



CAMPS PROCEDURE

PURPOSE

To ensure that camps are planned, implemented, and undertaken safely and in accordance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and other relevant legislation and policies.

To ensure that Salesian College Sunbury maintain responsibility and accountability that duty of care for staff and students is upheld on all camps.

To ensure that all camps follow a consistent and structured risk assessment and risk mitigation process.

These procedures ensure the College comply with the Excursions Policy, the Victorian Child Safe Standards and ensure the care, safety and welfare of all students when planning and conducting international travel.

SCOPE

These procedures are applicable to camps including interstate travel held by the College and affiliates. These procedures are to be upheld by all staff members representing the College.

All excursions, camps and travel must be undertaken in accordance with the Victorian Department of Education Excursions – Supervision staff to student ratios, detailed below.

Staff to student ratios

1. Local excursions: regular class teacher-student ratios with additional accompanying staff as required.
2. Day Excursions: 1:20 staff-student ratio with a minimum of 2 staff.
3. Overnight base camps: 1:10 staff-student ratio with a minimum of 2 staff.
4. Overnight study camp: 1:15 staff-student ratio with a minimum of 2 staff.
5. Interstate Travel: 1:10 staff-student ratio with a minimum of 2 staff.

Adventure activities. This includes adventure camping/outdoor education style camping activities. Adventure activities have individual staff-student ratios. Specific requirements for each activity can be found in the [Department of Education guidance](#).

PROCEDURE

1. Risk Management

- 1.1. The principal or delegate ensures that systematic risk assessment and risk mitigation processes as per the Register are completed for all camps. Risks rated:
 - Low or medium do not necessarily require further treatments and are considered acceptable – these risks should be reviewed periodically.
 - High or extreme will require further treatment to reduce their level of risk to a more acceptable level.
- 1.2. The risk for each camp will be assessed and measures put in place to reduce reasonably foreseeable risk. The principal or delegate ensures that the risk assessment will cover the entire camp including:
 - 1.2.1. all activities to be undertaken

- 1.2.2. where the camp involves multiple adventure activities, a risk assessment will be conducted for each adventure activity.
- 1.2.3. the camp location or venue (including the environment, weather, and bushfire risk)
- 1.2.4. people (student behaviour, student / teacher safety or illness, and specific needs identified in those attending). This includes the relevant skills required by staff attending and supervision ratios
- 1.2.5. own or third party provided equipment (e.g. sports equipment, safety gear, technology etc.)
- 1.2.6. transportation (e.g. potential transport cancellations, travelling in hazardous areas, student behaviour, risks from the public, travel sickness)
- 1.2.7. locations and contact details for the nearest doctor, hospital, and emergency services
- 1.2.8. the impacts on student supervision in the event of a camp staff member being required to assist an injured or ill student, being unwell themselves, or needing to leave to seek help
- 1.2.9. support for students who may have difficulty communicating in an emergency because of age or disability and ways to manage any specific risks to these students in an emergency
- 1.2.10. an emergency management plan
- 1.2.11. a communication plan that:
 - is developed specifically for the location based on current and relevant information such as mobile phone coverage
 - enables staff to receive weather/fire forecasts, updates and warnings, communicate with the school, outside parties and engage support in case of an accident or emergency
 - identifies equipment to be used
 - is clear to all staff involved in the camp, including its limitations
 - does not rely on a single device
 - allows clear communications will exist between the school, parents/guardians/carers, students, staff, and volunteers attending the camp, particularly in the event of an emergency.
 - considers the need for students to carry mobile phones for communication with staff and their need to have a school mobile phone number
 - considers where the school requires access to student mobile numbers and addresses factors including (but not limited to):
 - storage, use and deletion of student phone numbers
 - privacy of student contact details
 - how any chats or messaging will be conducted to ensure monitoring by at least 2 staff members
 - retention and recordkeeping of any group chats or messaging.
- 1.3. Where appropriate, the risk assessment also addresses:
 - 1.3.1. risk to intended educational objectives
 - 1.3.2. any significant financial risks to the school and/or parents/guardians/carers
 - 1.3.3. the risk that the general community may lose confidence or trust in the school if a reasonably foreseeable risk is not identified or if insufficient steps are taken to minimise that risk and this results in injury, loss, or damage
 - 1.3.4. the requirements of host families.
- 1.4. The organising teacher ensures the risk assessment is completed during the planning of the camp, reviewed before the commencement of the camp and where appropriate and required, during the camp.
- 1.5. The organising teacher ensures that all staff involved and attending will be part of the risk assessment planning and review.

