistic School will follow both this policy, as well as the Department's policy and guidelines when planning for and conducting camps and excursions.

This policy does not apply to student workplace learning or intercampus travel.

POLICY

Camps and excursions can provide a valuable educational experience for our students which are complementary to their learning, as they provide access to resources, environments and expertise that may not be available in the classroom.

For all camps and excursions, including adventure activities, our school will follow the Department's School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Excursions and Activities](#). For camps and excursions requiring school council approval, our school will also follow the Department's School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#).

PLANNING PROCESS FOR CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

All camps and excursions will comply with Department planning requirements.

Part of this planning process includes conducting risk assessments, to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risks associated with each proposed camp or excursion. Western Autistic School's risk assessment will include consideration of arrangements for supervision of students and consideration of the risk of bushfire activity in the excursion location. In the event of a Code Red Day being announced, excursions or camp activities in effected locations will be cancelled or rescheduled. Planning will also cover arrangements for cancelling, recalling or altering the camp or excursion for any other reason.

Western Autistic 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.

In cases where a camp or excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the Organising Teacher will ensure that there is an alternative educational program available and appropriate supervision for those students not attending the camp or excursion.

SUPERVISION

Western Autistic School follows the Department's guidelines in relation to supervision of students during excursions and camps.

All excursion staff (including parent volunteers) will be familiar with supervision requirements and the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each camp and excursion.

All school staff will be aware that they retain overall responsibility for the supervision and care of students throughout all camps and excursions (including adventure activities), regardless of whether or not external providers are managing the activity.

VOLUNTEER AND EXTERNAL PROVIDER CHECKS

Western Autistic School requires all parent or carer camp or excursion volunteers and all external providers working directly with our students to have a current Working with Children Check card.

PARENT/CARER CONSENT

For all camps and excursions, other than local excursions, Western Autistic School will provide parents/carers with a specific consent form outlining the details of the proposed activity. Western Autistic School informs parents about school camps and excursions by placing a note in student bags and asking parents/carers to return the part of the note that asks for parents/carers signature confirming they consent to their child's participation. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any questions or concerns that they or their child may have with a proposed camp or excursion.

For local excursions, Western Autistic School will provide parents and carers with an annual Local Excursions consent form at the start of each school year or upon enrolment if students enrol during the school year. Western Autistic School will also provide advance notice to parents/carers of an upcoming local excursion through email/online parent communication tool or a note home in the student's bag. For local excursions that occur on a recurring basis (for example weekly outings to the local oval for sports lessons), Western Autistic School will notify parents once only prior to the commencement of the recurring event.

COST OF CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS, REFUNDS AND SUPPORT

The cost of all camps and excursions are to be paid by parents/carers unless alternative arrangements have been agreed to by the Principal prior to the excursion. All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for all activities. Consent forms will have clearly stated payment amounts and payment finalisation dates.

Students who have not finalised payment by the required date may not be allowed to attend unless the Principal determines exceptional circumstances apply.

Western Autistic School will make all efforts to ensure that students are not excluded for financial reasons. Families experiencing financial difficulty are invited to discuss alternative payment arrangements with the Principal. The Principal can also discuss family eligibility for the Department's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), which provides payments for eligible students to attend school activities, including camps and excursions. Applications for the CSEF are open to families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents and are facilitated by the school. Further information about the CSEF and the application form are available at [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#).

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.

STUDENT HEALTH

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 our *Medication* policy and the student's signed *Medication Authority Form*. To meet the school's obligations relating to safety, a first aid kit and mobile phone will be taken by teachers on all camps and excursions.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure their child/children are in good health when attending excursions and camps. 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. If the Principal approves a student joining a camp late, transport to the camp is the parent/carer's responsibility.

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

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.

Parents/carers will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion or camp due to behaviour that does not meet the standards of behaviour set out in the school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal, in consultation with the Organising Teacher. Both the parent/carer and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the camp or excursion.

If on a camp or excursion the Teacher in Charge considers an individual student's behaviour does not meet required standards, then the Principal or their nominee may determine that a student should return home

during the camp or excursion. In these circumstances the parent/carer is responsible for the collection of the student and any costs associated with this.

Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*, *Student Code of Conduct* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

FOOD

Students are not permitted to bring their own supply of food items to camps and excursions unless the item is medically indicated and discussed with the Organising Teacher, or included as an item on the clothing and equipment list for that camp or excursion.

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, Western Autistic 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.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The class teacher will be responsible for developing an excursion program appropriate to the teaching / learning program of the individual students in their class
- Costs associated with excursions / camps are expected to be met by parent contributions and school funds
- An alternative program will be provided for children not participating in any particular excursion / camp
- Camp programs will be approved by School Council and notification of activity form to be lodged with DE&T management
- An excursion permission form is to be signed by parents at commencement of the school year, covering local excursions involving bus/school, bus tram/train travel. Any all day excursions will require separate approval by the parent
- Level of supervision will be decided by teaching teams and will be dependent on circumstances and the students involved. Approval must be obtained from the Principal.
- All excursions must be recorded in the excursion book at each campus.
- Principal, Assistant Principal to be notified of all excursions requiring separate parental approval
- Staff will follow the schools' Displan procedure in the event of a lost student or accident
- The destination, time of departure and return are to be recorded in the excursion book

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

Evaluation	Recommended review cycle	3-4 year
Date Ratified	July 2019	
Next review date	July 2023	