



RIVER GUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXCURSION POLICY

RATIONALE

Excursions are seen as an integral part of the school curriculum as they enable students to explore, extend and enrich their learning and their social skills development, in a non-school setting. Excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at River Gum Primary School. An excursion is defined as any activity beyond the school grounds.

AIMS

- To reinforce, complement and extend the 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 the real world.
- To provide a safe, secure learning experience for students in a venue external to the school.
- To further develop social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, communication, individual and group interaction.
- To further develop problem solving and life survival skills.
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

- All excursions must be approved by the Principal or an Executive Team Member
- Staff wishing to organize an excursion must complete an excursion proposal form and lodge this for approval. All excursions must be approved prior to running. Where an excursion proposal has not been submitted, that excursion will not run, unless special circumstances are pending. This decision will be made by the Principal or Executive Team Member. The Principal or Executive Team Member will consider the educational outcome of the excursion as well as the impact on the school for the proposed date.
- The Principal or Executive Team Member will ensure that all excursions, transport arrangements, emergency procedures and staffing comply with DEECD guidelines. Refer to: [DEECD Excursion Policy](#)
- Once the excursion has been approved all relevant documentation must be completed. This is available from the Principal or Executive Team Member. The Executive Team Member will complete the 'Notification of School Activity' at : www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/school/sal/enteractivity.asp three weeks prior to the excursion departure date, and the Business Manager will ensure relevant details are entered on the daily planner.
- School Council is responsible for the approval of:
 - Overnight excursions
 - Camps
 - Interstate visits
 - International visits
 - Excursions requiring sea or air travel, weekends or vacations



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- Adventure activities
- The Principal or an Executive Team Member is responsible for the approval of all single-day excursions other than those that must be approved by school council as mentioned above.

EXPECTATIONS

The Department's requirements and guidelines relating to preparation and safety will be observed in the conduct of all excursions.

The Principal or an Executive Team Member will ensure that full records are maintained regarding the excursion.

The Principal or Executive Team Member will ensure that adequate pre-excursion planning and preparation, including the preparation of students, takes place.

Satisfactory arrangements will be made to provide continuous instruction for the students remaining at the school during the absence of staff accompanying an excursion.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) will not be involved in any expense associated with the conduct of excursions. The school may choose to subsidise some excursions or some student's expenses.

Prior to conducting an excursion, the approval of the School Council or the Principal will be obtained. Council must approve overnight or adventure activities. The Principal must approve these and other activities.

Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in excursions. Students and their parents/carers need to be made aware that acceptable standards of behaviour will be expected during an excursion.

The emergency management process of the school will extend to and incorporate all excursions.

All DEECD requirements and guidelines that apply to the conduct of excursions are also applicable to all overseas and interstate (domestic) camps/excursions.

PROGRAM

Prior to conducting an excursion, the Department's requirements and guidelines relating to excursions, will be rigorously observed.

Consideration in planning should include:

- [Safety, Emergency & Risk Management](#) , including Bushfires
- [Student Preparation](#)
- [Student Medical Information](#)
- [Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)

The principal or an Executive Team Member will ensure that full records are submitted to School Council regarding the excursion well in advance of the starting date of the event and that no excursion occurs unless all the formal record keeping has been completed and approved.



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In approving an excursion, consideration will include:

- the contribution of the activity to the school curriculum
- the adequacy of the planning, preparation and organisation in relation to the school policy and the guidelines and advice provided by DEECD
- information provided by community groups and organisations that specialise in the activity proposed
- appropriateness of the venue
- the provisions made for the safety and welfare of students and staff
- the experience and competence of staff relevant to the activities being undertaken
- the adequacy of the student supervision
- the high risk nature of some activities
- emergency procedures and safety measures
- staff-student ratios
- student experience

Students not attending an excursion will be placed in another class and have an appropriate learning program provided by the class teacher.

Prior to the camp or excursion parent/carers are to be made aware that DEECD does not provide student accident cover and that they need to make their own arrangements for cover.

FINANCIAL

- All efforts will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend an excursion, are invited to discuss alternative arrangements with the Business Manager. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Business Manager in consultation with the appropriate staff, on an individual basis.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for excursions. Parents will be provided with permission forms and excursion information clearly stating payment finalization dates. Children whose payment have not been finalized at least 7 days prior to the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Business Manager.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide organising teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A designated "Teacher in Charge" will coordinate each excursion.
- The Teacher in Charge must provide the General Office with a final student list as well as posting a copy on the school intranet and daily bulletin.
- In the case where an excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the organising teacher will ensure that there is an alternative program available for those students not attending the excursion.
- All students must have returned a signed permission note and payment to be able to attend the excursion. Copies of completed permission notes and medical information must be carried by excursion staff at all times.
- The school will provide a first aid kit for each excursion. The teacher in charge is responsible for collecting these prior to leaving.