- 1.6. The organising teacher ensures that consultation occurs with external providers during the preparation of the camp risk assessment, including that risk assessments from third party providers are requested and reviewed to ensure they meet the standards required by the school and comply with relevant legislation.
- 1.7. The organising teacher ensures that all staff and volunteers undertake relevant training specific to the camp, including child safety and that all volunteers are engaged with consideration of:
 - 1.7.1. of the [CECV Guidelines on Engaging Volunteers in Catholic Schools](#)
 - 1.7.2. engagement of volunteers and other non-school staff comply with the Working with Children Check Policy and Recruitment Policy.
- 1.8. The organising teacher ensures that responsibilities and processes for treating risks will be communicated to all camp staff (including volunteers) before departing for the camp.
- 1.9. The organising teacher ensures that they check weather forecasts, fire danger and emergency warnings: using the Vic Emergency app. (downloaded on excursion phones and staff personal devices)
 - 1.9.1. for the location in the days leading up to the camp
 - 1.9.2. on the day of departure for camp and
 - 1.9.3. each day whilst away
 - 1.9.4. and they ensure that plans are in place to cancel or modify the camp as needed on days of forecast Catastrophic Fire Danger rating (FDR), all camps in the fire weather district of Catastrophic FDR will be cancelled and consideration given to returning students home if safe.
- 1.10. The organising teacher ensures that emergency management and critical incident management is understood by staff and volunteers attending the camp prior to departure.
- 1.11. The organising teacher ensures that camp details are completed in Paperly prior to the camp.
- 1.12. At a minimum, the teacher-in-charge and the school-based contact person have access to information (stored according to relevant Privacy legislation) that may be required in an emergency such as (but not limited to):
 - 1.12.1. itinerary and supervision plans (including travel)
 - 1.12.2. relevant contact numbers for camp staff and the school contact person
 - 1.12.3. names and family contact details for all students
 - 1.12.4. immediate access to medical and informed consent forms of students
 - 1.12.5. any medical or contact details staff may have provided
 - 1.12.6. copy of the camps risk assessment, emergency management plan including contacts for police, ambulance, nearest doctor, nearest hospital, fire brigade and 24-hour school-based contact number.

2. Third Party providers and venue selection

- 2.1. Before an external provider is selected to assist with the delivery of a program the principal will ensure that the provider has a Certificate of Currency.
- 2.2. The organising teacher ensures that third party provider staff have appropriate qualifications and/or experience for their specific roles.
- 2.3. The organising teacher ensures that they communicate with the third-party provider about responsibilities for first aid, emergency communications and procedures, and safety and welfare of students.
- 2.4. Providers will frequently seek a waiver and indemnity of liability as a condition of hire of a venue or participation in a planned activity.
 - 2.4.1. Schools must not agree to give a waiver and indemnity where the provider seeks to absolve itself and its personnel from liability for negligence
 - 2.4.2. Schools cannot, and must not, sign a waiver and indemnity on behalf of a student nor permit a student to sign a waiver and indemnity

