

**St Patrick's Primary
School
Gympie**



**School Camp and
Excursion Policy**

Rationale:

Here at St Patrick's School, we believe that school camps and excursions offer a unique opportunity for learning for the students in our care. Through school camps and excursions, students are given the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities that it is not possible for them to experience in the normal school setting. School camps and excursions also offer the opportunity for students to interact with their teachers and peers in a setting vastly different from the classroom.

Through this Camp and Excursion Policy, our school hopes to provide students with a sequential and varied range of experiences that will enhance their physical, social, emotional and spiritual growth. We hope to provide students with the opportunity to experience different environmental settings and to learn new skills first hand in these settings. It is also our hope that students will grow in their relationships with peers and staff.

School camps and excursions at St Patrick's School will occur as part of the school curriculum and will be integrated into that curriculum. They will be a focal point for learning, not isolated experiences that occur in some classes. They will form part of a sequential program designed to enhance the school curriculum and provide students with experiences and activities relevant to their academic and personal development.

Policy:

An organised and progressive camp and excursion program will be developed for the school. These camps and excursions will be integrated into the class curriculum for the year and will enhance units of work that occur in that class. The breakdown of camps and excursions is as follows:

Year 1	Excursions in the local area.
Year 2	Excursions in the local area
Year 3	Excursions in the local area.
Year 4	2-day outdoor education camp
Year 5	3-day outdoor education camp.
Year 6	3-day beach activity camp.
Year 7	7-day tour to Canberra, Sydney and the Snow.

Implementation:

All camps and excursions require thorough preparation to ensure issues of safety, site awareness, program negotiation and cost are all addressed. This will also ensure that the camp is addressing the educational needs of the students who will be attending. The following implementation issues should be addressed in preparing for camps:

- Parents should be given at least one month's notice prior to any camp or excursion occurring.

- A camp and excursion planning form (see attached) needs to be completed and signed by the Principal prior to the parents being notified.
- If parent helpers are needed, a clear and just selection process must be used to select those who will attend. This process should be made available on request.
- Risk Assessment forms must be completed for all camps and excursions.
- Camps are part of the yearly curriculum and as such, should be considered a compulsory school activity. However, parents have the right to refuse permission for their children to attend and we must respect that right. It would be preferred if teachers and parents could reach some common understanding on this matter in an amicable process of mutual support.
- No child should ever be denied attendance at camp due to financial difficulties. There is a fund established at St Patrick's to cover the cost of camp for those students whose parents are unable to afford to pay. This also applies to the Year 7 Canberra Trip. Parents should approach both the teacher and the principal in these situations.
- Standards of behaviour apply in all camp and excursion situations. The normal school rules and expectations regarding both behaviour and consequences will be employed.
- Students whose behaviour at school has been unsatisfactory may be asked not to attend camp. This would only occur if in the opinion of the teachers and principal, the student's behaviour at camp would place staff and students in danger or would place undue hardship on those attending.