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- The teacher in charge will communicate the anticipated return time with the general office in the case where excursions are returning out of school hours. Parents will be informed prior to students leaving for the excursion, that they can phone the office to receive an updated anticipated return time.
- Parents may be invited to assist in the delivery of excursions. Parents selected will be required to have a current Working with Children Check.
- Only students that have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be permitted to participate in school excursions. Parents will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, Executive Team Member, in consultation with the organising teacher. Both the parent and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the excursion.
- Disciplinary measures apply to students on excursions consistent with the School's Well Being and Restorative Practices policy. In extreme cases the excursion staff, following consultation with, and the approval of, the Principal or Executive Team Member, may determine that a student should return home during an excursion.

In such circumstances, the parent/carer will be advised:

- of the circumstance associated with the decision to send the student home
- of the time when the parents/carers may collect their child from the excursion
- of the anticipated time that the student will arrive home
- of any costs associated with the student's return which will be the responsibility of the parents/carers

The school's emergency procedures do include the effects of an emergency on student supervision in the event of excursion staff being required to assist injured students or to go for help.

All excursion staff and, where appropriate, the students will be familiar with the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each excursion.

On days of extreme fire danger or total fire ban, the principal or their nominee may need to cancel an excursion at short notice. Where an excursion is not cancelled, special fire safety precautions will be implemented. **In any event Risk Assessment documentation must be completed prior to approval. See Appendix E.**

Excursion groups will be equipped with mobile telephones and first aid kits to be used in emergency situations.

LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

Links, which are connected with this policy, are:

- *River Gum Primary School's Duty of Care Policy*

The Key Links which are connected with this policy are sourced through : [DEECD Excursion Policy](#)



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Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- *Appendix A: Pupil/Teacher Ratios*
- *Appendix B: Excursions Approval Pro-forma*
- *Appendix C: Camps and Excursions Application Pro-forma (3 pages)*
- *Appendix D: Notification of School Activity (camps and excursions)*
- *Appendix E: Environment and General Risk Assessment*

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstance

Date Implemented	13/8/14
Author	Rebecca Lanagan
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Date Reviewed	8/8/14
Responsible for Review	Executive Team
Review Date	

Pupil / Teacher Ratios

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<p><i>Abseiling and Rock Climbing</i> 1:1 Rock Face 1:10 Others 2 Experienced Staff</p>	<p><i>Ropes Course</i> 1:12 3 students to any one element, 1 participating, 2 spotting NOTE: No student on any element unless supervised</p>
<p><i>Base Camping</i> 1:10 Residential; canvas 1:15 Study: residential</p>	<p><i>Scuba Diving</i> 1:8 Pool training 1:4 Diving, 2 buddy systems NOTE: 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><i>Board Sailing</i> 1:3 Beginners 1:5 Novice; intermediate; advanced 2 Experienced sailors</p>	<p><i>Shooting</i> 1:1 New or inexperienced 1:5 On the track or mound 1:15 Observers or waiting</p>
<p><i>Boats, Small Sailing - (Dinghies, Catamarans)</i> 1:8 Enclosed Waters 1:6 Open Waters 1:4 Open Waters, Adverse</p>	<p><i>Snorkeling</i> 1:8 Closed water: pool 1:4 Open water NOTE: 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><i>Bushwalking</i> 1:5 Overnight 1:10 Day</p>	<p><i>Snow Activities</i> 1:8 Alpine, Nordic – overnight 1:10 Alpine, Nordic – day 1:10 Non-skiing</p>
<p><i>Canoeing</i> 1:6 2 Staff members</p>	<p><i>Surf Activities</i> 1:10 Beach 1:8 Surf NOTE: 1 teacher/instructor in water and NOTE 1 teacher/ instructor on beach</p>
<p><i>Cycling</i> 1:10</p>	<p><i>Swimming</i> 1:20 Enclosed pools 1:10 Open water</p>
<p><i>Horse Riding</i> 1:1 Basics 1:5 Beginners 1:8 Semi-experienced <i>Riding School:</i> 1 Experienced teacher with instructor 2 Experienced teachers if no instructor or group exceeds 10</p>	<p><i>Water Skiing</i> 1:20 Shore 1 Student on two at any one time; if highly experienced two may be taken together 2 People in boat – driver and observer; one must be staff member</p>
<p><i>Orienteering</i> 1:10 Bush</p>	



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APPROVAL APPLICATION

To be submitted to School Council or the school for approval as required by DEECD.

