

St. Theresa's Primary School Albion

Outdoor Education Policy



RATIONALE :

Outdoor Education at St. Theresa's enables 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.

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

BELIEFS:

At St. Theresa's we believe that:

- Outdoor education enhances the development of the whole child.
- It is an integral part of the curriculum in our school.
- It is important to have a development of experiences from Prep – 6.
- It is important to expose the children to a range of settings that they may not normally experience.
- It is important to develop a sense of independence and responsibility in a different environment.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The program will be organised throughout the whole school.
Prep/1 Tea
2 Camp Day
3/4/5/6 2-night camp
*Note that this combination may change according to class groupings
- 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 outdoor education 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 outdoor education 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 for School Council Approved Excursions” and a “Camp Behaviour” form.
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend outdoor education activities. Other positions will be offered to further staff and members of the parent community as required.
- The school will provide qualified First Aid trained teachers on outdoor education activities.
- Parents will be invited to assist in the delivery of outdoor education 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 outdoor education program will be required to have a current Working with Children check
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from the outdoor 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.