



NORTH GEELONG SECONDARY COLLEGE

CAMPS and EXCURSIONS POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Camps are seen as an integral part of the school curriculum as they enable students to explore, extend and enrich their learning and their 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 the school. A camp is defined as any activity that involves at least one night's accommodation.

AIMS

- To provide students with the opportunity to participate in a camping program that is linked to social and educational outcomes for students.
- To provide shared class and year level experiences, team building and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learning.
- 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.

GUIDELINES

- Staff wishing to organize a camp must complete an excursion/camp proposal online through EMS360 for initial approval. Where a proposal has not been submitted, that camp will not run, unless special circumstances apply. The Principal will make this decision. The PCO will consider the educational outcomes of the camp as well as the impact on the College for the proposed dates.
- The designated principal class officer will ensure that all camps, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and student/staff ratios comply with DE&T guidelines.
- Once the camp has been approved all associated forms must be completed, in accordance with the NGSC camps / excursions process. This is available from the General Office or on the NGSC wiki. All Sections need to be completed for the Office to complete processing. The "Notification of School Activity" must be completed online at www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp four weeks prior to the camp departure date, ensuring relevant details are communicated to the school community.
- All approved camps will then be presented to School Council for their approval.
- The school will ensure that all camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost and comply with all DE&T requirements. All safety requirements must be considered and adequately resolved prior to the camp. Telephone numbers of all emergency services must be provided to the school, and be taken on camp. If any swimming activities are to occur, there must be sufficient staff attending with a current Bronze Medallion qualification.
- Refer: www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/edoutdoors/default.htm
- All food, equipment, staffing, organization of activities and student management procedures must be addressed prior to the camp. Consideration needs to be given to students with special medical or dietary requirements. Parents should notify the staff in writing regarding these dietary requirements when returning consent forms.
- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend a camp, 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 aspects of the camp will be outlined to parents in writing, including cost, sleeping

arrangements, itinerary, activities, clothing and equipment lists, contact phone numbers, transport arrangements, student management processes, permission and medical forms and clearly stated payment finalization dates.

- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for camps. All parental consent and medical forms must be completed, signed and returned and all money must be paid prior to the designated closing date for that camp (usually a minimum of one week prior to the activity). Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be accessible at the camp location by staff at all times.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organizing teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.
- A designated “Teacher in Charge” will coordinate each camp. All camps will have an experienced teacher in attendance where possible.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the General Office with a final student list as well as posting a copy on the staff excursion notice board.
- In the case where a camp involves a particular class or year level group, the organizing teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the camp.
- The school mobile phone is available and staff must ensure that they take the appropriate first aid kit for each camp. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving and for returning these items
- The Teacher in Charge will ensure all students and adults attending the camp are aware of evacuation and emergency procedures.
- The Teacher in Charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the College office in the case where camps are returning out of school hours. Parents will be informed prior to students leaving for the camp, that they can phone the office to receive an updated anticipated return time.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of school camps. When deciding which parents will attend the organizing teacher will take into account any valuable skills offered (e.g. bus licence, first aid, etc), gender balance and special needs of particular students.
- Only students that have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school camps. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in a camp due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, Assistant Principal, Sub-school Leader or Year Level Coordinator in consultation with the organizing teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the camp. All students participating in a school camp will be asked to sign a contract agreeing to abide by all camp rules.
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable or a danger to others. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with a member of the leadership team, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.
- Where a student fails to attend an excursion or camp no refund will be given unless extenuating circumstances apply.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s regular review cycle (3 years).

This policy was last ratified by School Council on...

16 August 2016

Date for review: August 2019