CAMPING POLICY

Rationale:
The school’s camping program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:
- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learnings.
- 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:
- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night’s accommodation.
- The program will be developed sequentially throughout the school.
- The School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DEECD requirements.
- All camps will be budgeted with detailed and accurate costing presented by the Principal. Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable.
- Students will not be excluded from camps simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend camp, will be invited to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a case-by-case basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual camps. Parents will be sent reminder notices before the camp departure date reminding them of the need to finalise payment.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide classroom teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.
- School Council will set aside a budget each year that will cover the cost of replacing teachers (CRT) who are involved in camps.
Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle. The designated “Teacher in Charge” of each camp will ensure that all camps, bus arrangements and camp activities comply with Department of Employment, Education and Training guidelines.
- The “Notification of School Activity” form will be completed and forwarded to the Department of Employment, Education and Training three weeks prior to the camp departure date.
- 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” form.
- Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend camps.
- The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills and will provide a Level 2 First Aid Teacher on each camp.
- The school will provide a mobile phone for all camps.
- A senior staff member will be in attendance at school whilst the children are returning from camp. The Teacher in Charge will communicate with this person in regards the anticipated return time.
- Parents will be invited to assist in the delivery of school camps. When deciding on which parents will attend, the camps committee will take into account –
  - Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. e.g. bus licence, first aid etc
  - The need to include both male and female parents.
  - The special needs of particular students.
- Parents selected to assist with the camps 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 camp 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.
- All camps require School Council approval. This approval is sought at a scheduled meeting at least three weeks prior to the departure date. Information presented to the School Council will include:
  - The educational aims and objectives of the camp.
  - The names of all adults attending and their expertise and experience.
  - Travel arrangements and costs.
  - Venue details and an itinerary of events.
  - Procedures followed to ensure the safety of the children.
  - The above information will be provided to the Principal at least a week before the School Council meeting date.

Certification:

This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at Currawa Primary School on the day of , 2014.

Signed…………………………………… Signed ………………………………………

School Council President Principal