



*'Quality Education in a Friendly, Caring and Supportive Environment'*

## Camps and Excursions Policy

### PURPOSE

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

### SCOPE

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

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. Bridgewater Primary 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.

### DEFINITIONS

#### Excursions:

For the purpose of this policy, excursions are activities organised by the school where the students:

- are taken out of the school grounds (for example, a camp, day excursion, school sports);
- undertake adventure activities, regardless of whether or not they occur outside the school grounds;
- Attend school 'sleep-overs' on school grounds.
- **Camps** are excursions involving at least one night's accommodation (including school sleep-overs).

**Local excursions** are excursions to locations within walking distance of the school and do not involve 'Adventure Activities'.

**Adventure activities** are activities that involve a greater than normal risk. Further information and examples of adventure activities are available on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library, at the following link:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/excursions/guidance/adventure-activities>

## **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 Policy and Advisory Library: [Excursions](#).

### **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. Bridgewater Primary 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.

Bridgewater Primary 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**

Bridgewater Primary 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.

### **Parent volunteers**

Parents may be invited to assist with camps and excursions. School staff will notify parents/carers of any costs associated with attending. School staff are in charge of camps and excursions and parent/carers are expected to follow teachers' instructions. When deciding which parents/carers will attend, the Organising Teacher will take into account: any valuable skills the parents/carers have to offer (e.g. bus licence, first aid etc.) and the special needs of particular students.

### **Volunteer and external provider checks**

Bridgewater Primary 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. [For more information about when a WWC Clearance is required, see [Volunteers page](#) on the School Policy Templates Portal.]

## **Parent/carers consent**

For all camps and excursions, other than local excursions, Bridgewater Primary School will provide parents/carers with a specific consent form outlining the details of the proposed activity. Bridgewater Primary School uses uEducateUs to inform parents about camps and excursions and to seek their consent. 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, Bridgewater Primary 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. Bridgewater Primary School will also provide advance notice to parents/carers of an upcoming local excursion through [insert applicable notification method: email/online parent communication tool/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), Bridgewater Primary 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 will not be allowed to attend unless the Principal determines exceptional circumstances apply.

Bridgewater Primary 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 or Business Manager. The Business Manager 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* or *Bullying Prevention Policy*. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the 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* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

### **Electronic Devices**

Students will not be permitted to bring electronic devices to camps or excursions except with prior approval from the Principal. The Principal will only approve students bringing electronic devices to a camp or excursion in exceptional circumstances and when it is in the best interests of the student (such as medical).

### **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, Bridgewater Primary 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.

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following way:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

- [Excursions](#)
- [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Camps and Excursions Policy:

- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Volunteer Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Parent Payment Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2024

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix A: Pupil/Teacher Ratios
- Appendix B: Excursions Approval Pro-forma
- Appendix C: Camps and Excursions Application Pro-forma (3 pages)
- Appendix D: Notification of School Activity (camps and excursions)
- Appendix E: Environment and General Risk Assessment

**Pupil / Teacher Ratios**

**APPROVAL APPLICATION**

To be submitted to School Council or the school for approval as required by DEECD.

EXCURSION: .....

DATE/S: .....

DESTINATION / DETAILS:

.....

.....

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: .....

PURPOSE OF EXCURSION:

.....

.....

ORGANSING STAFF MEMBER: .....

STAFF PROPOSED: .....

ARE ANY EXCURSION SUPERVISORS OTHER THAN TEACHING STAFF: YES / NO

IF YES PLEASE LIST: .....

IF NOT AHS STAFF, ARE THEY TO BE PAID? YES / NO

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK HELD BY VOLUNTEERS? YES / NO

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN EXCURSION:

.....

.....

Signed:

Date:

Teachers wishing to conduct excursions are required to provide the following information so that their application may be considered. This must be done AT LEAST ONE MONTH before the date of the proposed excursion.

No excursions or camps are permitted in the two full weeks prior to an exam period for any level.

