

St. Theresa's Primary School Albion **Camping/Extended Stay Policy**

Rationale :

Camping and extended stay experiences at St. Theresa's enable students to further their learning and social skills development outside the classroom setting. It is an important aspect of the educational program offered at St. Theresa's.

Beliefs :

At St. Theresa's we believe that camping and extended stay experiences:

- Enhance the development of the whole child.
- Are integral parts of the curriculum in our school.
- Should be developed sequentially from P-6.
- Expose the children to a range of settings that they may not normally experience.
- Develop a sense of independence and responsibility in a different environment.

Aims :

- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a range of outdoor experiences.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- 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 :

- The program will be organised throughout the whole school.
Prep/1 Tea
2/3 Sleepover
4/5/6 2-night camp
- All students will be expected to participate in camping/extended stay experiences.
- Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual outdoor education activities as soon as practicable.
- Students will not be excluded from outdoor education activities simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend such activities, will be required to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. The Principal will make decisions relating to alternative arrangements on a case by case basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual outdoor education activities.

- The designated “Teacher in Charge” of each activity will ensure that all camps, bus arrangements and outdoor education activities comply with Department of Education and Training guidelines.
- Only Camping Association of Victoria accredited camp sites will be used.
- The “Teacher in Charge” of all activities will complete all necessary documentation and acknowledge all required assurances by the Catholic Education Office.
- All students will be required to provide written permission from their parents to attend the camp, as well as a completed “Confidential Medical Information Form” and a “Camp Behaviour” form.
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend camps and extended stay activities. Other positions will be offered to further staff and members of the parent community as required.
- The school will provide a mobile phone to be taken on all outdoor activities.
- The school will provide qualified First Aid trained teachers on outdoor education activities.
- Parents will be invited to assist in the delivery of these programs when required. When deciding which parent will attend, consideration will be given to the child’s grade level, gender balance and special needs.
- Parents selected to assist with the school’s camping/extended stay program will be required to undertake a police records check. The school will pay for the associated costs.
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from the camping/extended stay activity 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.

Evaluation :

This policy will be evaluated as part of the school’s 5-year cycle.