



ALEXANDRA SECONDARY COLLEGE

RESPECT, INTEGRITY & PERSONAL BEST

Ph: 03 5770 2000 Fax: 03 5772 2049

Private Bag 1
ALEXANDRA
Victoria 3714
email:alexandra.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

CAMPS POLICY

Table of Contents

1. Statement.....	3
2. Aims	3
3. Guidelines for Action.....	3
4. Access to Camp	4
5. Organisation.....	4
6. LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)	5
7. Evaluation.....	6
Appendix A – Pupil/Teacher Ratios	7
Appendix B – Pro-forma for School Approval for all Camps	8
Appendix C – Guidelines for teachers planning a camp	14
Appendix D – Notification of School Activity (camps)	16

1. Statement

Camps 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. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school. A camp is defined as any activity that involves at least one night's accommodation.

2. Aims

- To provide students with the opportunity to participate in a camping program that is linked to social, cultural and educational outcomes for students.
- To provide shared class and year level experiences, team building and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learning.
- 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.
- To further develop their problem solving and life survival skills
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment

3. Guidelines for Action

- All camps must be approved by the Principal and School Council.
- The principal or their nominee will ensure that full records are submitted to council regarding the camp well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no camp occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved. Ideally all camps should be submitted to Council for in principle approval in the November/December Council meeting in the preceding year.
- No camp should be submitted for approval after the end of the first full month of a semester.
- Staff wishing to organize a camp must complete an "EXCURSIONS, CAMPS, TOURS APPLICATION FORM" (see pages 16 & 17) and lodge this with the Assistant Principal for reference to the Principal for approval. All camps must be approved prior to running. This decision will be made by the Principal. The Principal in consultation with appropriate staff will consider the educational outcomes of the camp as well as the impact on the school program for the proposed dates.
- The Principal and Assistant Principal in consultation with organizing teachers will ensure that all camps, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and student/staff ratios comply with DEECD guidelines.
- All recommended camps will then be presented to School Council for their approval.
- The School office will complete the "Notification of School Activity" online at www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp (the necessary information is taken from EXCURSIONS, CAMPS, TOURS APPLICATION FORM) 4 weeks prior to the camp departure date, and pass on to the Assistant Principal and Principal. The Assistant Principal will ensure that relevant details are recorded in the Daily Organisational Diary and are entered on the daily absence/planning sheets.

4. Access to Camp

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend a camp, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Business Manager. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Business Manager and Principal in consultation with the appropriate staff, on an individual basis.
- All aspects of the camp will be outlined to parents in writing, including cost, sleeping arrangements, itinerary, activities, clothing and equipment lists, contact phone numbers, transport arrangements, student management processes, permission and medical forms and clearly stated payment finalization dates.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for camps. All parental consent and medical forms must be completed, signed and returned and all money must be paid prior to leaving. Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be accessible at the camp location by staff at all times.
- A list of all students with medical conditions will be made prior to the camp. This list will include each student's medical conditions and be given to every member of staff on the camp. The compilation and distribution of the list is the responsibility of the camp coordinator.
- Only students who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school camps. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in a camp 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 camp. All students and parents of students participating in a school camp will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to abide by all camp rules.
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable or a danger to others. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

5. Organisation

- All food, equipment, staffing, organization of activities and student management procedures must be addressed prior to the camp. Consideration needs to be given to students with special dietary and medical requirements. Parents should notify the staff in writing regarding special dietary and medical requirements when returning consent forms.
- 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.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the General Office with a final student list as well as posting a copy on the staff excursion notice board.
- In the case where a camp involves a particular class or year level group, the Assistant Principal will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the camp.
- The school will provide a mobile phone and first aid kit(s) for each camp. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving.

Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of school camps. When deciding which parents will attend the organizing teacher and the Principal will take into account any valuable skills offered (e.g. bus licence, first aid, etc), gender balance and special needs of particular students.

For high risk Outdoor Education activities the staff member organizing must have suitable training and current qualifications. All staff members must be aware of the increased duty of care.

The teacher in charge will ensure that student medical forms are available at the site and that a list of all students with medical conditions will be made prior to the camp. This list will include each student's medical conditions and be given to every member of staff on the camp. The compilation and distribution of the list is the responsibility of the camp coordinator.