### **STEP 1**

☐ Daily diary clearance obtained

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Application approval & signed off in daily diary

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

### **STEP 2**

(When Step 1 completed this form must be submitted to Business Manager 3 weeks prior to excursion)

#### **EXCURSION DETAILS**

Date of Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Excursion to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher in charge: \_\_\_\_\_

Domain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Time of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated time of return:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of students attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff required : \_\_\_\_\_



### **STEP 3**

#### ESTIMATE OF COSTS

	A	B	C
ITEMS	TOTAL COST (including GST)		GST (A $\times$ 11) COST (excluding
	GST) (A – B)		
Accommodation			
Transport / Bus			
Food			
Admissions			
Equipment Hire			
Other (detail)			
TOTAL			

From the above table

Total cost of all items excluding GST:- (C)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

GST (food only): (B)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Number of Students attending: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL COST PER STUDENT:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(To be determined in conjunction with Business Manager)

Will a cheque be required on the day of the excursion?

YES / NO

☐ If YES    Order form must be completed for costs related to excursion.

☐ Bus Company to be used \_\_\_\_\_

#### **STEP 4**

LIST OF PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

☐ List of participants submitted

☐ ALL permission forms to be generated from the school Office

#### **STEP 5**

NOTIFICATIONS

☐ A list of participating students will be placed on the noticeboard in the Staffroom and on the intranet

☐ Canteen must be notified

☐ COMPLETE 'NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY' FORM as attached

Checked / Approved by Business Manager   YES [     ]    Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **STEP 6**

(ONLY NECESSARY IF DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL REQUIRED)

Camps/excursions that require Departmental Approval:-

- Overnight, weekend, interstate, overseas
- Adventure activities
- Non-adventure activities which, by their nature, location or timing, may be hazardous

☐ School Council approval is required for all Step 6 activities

NOTE: If participant numbers are not adequate (payment & permission forms) no less than five school days from activity / excursion, Administration reserves the right to cancel the activity / excursion.

OFFICE USE:

Fee Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Charge:

#### INFORMATION REQUIRED TO GENERATE PERMISSION SLIPS

EXCURSION:

VENUE:

TEACHER IN CHARGE:

TRANSPORT METHOD:

DETAILS OF EXCURSION:

SPECIAL NEEDS: (eg Drink bottle, towel, sun hat)

***Emergency & Security Management***

## NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY

### (Camps & Excursions)

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.

The information on this proforma will be used to provide initial information to the emergency services during an emergency. 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.

Fax the completed proforma to (03) 9589 0543 three weeks prior to commencing the following:

- 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, school council holidays, 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

SCHOOL NAME AND NUMBER:

Number: 1097

School Name: Bridgewater PS

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

(CAMP, BUSHWALKING, SCHOOL CLOSURE, EXCURSION, OVERSEAS TRIP, ETC.)

DATE OF ACTIVITY:

(SEE NOTES)

Commencing:

Concluding:

NAME OF VENUE:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF VENUE

& POST CODE:

Postcode:

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:    Mobile with group:

Venue:

IS EMERGENCY TRANSPORT AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE?    Yes:    No:    Map  
reference:

TOTAL NUMBERS:

Students:

Teachers:

NAME OF PERSON IN CHARGE:

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL:

ENTER ONLINE (SAL Activities Notification Form)

Visit the Emergency and Security Management Website at  
<http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/emerg/index.htm> for information to assist schools to plan for  
and manage emergencies and security related incidents.

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

Environmental Emergency	Event	Risk Management Strategies
Very high or high likelihood / 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		

## Section 2 General Excursion Risk Assessment

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

Class Group:	Date:	Supervising Teacher:
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	<b>Dangers</b>  Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	<b>Risk Management Strategies</b>  Strategies to reduce risks
<b>People</b>  Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		

<p><b>Equipment</b></p> <p>Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment</p>		
<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water</p>		
<p><b>Critical incident management</b> (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.</p> <p><b>If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe.</b> 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><b>If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe.</b> Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.</p>		



## Incursion Risk Assessment Form

**Duty of care resides with teachers for the period of the event:**

☐ Presenter/s-contractor/s has/have WWWC

☐ Activity complies with External Providers Policy guidelines \_\_\_\_\_

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

Class Group:	Date:	Supervising (Duty of Care) Teacher:
Details of area to be used and safety initiatives if required.		

	Dangers  Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	Risk Management Strategies  Strategies to reduce risks
<b>People</b>  Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		
<b>Equipment</b>  Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment		
<b>Environment</b>  Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water		

<p><b>Critical incident management</b> (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.</p> <p><b>If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe.</b> 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><b>If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe.</b> Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.</p>		