



MOONEE PONDS WEST PS CAMP POLICY

Basic Beliefs:

The camp program at Moonee Ponds West Primary School uses Australian Camping Association (ACA) accredited camps that are approved by Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). The camping program is an integral part of the school's curriculum and linked to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) in particular the Domain areas of Interpersonal and Personal Development. It is the expectation that all children will participate in the school's camping program. The school's camp program enables students to further apply their learning and social skills in an out of school or after school hour's environment. The camp program offers students the opportunity to develop and further enhance qualities such as independence, tolerance, self confidence, responsibility and cooperation. It also strengthens the relationship between students and teachers, and between students from different classrooms across similar year levels.

Aims:

- To provide all students (P-6) with the opportunity to fully participate in a sequential program that is accessible by all, modifying the experience for students where appropriate.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom activities.
- 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 resourcefulness, leadership, independence, tolerance, self confidence, responsibility and cooperation.

Guidelines for Actions

It will be a sequential program enabling students to feel comfortable and move with confidence through each step from the P/1 activity night to a 5 day camp.

- P/1 – Activity Night after school
- Grade 2 – Sleepover (1 night)
- Grade 3/4 - 3 days/ 2 nights
- Grade 5/6 – 5 day / 4 nights

(Please Note: Structure of the camp program may change depending on classroom composition.)

Students will not be excluded from camps for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulties, who wish for their children to attend camp, will be invited to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangement 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.

It is preferable that classroom teachers will attend camps with their own class. Specialists and other staff, including Administration, Principal Class and Support Staff will be given the opportunity to attend. The camp program is supported by all staff at MPW and there will be times when time tabling and structure may change to accommodate the camp programs. Every effort will be made to ensure the learning of students who remain back at school or who are not attending camp will not be compromised by our commitment to the camping program.

Teachers will involve students in follow-up activities back at school upon completion of the camp to provide students with the opportunity to respond and reflect on their experiences.

Students and Teachers attending Grade 2 Sleepover will return to class the day after the Sleepover. The school program continues as normal on their return to school. Every effort will be made to support the staff who have attended sleepover the night before, once returning to school.

The camps chosen will provide opportunities for students to experience a variety of new activities and learning experiences such as archery, canoeing, rock climbing etc and where possible different environments, such as bush and beach.

The camp programs will enable students to develop personal and interpersonal skills. This will be demonstrated by developing independence in taking responsibility for themselves and learning to live and cooperate with others.

All programs from P-6 enable students to develop relationships with students from other classrooms.

Evaluation:

The program will be reviewed annually and the opportunity for feedback from teachers, students and parents alike, will be given at the conclusion of the school's camp program.

**Endorsed by School Council September 19th 2011.
Review in 2014 or as required.**