Rationale:
- The school’s excursion program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Day excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:
- To reinforce, complement and extend 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 a variety of settings.
- To gain first-hand experience of topics included in the school curriculum.
- To provide opportunities to develop socially with others and build stronger links within the community.

Implementation:
- Day excursions are defined for the purpose of this policy as any organised and supervised school activities that require children to venture beyond the school boundary.
- The Principal is responsible for the approval of all non-adventure single-day excursions other than those that must approved by the School Council.
- School Council is responsible for approval of all overnight excursions and camps.
- A designated ‘Teacher in Charge’ will coordinate each day excursion.
- Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed day excursion, the Teacher in Charge must meet formally with the Principal, to present the Principal with a planning summary, to discuss the proposed activity, and to seek ‘in principle’ support for the event.
- If the Principal’s approval is granted, detailed planning should commence using the planning questions proforma as a guide. This must include a site visit and a risk assessment.
- If approved, the online Notification of School Activity form then be submitted three weeks prior to the activity if required. (required if country schools travelling beyond the local town/city, rural schools travelling beyond the local area, metropolitan schools travelling beyond the greater metropolitan area).
- School Council prefers that students only travel on buses fitted with seatbelts if available.
- The Principal requires that a report from the Teacher in Charge occur after each day excursion if any mishaps or concerns have arisen – including any concerns or mishaps for future action.
- The schedule of excursions, including costs, will be distributed in a March edition of the school newsletter, and will be updated on a needs basis.
- School Council will determine an ‘Excursions Levy’ each year. Parents can bulk pay for the year’s excursions or pay for individual excursions as they occur. To assist in this matter, parents have an opportunity to sign over their “EMA” allocation if applicable.
- All endeavours will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend a day excursion, will be required 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.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Children whose parents have not paid deposits by the due date, who do not make full payment by the due date, or who have not made alternative arrangements with the Principal will not be eligible to attend.

Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide classroom teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

Information will be provided to all parents of non-English speaking families in a manner that allows them to provide an informed consent to their children attending excursions.

Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend excursions.

The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills.

The school will provide a first-aid kit for all day excursions.

Copies of completed Permission forms, and signed Confidential Medical Information forms must be carried by excursion staff at all times.

While school excursions are a team activity requiring the cooperation and common-sense of all participants, it is the Teacher in Charge who oversees the operations of the excursion, takes charge of events, makes key decisions and accepts ultimate responsibility for the excursion.

Parents may be invited to participate in excursions. All parents or volunteers must have a valid Working With Children’s Check, WWCC and provide a copy to the school to be kept on file. Refer planning proforma.

Parents selected to assist with day excursions may be required to pay their excursion costs.

Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in school day excursions. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge.

The primary references that must be consulted when considering all day excursions is the Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety & Risk Management.

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.... November 2012