One staff member will be designated to take responsibility for administering student medication if required. (following consultation with parents and/or appropriate medical practitioners)

Site Safety

All safety requirements must be considered and adequately resolved prior to the camp. Telephone numbers of all emergency services must be provided to the College, and be taken on camp. If any swimming activities are to occur, there must be sufficient staff attending with appropriate swimming qualifications to enable safe supervision.

Refer: [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)

- A designated "Teacher in Charge" will coordinate each camp. All camps will have an experienced teacher in attendance where possible.
- The Teacher in Charge will ensure all students and adults attending the camp are aware of evacuation and emergency procedures.
- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the College office in the case where camps are returning behind schedule

For further ratios refer to the Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide

For further information regarding safety please check the policy documents below.

6. Links and Appendices (including processes related to this policy)

Links which are connected with this policy are:

[DEECD Excursion Policy](#)

[Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- *Appendix A: Pupil/Teacher Ratios*
- *Appendix B: Pro-forma for school approval for all camps*
- *Appendix C: Guidelines for teachers planning a camp or excursion*
- *Appendix D: Notification of School Activity (camps and excursions)*

7. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed and endorsed by Alexandra Secondary College Council every 3 years or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Date Implemented	28th April 2014
Author	Nigel Lyttle
Approved By	ASC School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Date Reviewed	28th April 2020
Responsible for Review	Assistant Principal
References	DEECD Excursion Policy

Appendix A – Pupil/Teacher Ratios

<p><i>Abseiling and Rock Climbing</i></p> <p>1:1 Rock Face 1:10 Others 2 Experienced Staff</p>	<p>Ropes Course</p> <p>1:12 3 students to any one element, 1 participating, 2 spotting NOTE: No student on any element unless supervised</p>
<p><i>Bass Camping</i></p> <p>1:10 Residential; canvas 1:15 Study: residential</p>	<p>Scuba Diving</p> <p>1:8 Pool training 1:4 Diving, 2 buddy systems NOTE: 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><i>Board Sailing</i></p> <p>1:3 Beginners 1:5 Novice; intermediate; advanced 2 Experienced sailors</p>	<p>Shooting</p> <p>1:1 New or inexperienced 1:5 On the track or mound 1:15 Observers or waiting</p>
<p><i>Boats, Small Sailing - (Dinghies, Catamarans)</i></p> <p>1:8 Enclosed Waters 1:6 Open Waters 1:4 Open Waters, Adverse</p>	<p>Snorkelling</p> <p>1:8 Closed water: pool 1:4 Open water NOTE: 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><i>Bushwalking</i></p> <p>1:5 Overnight 1:10 Day</p>	<p>Snow Activities</p> <p>1:8 Alpine, Nordic – overnight 1:10 Alpine, Nordic – day 1:10 Non-skiing</p>
<p><i>Canoeing</i></p> <p>1:6 2 Staff members</p>	<p>Surf Activities</p> <p>1:10 Beach 1:8 Surf NOTE: 1 teacher/instructor in water and NOTE 1 teacher/instructor on beach</p>
<p><i>Cycling</i></p> <p>1:10</p>	<p>Swimming</p> <p>1:20 Enclosed pools 1:10 Open water</p>
<p><i>Horse Riding</i></p> <p>1:1 Basics 1:5 Beginners 1:8 Semi-experienced Riding School: 1 Experienced teacher with instructor 2 Experienced teachers if no instructor or group exceeds 10</p>	<p>Water Skiing</p> <p>1:20 Shore 1 Student on two at any one time; if highly experienced two may be taken together 2 People in boat – driver and observer; one must be staff member</p>
<p><i>Orienteering</i></p> <p>1:10 Bush</p>	

Appendix B – Pro-forma for School Approval for all Camps

**This form must be completed electronically and sent to the Assistant Principal five days before School Council. If possible Council approval is required TWO normal meetings before the camp date. For interstate and overseas trips Council needs to approve the trip in the November Council meeting of the preceding year.*

Camp Location / Phone

Name of Camp: _____

Name of nearest town: _____

Address of Camp: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone of Camp: () _____

Emergency Services Phone Number and Locations:

Police - Phone: () _____ at _____

Fire - Phone: () _____ at _____

Doctor - Phone: () _____ at _____

Hospital - Phone: () _____ at _____

Ambulance - Phone: () _____ at _____

Other - Phone: () _____ at _____

Type of Camp Accommodation:

