

# Woodside Primary School - Camps and Excursions Agreement

At WPS we believe our camps and excursions should offer engaging activities, involving challenge and discovery to both supplement and extend upon day to day classroom learning experiences.

We believe camps and excursions greatly enhance student learning, offering new, varied, challenging and practical experiences across multiple learning areas. Therefore all WPS teachers, where possible, should seek to schedule 1 day excursions into their regular learning programs and for Year 3 students and above an overnight(s) camp.

For Middle and Upper Primary classes the school camp should be considered as a 'study tour' where the camp destinations and associated activities/experiences have strong curriculum links. At WPS it should be standard practice that associated learning has occurred at school prior to the camp commencing and that we consider that their classroom is simply 'transported' to an alternative venue for the duration of the study tour. Likewise post camp learning activities should be completed based on their research, discovery and experiences whilst away. Camp destinations and activities need to be carefully chosen and provide authentic experiences not possible within the traditional classroom setting.

A camp or excursion venue is considered to be an extension of our WPS worksite. Emphasis is therefore given to important planning considerations impinging on the safe conduct of activities in regards to students, teachers and other participants. These include qualifications and experience of leaders, the nature of the student group, individual health care needs, local terrain and weather conditions, available communication infrastructure and emergency action plans.

All staff planning and supervising camps and excursions must refer to the Department for Education Camps and Excursions Guidelines for Schools and Pre-schools. As outlined in this document this includes conducting a full risk assessment and completing various administrative forms.

It is also expected that the cost of the camps or excursions are not prohibitive and that information regarding these trips is communicated to parents in a timely manner.