- 2.4.3. Schools must not ask parents/guardians/carers to sign a waiver and indemnity on behalf of a student if the waiver and indemnity seek to absolve the provider and personnel from liability for negligence
- 2.5. The organising teacher ensures that camp venues are assessed and selected based on their safety and suitability for the activities proposed. This includes outdoor locations.
- 2.6. Any residential campsite chosen are accredited by the Australian Camps Association or National Accommodation, Recreation and Tourism Accreditation.
- 2.7. Venues are selected on recent and first-hand knowledge (for example, an inspection of the site). Factors considered include but are not limited to:
 - 2.7.1. accessibility and reasonable adjustments for all students
 - 2.7.2. level of access to resources, services and facilities that may be needed (e.g., toilets, first aid, shelter from extreme weather)
 - 2.7.3. appropriate levels of health and hygiene
 - 2.7.4. risks posed by other users of the site
 - 2.7.5. levels of access to communication equipment and networks for routine and emergency use
 - 2.7.6. external assistance available in event of an emergency
 - 2.7.7. potential exposure to environmental hazards.
- 2.8. Any activities conducted on public lands (e.g. State Forests or National Parks) must comply with current permit and access requirements.
- 2.9. For any activity on Parks Victoria Land the school is required to register their camp on [ParkConnect](#).
- 2.10. Where vehicles are used to transport students, the organising teacher ensures that they comply with VicRoads registration requirements.
- 2.11. The organising teacher ensures that drivers comply with all licensing arrangements and have comprehensive insurance.
- 2.12. Wherever practicable, staff, volunteers and students should not use their personal vehicles to transport students.
- 2.13. Occupational Health and Safety laws require employers and employees to take all reasonably practicable steps to manage driver fatigue and safe driving practices. For more information refer to [VicRoads Fatigue and Road Safety information](#).

3. Consent

- 3.1. The organising teacher ensures that written/electronic consent is received from parents/guardians/carers 48 hrs prior to the camp. This consent must provide sufficient information about the camp to enable them to make an informed decision. This includes:
 - 3.1.1. the educational purpose of the activity
 - 3.1.2. the nature of the proposed activity/activities. Parents/guardians/carers must be aware of the activities students will be participating in on the camp, and if these activities carry a degree of risk of harm, such as swimming, bike riding or any other adventure activities
 - 3.1.3. parents/guardians/carers will be requested to provide information about their child's relevant abilities where necessary e.g. level of swimming ability, confidence riding a bike etc.
 - 3.1.4. the location of the activity
 - 3.1.5. the type of transport being utilised (if applicable)
 - 3.1.6. any relevant information such as required clothing, food, sun protection etc.
 - 3.1.7. who will be supervising the camp e.g. teachers, staff from the venue, parent/guardian/carer volunteers
 - 3.1.8. the financial cost (if any) and any limitations to refunds
 - 3.1.9. the option to authorise the teacher to obtain emergency medical or surgical treatment or to administer first aid in the event of illness or accident

- 3.1.10. the schools' Privacy Policy and what information may need to be shared with the camp venue or third party providers
- 3.1.11. the reasons that a student may be sent home from camp (e.g. illness or serious misbehaviour) and any related costs or requirements of parents/guardians/carers in these circumstances
- 3.1.12. that the camp arrangements may need to be cancelled or altered at short notice to ensure the safety of students and/or due to circumstances beyond the control of the school. Parents/guardians/carers should be informed of the alternative arrangements that will be put in place
- 3.1.13. the telephone number for the designated school contact person in the event of an emergency or if the parent/guardian/carer needs to collect their child early from camp. This should not be a staff member's personal mobile number
- 3.1.14. any translation of documents and information required to ensure access by all relevant parents/guardian/carers.

