

MORDIALLOC COLLEGE

EXCURSION

POLICY

Rationale:

The school's excursion program enables students to enrich their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Excursions complement, and are an integral part of the educational programs offered at our school. An excursion defined as any school activity beyond the school grounds.

Aims:

- To reinforce, complement and extend the learning opportunities beyond the classroom
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school, and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world
- To provide a safe, secure learning experience for students in a venue external to the school
- To further develop social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, communication, individual and group interaction
- To further develop problem solving and life survival skills
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment

Implementation:

- All excursions must be approved by the Principal or his/her nominee(s)
- Staff wishing to organise an excursion must enter the excursion into the Compass event module no later than 14 days prior to the event and submit for approval. All excursions must be approved prior to running. Where an excursion proposal has not been submitted, that excursion will not run, unless special circumstances are pending. This decision will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal. The Principal or nominee(s) will consider the educational outcome of the excursion as well as the impact on the school for the proposed date
- The Principal or nominee(s) will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and staffing comply with DET guidelines
- Once the excursion has been approved, the organising teacher will print excursion notices and distribute to students (refer to staff handbook for full procedure.)

Note: *Excursions and camps that require school council approval must be submitted to council for approval with relevant Risk assessment documentation. The Assistant Principal will complete the 'Notification of School Activity' three weeks prior to the excursion departure date, and ensure relevant details are entered on the school calendar.*

- School Council is responsible for the approval of:
 - Overnight excursions
 - Camps
 - Interstate visits
 - International visits
 - Excursions requiring sea or air travel, weekends or vacations
 - Adventure activities
- The Principal's Consultative Committee (PCC) is responsible for the approval of all single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by school council as mentioned above

MORDIALLOC COLLEGE

EXCURSION

POLICY

Expectations:

- The Department's requirements and guidelines relating to preparation and safety will be observed in the conduct of all excursions
- The Principal or their nominee will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the camp/excursion
- The Principal or their nominee will ensure that adequate pre-excursion planning and preparation, including the preparation of students, takes place
- Satisfactory arrangements will be made to provide continuous instruction for the students remaining at the school during the absence of staff accompanying an excursion
- The DET will not be involved in any expense associated with the conduct of excursions. The school may choose to subsidise some excursions or individual student's expenses
- Prior to conducting a camp or excursion, the approval of the School Council or the Principal will be obtained. Council must approve overnight or adventure activities. The Principal must approve these and other activities
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in camps or excursions. Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during a camp or an excursion
- The emergency management process of the school will extend to and incorporate all camps and excursions.
- All DET requirements and guidelines that apply to the conduct of excursions are also applicable to all overseas and interstate (domestic) camps/excursions

Program:

- Prior to conducting a camp or excursion, the Department's requirements and guidelines relating to camps or excursions, will be rigorously observed.
- Consideration in planning should include:
 - Safety, Emergency and Risk Management, including Bushfires
 - Student Preparation
 - Student Medical Information
 - Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors
- The Principal or their nominee will ensure that full records are submitted to School Council regarding the camp/excursion (if applicable) well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no camp/excursion occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved
- Prior to conducting any camp, the formal approval of the School Council and Principal will be obtained. In approving a camp or excursion, consideration will include:
 - The contribution of the activity to the school curriculum
 - The adequacy of the planning, preparation and organisation in relation to the school policy and the guidelines and advice provided by DET
 - Information provided by community groups and organisations that specialise in the activity proposed
 - Appropriateness of the venue
 - The provisions made for the safety and welfare of students and staff

MORDIALLOC COLLEGE

EXCURSION

POLICY

- The experience and competence of staff relevant to the activities being undertaken
- The adequacy of the student supervision
- The high risk nature of some activities
- Emergency procedures and safety measures
- Staff-student ratios
- Student experience
- Students not attending a camp or excursion will be placed in another class and have an appropriate learning program provided by the class teacher
- Prior to the camp or excursion parent/carers are to be made aware that DET does not provide student accident cover and that they need to make their own arrangements for cover

Arrangements for payments

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their child to attend an excursion, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Business Manager. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Business Manager in consultation with the appropriate staff, on an individual basis
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Parents will be provided with permission forms and excursion information clearly stating payment finalisation dates. Student's whose payment have not been finalised at least 3 days prior to the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Business Manager
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organising teacher/s with detailed records on a regular basis

Teacher responsibility

- A designated "Teacher in Charge" will coordinate each excursion
- The teacher in charge must update the attendees list on Compass with a final student list 3 days before the excursion based on final payment and permission slips being returned
- In the case where an excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the organising teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the excursion
- All students must have returned a signed permission note and payment to be able to attend the excursion. The completed permission notes and medical information must be carried by excursion staff at all times. Originals must be returned to the general office at the conclusion of the excursion
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting the kit prior to the departure of the excursion
- A second staff member is required on any excursion where there is an anaphylactic student in attendance
- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the general office in the case where excursions are returning out of school hours. Parents will be informed prior to students

MORDIALLOC COLLEGE

EXCURSION POLICY

leaving for the excursion, that they can phone the office to receive an updated anticipated return time

- For students in Years 11 and 12, it is expected that the teacher in charge will consult with other staff before planning to minimise the impact on other classes
- Parents and other approved adults may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions.
- Only students that have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school excursions. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, Assistant Principal or Director of Sub School, in consultation with the organising teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the excursion
- Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with the School's Student Management Policy. In extreme cases the camp or excursion staff, following consultation with, and the approval of, the Principal or their nominee, may determine that a student should return home during a camp or excursion. In such circumstances, the parent/carer will be advised of:
 - the circumstance associated with the decision to send the student home at the time when the parents/carers may collect their child from the camp or excursion
 - of the anticipated time that the student will arrive home
 - of any costs associated with the student's return which will be the responsibility of the parents/carers
- The school's emergency procedures outline the effects of an emergency on student supervision in the event of excursion staff being required to assist injured students or to seek help
- All excursion staff and, where appropriate, the students will be familiar with the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each excursion
- On days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban, the Principal or nominee may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented

Note: *In any event Risk Assessment documentation must be completed prior to approval.*

Departmental resources:

For further information regarding safety including staffing ratios please check the following resources:

- DET Excursion Policy
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/excursions.aspx>
- Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/outdoor.aspx>

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

May 2016