Camp Policy

VISION STATEMENT: Alive in the Spirit we journey together, engaging with the present and shaping the future.

RATIONALE

The school camp experience from F-6 provides students with a valuable opportunity to further their learning and develop personal and interpersonal skills beyond the classroom environment. Participation in school camp experiences contributes towards developing skills, knowledge and behaviours essential to the development of the whole child.

PRINCIPLE

At St. Damian’s our camp experience aims to:

- Provide children with the opportunity to participate in an age appropriate camp experience.
- Provide shared experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- Reinforce and extend classroom learning.
- Provide an experience that enhances the development of social and emotional learning.

SUGGESTED STRUCTURE/EXPERIENCES F-6

Foundation (Prep): An after school hours experience from 3:15pm - 5:30pm at school

Year One/Two: An after school hours experience at school from 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Year Three: An off-site evening camp experience from 3:15pm – 9:00pm.

Year Four: An off-site camp experience, 2 days – 1 night.

Year Five/Six: An off-site camp experience, 3 days – 2 nights.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

- A camp is defined as any structured activity outside of school hours.
- The school will ensure that all camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost.
- Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable.
- No student should be excluded from attending a camp experience due to financial difficulties.
- The designated staff member responsible for each camp experience will ensure that all camps, bus arrangements and camp activities comply with Catholic Education Office guidelines.
- The “Student Activity Locator” on the CEVN website will be completed by Administration staff when all the documentation has been finalised.
- Written permission from parents/guardians will be required for students to attend the camp experience.
- All students from Years Three to Six will complete a “Camp Rights and Responsibilities” Contract signed by both student and parent/guardian.
• Parent/guardian will be required to collect their child from the camp experience if the child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Camp Co-ordinator in consultation with the Principal or their nominee will make the decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

• A “Confidential Medical Information Form” will be completed by the parent/guardian, returned to school and taken to off-site camp experiences with all appropriate medications.

• Classroom teachers will attend camps. Learning Support Officers may be required to support students with additional needs at the camp experience.
• All parents attending the camp experience in a supervisory capacity will be required to have a current ‘Working With Children’ check.
• The minimum ratio of adults to children on off-site camp experience is 1:10.
• The minimum ratio of adults on the bus travelling to and from the camp experience is 1:20.
• At least one car will be available for use in case of emergency on all off-site camp experiences.
• A Level 2 First Aid Teacher will attend the camp experience.
• If a student with particular health needs eg diabetes is attending the camp experience, the child’s parent/guardian will be encouraged to attend.
• At least one staff member will carry their mobile phone on their person at all times.
• A designated staff member will be in attendance at school to meet the children returning from the camp experience.
• The Camp Co-ordinator will communicate with the designated staff member the anticipated return time.
• A designated staff member will be contactable at all times during the camp experience.
• The decision for a student not to attend a camp experience will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher and/or the parent/guardian.
• There will be an evaluation of the camp experience to determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of the venue and activities in accordance with student learning.

**EVALUATION**

The policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s review cycle.