4. Student Safety

- 4.1. The organising teacher ensures that parents/guardians/carers are provided with the opportunity to vary any medical, health or general information previously given to the school before any camp.
- 4.2. The organising teacher ensures:
 - 4.2.1. that all teachers on the camp have immediate access to medical information forms (hard copy or electronic (which may include a downloaded copy) whilst on the camp. Consideration must be given to accessing this information if there is no phone/Wi-Fi signal or power, as well as preventing privacy breaches
 - 4.2.2. that copies of this information are also kept at school.
- 4.3. The organising teacher ensures that all staff and volunteers on the camp are aware of the requirements of the Medication Administration Policy and associated documents, the Medical Management Policy and associated documents, the Anaphylaxis Policy and associated documents (with a focus on the Anaphylaxis Risk Management Checklist for Off-site Activities); and the First Aid Policy and associated documents.
- 4.4. The organising teacher ensures that staff and volunteers attending the camp have first aid and emergency response knowledge appropriate to:
 - 4.4.1. the environment in which the group will operate
 - 4.4.2. the remoteness of the location
 - 4.4.3. the likely length of time staff are required to provide patient support before medical help can arrive
 - 4.4.4. known medical history of students and staff
 - 4.4.5. the requirements of the First Aid Policy.
- 4.5. For camps involving water activities, the organising teacher ensures that all staff are prepared for and able to cope with an emergency rescue and are able to identify which staff are qualified to conduct CPR. There is at least one person at each water activity with relevant water qualifications (such as Life Saving Victoria Inland Waterway Life Saving Certificate or Royal Life Saving Bronze Medallion or Swimming and Water Safety Teacher or Pool Lifeguard). The DE guidelines should be followed and used in conducting the planning and risk assessment.
- 4.6. All staff ensure that they take a first aid kit appropriate to the location, the activities undertaken and the specific needs of participating students with health and medical conditions.
- 4.7. All school staff and volunteers on camp ensure that they:
 - 4.7.1. understand the purpose of the camp program and its connection to student learning
 - 4.7.2. have the skills and knowledge required to meet the objectives of the camp program
 - 4.7.3. are aware of and understand their supervisory responsibilities throughout the camp
 - 4.7.4. understand their child safety obligations, including the requirements and expectations in the Child Safety Code of Conduct

- 4.7.5. know which staff can provide first aid and/or CPR if required
- 4.7.6. know the location of students they are responsible for at all times on the camp
- 4.7.7. have attested that they have the physical capabilities for the requirements of the camp and associated activities.
- 4.8. Where volunteers are engaged, the organising teacher ensures that requirements outlined in the CECV Guidelines on Engaging Volunteers in Catholic Schools and the Working with Children Check Policy and Recruitment Policy are addressed.
- 4.9. Volunteer names are recorded for the purposes of volunteer workers insurance.
- 4.10. Where specialist instructors are employed, the organising teachers ensures that they:
 - 4.10.1. have the necessary skills or qualification for the activity. Useful information can be found in the Department of Education Guide to equivalent qualifications and experience for adventure activities
 - 4.10.2. have the appropriate experience for the age and skill level of the students
 - 4.10.3. hold appropriate public liability insurance.
- 4.11. The organising teacher ensures all camp staff and volunteers are familiar with the Supervision Policy.
- 4.12. Each type of activity, including adventure activities, has its own supervision ratio – refer to the Excursions Policy for specific ratios; additional considerations should be given to the specific needs of students and staff outlined in the relevant risk assessment – refer to 1.1.
- 4.13. Attending teachers must use a method of accounting for all students at any given point during the camp; all attending staff should be aware of the method for accounting and attendance recording expectations and procedures.
- 4.14. Students will be briefed by the organising teacher and/or teacher-in-charge to ensure they understand what is required of them on the camp. The organising teacher ensures that the briefing contains, at a minimum:
 - 4.14.1. the organisational arrangements
 - 4.14.2. the roles of each staff member supervising the activity or camp
 - 4.14.3. the risks involved in the activity or camp, and associated risk controls
 - 4.14.4. what they can expect in the behaviour of others (students, staff, and the public) and how to report their concerns
 - 4.14.5. the relevant safety arrangements and emergency procedures
 - 4.14.6. any specific skills or training students will need to undergo prior to the camp.
- 4.15. The organising teacher ensures that reasonable adjustments are made for students requiring adjustments including as outlined in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1991 (Cth)* as well as for NCCD funded students, students who are identified as culturally and linguistically diverse, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and specific cohorts as outlined in Ministerial Order No. 1359.
- 4.16. Where reasonable adjustments are made, the student and their parent/guardian/carer (as relevant), are involved in discussions regarding the adjustments.
- 4.17. In extreme cases, the camp staff, following consultation with and approval from the school principal, may decide to return a student home from camp. Camp staff are responsible for ensuring that they:
 - 4.17.1. advise the student's parent/guardian/carer of the circumstances associated with the decision to send the student home
 - 4.17.2. the time and location for the parent/guardian/carer to collect their child from the camp
 - 4.17.3. or alternatively determine if an appropriate supervisor can escort the student home (with parent/guardian/carer consent), without detriment to the camp
 - 4.17.4. consider the age and maturity of the student when making travelling arrangements.

