

# EASTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION POLICY

### **RATIONALE:**

Eastwood's Outdoor Education Program provides students with experiences that promote social skills and attitudes such as self-confidence, self-discipline, co-operation independence and responsibility in group situations when away from home and the school environment. It involves the obtainment of knowledge, values and skills that enhance safe access, understandings and appreciation of the outdoors, often through adventure activities.

### **AIM:**

- To provide opportunities for students to participate in and enjoy leisure and hobby activities and improve their associated skills.
- To learn the value of co-operation, to respect the rights of others and to develop an awareness of independence.
- To ensure that students acquire knowledge, values and skills that help understanding and safety in the outdoors.
- To encourage the personal development of students through interaction with others in a variety of practical decision making activities.
- To develop better relations between teachers, pupils and parents.
- To encourage the development of self-discipline, initiative, independence and leadership skills.
- To learn to enjoy, value and care for the natural environment.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. When planning, consideration should be given for a quality venue, adequate facilities, healthy food and a range of on-site activities.
2. A camp must relate to classroom curriculum.
3. Year Fours will attend a 2 night, 3 day camp.
4. Year Sixes will attend a three night, four day camp.
5. Students remaining at school should participate in a relevant non-camp program.
6. Specialist teachers may be given the opportunity to attend camps/tours.
7. Where appropriate Integration Aides should attend if the child in their care attends the camp/tour.
8. The planning and preparation of each camp will be the responsibility of the teachers involved.
9. All DEECD regulations and guidelines must be adhered to when planning and implementing a camping program. (NB: 1 adult to 10 children). The School Council has the responsibility for approving all Outdoor Education.
10. Details of proposed camps must be forwarded to the School Council and the management section at Regional Office.

11. During camp week re-arrangement of specialist timetable and employment of CRT will occur where possible, to meet teacher requirements.
12. In the event of CODE RED, EXTREME and SEVERE fire danger, usually with a 72 hour warning, the Principal will monitor CFA, DSE and DEECD websites and media services in order to make decisions around the cancellation and rescheduling of the camp. The principal will make a decision as to whether to proceed with the camp. It is not only the camp site that is of concern, but also the route to be taken in time of fire.
13. With 48 and 24 hour warnings the camp or travel routes are affected by a predicted CODE RED, EXTREME or SEVERE fire danger, the camp will be cancelled. Every attempt will be made to reschedule the camp.
14. On the day if there is a warning, the camp will be cancelled.
15. Students in an affected area will also be recalled if it safe to do so. In the event of students not being able to return safely from camp, arrangements will be made for students to stay on until a safe route home can be found.
16. If fire threatens the camp site, its emergency management plan will be followed. The teacher-in-charge will notify the principal.

## **EVALUATION:**

Camps will be reviewed following their occurrence with students, informal parent feedback and staff who attended. Recommendations from this review will be discussed with the principal.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year cycle. This policy can also be reviewed as required.

Approved by School Council: February, 2010

Scheduled review: 2013