



Strathmore
PRIMARY SCHOOL No.4612

Strive to Achieve

DIRECT EXPERIENCES AND EXCURSIONS POLICY

RATIONALE

Strathmore Primary School recognises the benefits gained by students when engaged in appropriate and relevant direct experiences and excursions that supplement and extend the work of the classroom. Direct experiences/excursions will enhance and extend classroom activities and be integral to other curriculum areas. All students will be encouraged to, and have the opportunity to, participate in a wide range of direct experiences, both at school and away from the school setting. These experiences are intended to broaden student attitudes and values in respect of their peers, the community and society in general.

AIM

The Direct Experiences and Excursions program aims to:

- Provide a range of relevant excursions, experiences and visitors that enhance student learning in all curriculum areas, including:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Inquiry Learning
 - Values Education
 - Specialist subjects, such as Physical Education, Art, Music and Italian Language
- Where appropriate and available, assist in addressing the “Cross-Curriculum Priorities” aspects of the Australian Curriculum, including:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
 - Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia
 - Sustainability
- Develop an awareness of differing environments and expectations
- Develop positive attitudes which encourage acceptance of diversity and differences
- Reinforce and extend classroom learning and provide students with the opportunity to participate in experiences that are linked to social, cultural and educational outcomes
- Provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness
- Provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to a lifelong involvement in worthwhile learning

- Support the school's Values Education of community belonging, integrity, tolerance, perseverance, responsibility, respect, resilience, self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement and cooperation
- Provide opportunities for students to experience interesting activities which foster self esteem, confidence and peer support
- Develop skills through providing challenging, and sometimes unfamiliar, experiences

IMPLEMENTATION (DET GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS WILL GUIDE THE SCHOOL'S ACTIONS AND DECISIONS)

The following statements provide guidance for curriculum planning and program development.

- The Principal must approve all excursions and direct experiences.
- The organising teacher will complete the "Excursion and Direct Experience" planning template, including information about cost per student, location, travel and educational outcomes for Principal approval.
- A risk assessment of activities will be completed prior to the excursion or direct experience. The document will be submitted with the Excursion and Direct Experience planning template for Principal approval. All staff members attending the event will be aware of the increased need for duty of care supervision.
- Parents will be notified of any costs and other relevant details with at least two weeks notice prior to the excursion or direct experiences, except in extenuating circumstances.
- Students must have a signed permission note from a parent/guardian submitted to school prior to attending an excursion off-site. In the event of a student not having submitted a permission note prior to the excursion, they will remain at school in another class.
- The organising teacher will consider any special requirements for direct experiences and excursions, eg. food, water bottles, hats or rain jackets. Any special requirements will be communicated in the written notice sent home to parents.
- For excursions in Terms 1 and 4, students will be required to take a hat that meets Sunsmart standards if the excursion includes activities or breaks outside.
- The organising teacher will ensure that appropriate student to teacher ratios are maintained for all activities and travel involved.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursion and direct experiences. When deciding which parents will attend, the organising teacher will take into account:
 - skills the parents have to offer that are relevant to the context
 - the need to ensure an effective ratio of male and female adults
 - special needs of particular students
- Parents selected to assist with direct experiences and excursions will be required to hold a current Working With Children Check.
- Personal and cultural differences of students will be considered when planning activities and post-excursion activities will mirror a similar concern.
- All costs for excursions and direct experiences are to be borne by families although eligible families may access the "Camps, Sports and Excursions Funds" (CSEF) provided through DET and the Principal has a discretionary capacity to allocate support for pupils in situations of financial hardship.

- The organising teacher will endeavour to find the most cost effective means for the direct experience or excursion, including any associated travel costs.
- In the case of bus travel being required, a seat-belted bus will be booked with the relevant company.
- The school will consider the timing of excursions/direct experiences to minimise undue financial pressures on families, whilst also considering the most appropriate time to schedule events so as to benefit from opportunities that present during the school year. A whole-school excursion and direct experience planning chart will be implemented to assist in the planning and evaluation of excursions and direct experiences across the school year.
- All students will be expected to attend excursions, except for those whose behaviour or capabilities constitute a danger or risk to themselves or the others in the group.
- Any students not attending an excursion or performance will be properly supervised and occupied for the duration of the event/activity.
- The teacher in charge of the excursion/direct experience will complete the "Notification of School Activity" online prior to the event, where the event requires travel to an off-campus location.
- The teacher in charge of the organisation of the excursion/direct experience will evaluate the effectiveness of the program, consulting with other staff that attended and seeking feedback from students. Evaluations will be recorded in the minutes of team meetings.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's on-going review cycle. It is anticipated that the policy will be reviewed after four years of implementation, however, changes as deemed necessary by the school's leadership and/or changes in Departmental terminology may necessitate that the policy is reviewed at an earlier time.