Canvas **Bunkhouse** **Chalet**

Motel **Hotel** **Other**

If *other*, please give details: _____

Camps Policy

1. Dates / Times

Leave School at _____ am/pm on _____ (day/month/year)

Arrive back at School _____ am/pm on _____ (day/month/year)

No. of days of Camp: _____

Is this Camp in: School time only? YES No

Holidays time only? YES No

School time and holidays/weekends time? YES No

Does this camp clash with any major school activities on the School calendar? YES No

If YES, list these activities: _____

2. Staff included

Teacher(s)-in-charge: _____

No. of extra staff required to meet safety ratios:

Male: _____ Female: _____ Totals: _____

Numbers of any teacher aides/parents/student teachers who wish to be included in the staffing (not camp staff). In most cases volunteers or staff employed for the camp will require a police check (paid by the School).

Mr / Mrs / Ms: _____ Position: _____

Mr / Mrs / Ms: _____ Position: _____

Mr / Mrs / Ms: _____ Position: _____

It is the responsibility of the teacher-in-charge to ensure that all activities are adequately staffed. School Council will adopt the Guide to staff supervision ratios (Appendix A).

Has the teacher-in-charge checked these ratios? YES No

Can these ratios be met with the above staff requested? YES No

3. Student Numbers / Age

Actual names are NOT required when this approval application goes to School Council. Actual names must be left with the Principal/Assistant Principal two weeks before the camp.

Boys: _____ Girls: _____ Totals: _____

Age range of most students: _____ to _____

Cost of camp (per student): \$ _____

4. Educational aims of Camp (*state briefly*)

5. Method of Travel / Route

Travel to the Camp: _____

Travel back to School: _____

Travel while at Camp: _____

Are staff member's cars involved? YES No

If YES, complete the details below:

CAR OWNER	TYPE	REG. NO #	INSURANCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

NOTE: All staff cars must be covered by comprehensive insurance policies.

Camps Policy

Are staff member's driving buses?

YES No

If the buses require drivers to have endorsed licences, list the staff drivers attending with such qualifications.

NAME OF STAFF	LICENCE NUMBER	EXPIRY DATE

NOTE: If a BUS is hired (self drive or with company driver) staff are requested to ensure the vehicle has seat belts on all seats.

Route

In the space below, outline the main route of travel for this camp (if you are on a set tour, attach a brochure with the mapped route).

6. Activities on this Camp

A daily plan is not required here, but must be handed to the Assistant Principal 2 weeks prior to the camp. The teacher-in-charge must ensure that all activities listed below are covered as follows:

- (i) **Pupil/Teacher Ratios – (see Appendix A). You may use on-site camp staff in these activities.**

- (ii) **Special Qualifications – list staff with the required qualifications where appropriate.**
- (iii) **Student Equipment – students/parents must receive a list of equipment/dress required well before the camp.**

ACTIVITY	STAFF RATIO	SPECIAL STAFF ON SITE QUALIFICATIONS	STUDENT EQUIPMENT

7. Camp Insurance

A member of staff needs to **SIGHT** a copy of the Camp’s Insurance Policy and note details below for School Council.

INSURANCE COMPANY	POLICY NO.	TYPE OF INSURANCE	LIMIT OF COVER

8. Certification

As the teacher-in-charge, I certify that the particulars in the application are true and correct. I am aware of the safety precautions published in Department of Education and Early Childhood Development booklets for the activities above.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

9. Post Approval Requirements

If the camp receives School Council approval, based on the information under Points 1-8, the teacher-in-charge must work with the Assistant Principal to ensure the following procedures are carried out before the camp:

- (i) Assistant Principal notifies the Region on a “Notification of School Activity” online.
- (ii) Ensure students/parents receive 4 sheets:
 - (a) Camp description including clear costs, dates, modes of travel, contact numbers and aims/activities.
 - (b) Permission form and a code of conduct sheet – this form must be signed by both the student and parent.
 - (c) Confidential medical report for School camps.
 - (d) List of clothing/bedding/safety gear required.
- (iii) Provide a list of students, staff and a daily program to the Assistant Principal.
- (iv) The teacher-in-charge should work with the Assistant Principal and any local authorities to ensure they are aware of disaster plan/escape routes for the area of the camp (if applicable).
- (v) A First aid kit(s) must be taken on all camps.
- (vi) No student may attend camp unless all forms are signed and returned and camp fees paid (unless special arrangements are made with the Principal). For some camps, School levies must be paid before a camp fee is accepted.
- (vii) The Principal must be informed of any change of planned activities/itinerary.