5. Review and Record Keeping

- 5.1. The organising teacher ensures that all records related to the camp (including but not limited to informed consent responses, medical records, incident reports, risk assessment, contracts etc.)

will be stored or destroyed are stored or destroyed as required by the *Public Records Act 1973* (Vic.) and the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

- 5.2. The principal is responsible for ensuring after each camp that a review is conducted to determine:
 - 5.2.1. if the educational outcomes were met
 - 5.2.2. if there are additional requirements for future risk mitigation
 - 5.2.3. if there are additional organisational requirements or planning aspects that would improve the running of camps.
- 5.3. The organising teacher ensures that the review includes the voices of staff involved in planning and/or running the camp, any volunteers involved, students attending the camp, parents/guardians/carers of students attending the camp, any relevant third-party providers.

DEFINITIONS

See glossary of terms for full list of definitions.

Adventure activities

An adventure activity is an activity that involves greater than normal risk which may include:

- physical activities beyond the scope of the regular physical education curriculum
- travel into a relatively undeveloped area of the country in which vehicle contact is difficult and / or uncertain
- confrontation with natural environmental challenges requiring greater reliance upon personal resources than would normally be required in normal day-to-day life
- less than normal contact by person or by telephone, with medical and other public services available in normal day-to-day life
- exposure to natural elements with less than the normal physical protection provided in day-to-day life
- theme parks, fun parks, and trampoline centres
- the use and operation of amusement rides, attractions, or fireworks via the engagement of a third-party operator at non-public (i.e., enrolled students only) events on non-school sites (e.g. hiring a jumping castle to be operated at a local park).

Approved

Authorised in writing, as evidenced by signature of a nominated delegate.

Camps

Camps are excursions involving at least one night's accommodation within Australia (including school

Excursions and Incursions

Activities organised by the school where the students:

- are taken out of the school grounds (e.g. day excursion or school approved event)
- undertake adventure activities, regardless of whether or not they occur outside the school grounds.

Study Tour

A study tour is a short-term, teacher or adult accompanied group travel program, sometimes called a cultural visit, language immersion, school mission.

RELATED POLICIES

Excursions Policy
Excursion Procedure
Medication Administration Policy
Anaphylaxis Policy
Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
Child Safety Code of Conduct
First Aid Policy
Medical Management Policy
Occupational Health and Safety Policy
Privacy Policy
Recruitment Policy
Supervision Policy
Child Safety Recruitment Procedure

POLICY INFORMATION

Responsible director	DP - Community and Organisation
Policy owner	College Executive
Approving authority	College Executive
Assigned board committee	Child Safety
Approval date	05/05/2026
Next Review date	05/05/2028
Publication	Schoolbox

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned framework	MS4-Student_Care; CA4-Student Care, Safety & Welfare
Superseded versions	2023 v1, 2025 v1.1, 2026 v1.2