EXCURSION:

DATE/S:

DESTINATION / DETAILS:
.....
.....

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

PURPOSE OF EXCURSION:
.....
.....

ORGANISING STAFF MEMBER:

STAFF PROPOSED:

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN EXCURSION:
.....
.....

Signed:

Date:



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Teachers wishing to conduct excursions are required to provide the following information so that their application may be considered. This must be done **AT LEAST SIX WEEKS** before the date of the proposed excursion.

No excursions or camps are permitted in the two full weeks prior to an exam period for any level.

NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY (Camps & Excursions)

School councils are responsible for ensuring that the activities listed below are thoroughly planned, checked and documented in accordance with Department of Education & Early Childhood Development guidelines for the planning and conduct of camps, excursions and outdoor adventure activities.

The information on this proforma will be used to provide initial information to the emergency services during an emergency. If comprehensive information is required during an emergency, schools will be expected to provide it at any time of the day or week from the documentation prepared for the activity which is held by the school.

Three weeks prior to commencing the following:

- overnight, weekend, interstate, overseas activities
- adventure activities
- non-adventure activities which, by their nature, location or timing, may be hazardous
- school closures, pupil free days, school council holidays, combined sports or cluster days

schools must notify the:

- Department of any approved school camp or excursion beforehand using the [Student Activity Locator online form](#).

Notes:

1. An additional sheet listing the actual dates and locations of activities should accompany this form when the same activity is to be repeated on different occasions
2. The coordinating school should complete the form for activities involving a group of schools
3. Day excursions should be reported if activities are to be conducted by:
 - country schools - beyond the local town/city
 - rural schools - beyond the local area
 - metropolitan schools - beyond the greater metropolitan area

SCHOOL NAME AND NUMBER:

Number:

School Name:

TYPE OF ACTIVITY:

(CAMP, BUSHWALKING, SCHOOL CLOSURE, EXCURSION, OVERSEAS TRIP, ETC.)

DATE OF ACTIVITY:

(SEE NOTES)

Commencing:

Concluding:

NAME OF VENUE:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF VENUE

& POST CODE:

Postcode:



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EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Mobile with group: Venue:

IS EMERGENCY TRANSPORT AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE? Yes: No: Map reference:

TOTAL NUMBERS: Students: Teachers:

NAME OF PERSON IN CHARGE:

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL:

ENTER ONLINE (SAL Activities Notification Form)

Visit the Emergency and Security Management Website at <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/emerg/index.htm> for information to assist schools to plan for and manage emergencies and security related incidents.

Excursion Risk Management Assessment Form

Section 1 –Environment Emergency Management Assessment

Venue Assessed _____ for **month** of _____

Assess each of the following hazards and any others you think relevant and complete charts below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfires • Severe storms and flooding • Earthquake • School Bus Accident/Vehicle Incident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Student • Medical Emergencies • Incidents • Aggressive student behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intruders • Internal fires and smoke • Snakes and other wildlife • Other relevant to camp area
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Likelihood	Very High				
	High				
	Moderate				
	Low				
		Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Impact					

Environmental Emergency	Event	Risk Management Strategies
Very high or high likely-hood / very higher high impact		
Very high, High and moderate		

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likelihood /Very high, high or moderate impact		
Very high, High, Moderate or Low likelihood / High and Very High Impact		

Section 2 General Excursion Risk Assessment

This form is to be completed as part of the planning process for all excursions.

Class Group:	Date:	Supervising Teacher:
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	Dangers Factors which could lead to each inherent risk eventuating	Risk Management Strategies Strategies to reduce risks
People Attributes people bring to an activity e.g. skills, physical fitness, health, age, fears, number		
Equipment Resources that impact on the activity e.g. clothing, footwear, teaching equipment		



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<p>Environment</p> <p>Factors that impact on the activity e.g. Weather, terrain, water</p>		
<p>Critical incident management (emergency procedures) – contact the school for assistance.</p> <p>If a student is lost – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Follow School Plan <i>What to do if a student is lost on an Excursion or Camp</i>. Every teacher should have a copy of this in the excursion DISPlan.</p> <p>If someone is injured – ensure all other students and staff are safe. Administer first aid or call for an ambulance if more assistance is needed. Contact the school. Complete forms upon return to school.</p>		