Appendix C – Guidelines for teachers planning a camp

1. Introduction

Camps need to be planned well in advance and should relate to the curriculum being taught.

Students and their parents should be provided with information about the program's educational objectives, the nature of the activities, clothing requirements, the venue and costs well in advance.

School Council is responsible for the approval of:

- over night excursions
- camps
- interstate and overseas visits
- excursions requiring sea or air travel
- excursions involving weekends or vacations
- adventure activities

Before approving a camp, consideration by the principal and/or School Council needs to include:

- the contribution of the activity to the School curriculum
- the adequacy of planning, preparation and organisation
- the provisions of the safety and welfare of students and staff
- the experience and competence of staff relative to the activities being undertaken
- the adequacy of student supervision
- the cost

A parent must provide written consent for their child to take part in a camp. Parents asked to sign consent forms must be given sufficient information about the nature of the proposed activity, the risks involved and the degree of supervision.

Parental consent is required for the following reasons:

- to authorise the school to have the student in its care after normal school hours
- to authorise the school to take the student out of the school environment
- to alert the school to any medical condition or allergies of the student
- to authorise the school to consent to emergency treatment for the student
- for the parent to consent to any financial cost of the camp
- for the parent to consent to the student being sent home in the event of any serious misbehaviour

Copies of the Consent & Medical forms are to be taken on the camp by the teacher in charge, and the designated school contact person should hold a list of participants, a copy of the consent forms and contacts in case of emergency.

In addition to any teachers employed by the DEECD or the School Council, camp staff may include other adults on a volunteer or paid worker basis, such as parents, school services officers, community members, campsite staff and trainee teachers.

Only students who display sensible and reliable behaviour at school will be taken on camps outside the school.

Sensible and reliable behaviour at camps and excursions will be expected at all times. *Students can be sent home if their behaviour warrants a severe consequence.*

2. Planning

Forward planning takes into consideration whole school demands and must ensure that the normal school program is not consistently disrupted.

Planning should include:

- a clear aim
- costing – transport, admission, etc (the costing must be realistic in terms of the nature of the experience and the resultant learning outcomes)
- the opportunity for payment in advance, by instalments or lump sum payment may be offered to parents
- staffing needs
- pre-visit if venue is new/unknown
- consideration of children whose parents may not be able to meet costs
- camp approval forms to be completed and handed in prior to the activity
- arrangements for covering camp staff classes while they are away from school

3. Preparation

Preparation for any activity should include:

- quotes for transport
- booking of transport
- confirmation time for departure and return
- informing specialist teachers, parent helpers, area coordinator
- informing parents attending activity on discipline procedures
- preliminary classroom activities
- collection of monies
- arrangement for school cheque
- medical information, precautions and First Aid kits

Appendix D – Notification of School Activity (camps)

Note: This will be done by the Front Office

School councils are responsible for ensuring that the activities listed below are thoroughly planned, checked and documented in accordance with Department of Education & Training guidelines for the planning and conduct of camps, excursions and outdoor adventure activities.

If comprehensive information is required during an emergency, schools will be expected to provide it at any time of the day or week from the documentation prepared for the activity which is held by the school.

Relevant details about School Council approved camps and excursions must be entered into the DEECD database using the online notification form available at:

www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/schools/sal/enteractivity.asp

This notification should be provided three weeks prior to commencing the activity.

- overnight, weekend, interstate, overseas activities
- adventure activities
- non-adventure activities which, by their nature, location or timing, may be hazardous
- School closures, pupil free days, combined sports or cluster days

Notes:

1. An additional sheet listing the actual dates and locations of activities should accompany this form when the same activity is to be repeated on different occasions.
2. The coordinating school should complete the form for activities involving a group of schools.
3. Day excursions should be reported if activities are to be conducted by:
 - country schools - beyond the local town/city
 - rural schools - beyond the local area
 - metropolitan schools - beyond the greater metropolitan area

CAMPS Risk Management Assessment Form

Section 1 –Environment Emergency Management Assessment

Venue Assessed _____ for month of _____

Assess each of the following hazards and any others you think relevant and complete charts below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfires • Severe storms and flooding • Earthquake • School Bus Accident/Vehicle Incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Student • Medical Emergencies • Incidents • Aggressive student behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intruders • Internal fires and smoke • Snakes and other wildlife • Other relevant to camp area
---	---	---

Likelihood	Very High				
	High				
	Moderate				
	Low				
		Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Impact					

Environmental Emergency	Event	Risk Management Strategies
Very high or high likely-hood / very high or high impact		
Very high, High and moderate likelihood /Very high, high or moderate impact		
Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High Impact		

This form is to be completed as part of the planning process for all excursions.

