

COATESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Outdoor Education Policy

Version: Final **Date of Issue:** 6th October 2009
Authorised: School Council 20 /10/09

1 Purpose

Outdoor education provides students with the opportunity of experiencing a sense of achievement through participating in a variety of challenging activities. Such experiences develop social and physical skills as well as building confidence, independence, self-esteem and teamwork. The program aims to:

- 1.1 provide students with a safe and challenging outdoor education program;
- 1.2 develop confidence and the ability to cope with an environment and activities differing from that of home;
- 1.3 provide a program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance;
- 1.4 provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits; and,
- 1.5 promote an understanding of the natural environment, safety in the outdoors and an awareness of survival skills.

2 Guidelines

- 2.1 The program will be developed sequentially throughout the school and activities will be appropriate to the age level of the students.
- 2.2 Students in Grades Prep - 2 will participate in school based extended hours activities.
- 2.3 Students in Grades 3 - 6 will participate in a school camp.
- 2.4 "Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety and Risk Management" and "Safety Guidelines for Outdoor Education Activities" specify the safety procedures and practices which must be adhered to.
- 2.5 Outdoor Education Adventure activities are those that involve greater than normal risk such as base camping, bush walking, canoeing, snow activities, orienteering, cycling, horse riding, rock climbing and abseiling, challenge ropes courses, swimming (other than school swimming programs), surf activities, snorkelling, scuba diving, sailing, sailboarding, and similar activities.
- 2.6 School council and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) are responsible for approval of all adventure activities.
- 2.7 The Principal class is responsible for approval of all other Outdoor Education Activities.
- 2.8 School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DEECD requirements.
- 2.9 Advance notice will be provided to parents.
- 2.10 All students must abide by the Coatesville PS student code of conduct at all times.

3 Implementation

- 3.1 The planning and preparation of each camp will be the responsibility of the teachers involved.
- 3.2 Seat-belted coaches MUST be written specifically on the Official School Purchase Order and verified at least one day prior travel.
- 3.3 Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed school camp, the organising teacher and other key members will meet formally with the assistant principal, to discuss the planning summary for the proposed camp, and to seek 'in principle' support for the event.
- 3.4 The organising teacher will submit an application for approval of camps to School Council and the DEECD.
- 3.5 Participation of all non-teaching staff must be in accordance with the Coatesville School Personnel Security Policy.
- 3.6 Travel arrangements will be in accordance with the Coatesville Excursion/Incursion Policy.
- 3.7 Students will travel from the point of departure to the destination in seat-belted coaches. In the unlikely event that a non-seat belted coach arrives, every effort is to be made to obtain one within an appropriate time. Should one not be made available every parent must be contacted to seek approval before boarding. A record of parental approval is to be kept by the teacher in charge, preferably via text message.
- 3.8 Any actions in breach of the student code of conduct will result in the student being withdrawn from activities for a time deemed appropriate by the teacher in charge. Serious breaches or continued inappropriate behaviour will result in parents being notified and requested to collect their child. The Principal will be notified as soon as is practicable.
- 3.9 All other Coatesville policies will be adhered to where appropriate.
- 3.10 Outside agencies and people with specific expertise will be used to assist with the program as and whenever necessary.
- 3.11 Students in Grade 3 and 4 will attend a three day adventure activity camp.
- 3.12 Students in Grade 5 and 6 will attend a five day adventure activity camp.
- 3.13 A ratio of 1: 10 will be adhered to for all extended Outdoor Education Activities.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 Parents must provide written consent for students to be involved in outdoor education activities, including confirmation of current confidential medical details.

4 Review:

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.