Class Group:	Date:	Supervising Teacher:
--------------	-------	----------------------

	Dangers Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	Risk Management Strategies Strategies to reduce risks
People Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		
Equipment Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment		
Environment Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water		
<p>Critical incident management (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.</p> <p>If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Follow School Plan <i>What to do if a student is lost on an Excursion or Camp.</i> Every teacher should have a copy of this in the excursion DISPlan.</p> <p>If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.</p>		

EXCURSIONS, CAMPS, TOURS APPLICATION FORM, Section 1

ACTIVITY:	TEACHER IN CHARGE:
DATE(S) OF ACTIVITY:	VENUE:
DATE FOR DEPOSIT TO BE PAID:	
DATE FOR MONEY TO BE HANDED IN:	

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

Name of class(es) going:.....

Number of students attending: **BOYS:** **GIRLS:** **TOTAL:**

Staff approved to attend:

Are any excursion staff not members of staff? YES/NO

If so please list:.....

Do the have Working with Children Checks? YES/NO

Has program information been provided to students? YES/NO

Have permission forms been issued? YES/NO

Transport arrangements:

Time and place of departure:

Time and place of arrival home:

Itinerary attached: (for overnight excursions, tours and camps) YES/NO

COSTS

College Bus (check bus policy sheet for details, camps determined on individual basis)	\$
Hired Bus: Name of Company:
Cars: Estimated cost at cents/kilometre:
Other anticipated transport costs: (please provide details)
.....
Site hire fees and Accommodation:
Petty Cash required: (state reason)
Food costs:
Phone calls, postage, photocopying:
Equipment fee:
Other: (please list)
TOTAL COST:	<u>.....</u>
COST PER STUDENT:	<u>.....</u>
ANTICIPATED SURPLUS:	<u>.....</u>

Staff please note: The Section 2 of this form MUST also be completed.

Initial approval	
Asst. Principal's Signature:	Date:
Anne Norris' Signiture:.....	Date:
Tracey's Signature:.....	Date:
Anne Slater's Signature:.....	Date:
Jan's Signature:.....	Date:
Final Approval	
Asst. Principal's Signature:	Date:

Office Use Only

online
 dates
 calendar
 diary

Alexandra Secondary College
EXCURSIONS, CAMPS, TOURS APPLICATION FORM, Section 2

1] For EACH teacher going on the excursion:

PLEASE put a **LINE** through the boxes where they'll be absent **and** a **CROSS** in the boxes below where they teach a class (*that will NEED to be covered*) and have a yard duty.

Teacher	DAY	Morn	Assembly	P1	P2	Recess	P3	P4	Lunch	P5	P6	Afternoon

2] Will any students from your classes be left behind? Y/N

3] **Please fill out the TABLE below if any of the following apply:**

- Overnight, weekend, interstate, overseas activities
- Adventure activities
- Non- adventure activities which, by their nature, location or timing, may be hazardous
- Day excursions should be reported if activities are to be conducted by:
 1. country schools- beyond the local town/ city
 2. rural schools- beyond the local area

Notes:

1. A new submission is required for each time the activity is repeated on a different date. NB Accompanying forms cannot be sent/ added.
2. The coordinating school should complete the form for activities involving school groups

Commencement date (dd/mm/yy):		Venue postcode:	
Concluding date (dd/mm/yy):		Venue phone number:	
Type of activity (camp, sport, water sport, excursion, rock climbing, winter sport, mountain bike riding, in school sleep over etc):		Mobile number with group:	
Name of venue:		Map reference:	
Address of venue:		Is Emergency Transport available at the venue?	
Location of venue (nearest town/ area):		No. of students:	
State of venue:		No. of teachers:	
Country of venue:		Person in charge:	