



SOMERSET CRESCENT SCHOOL

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM POLICY

RATIONALE:

Somerset Crescent School encourages “hands-on” outdoor education experiences to enhance student learning.

PURPOSE:

To ensure that:

1. Children have practical experiences outside the classroom such as visits, day excursions and camps
2. Children have the opportunity to see the outdoors as a place for recreation, interest, occupation and conservation
3. Children develop the skills of cooperation, independence, confidence, perseverance and determination in collaborative, well-organised and well-supervised settings

GUIDELINES:

- Students will participate in a variety of environments, eg rural, bush, urban, coastal and industrial
- The EOTC programme will provide challenges appropriate to the age and ability of those attempting them
- Somerset Crescent School students and staff are to learn and practise the etiquette, procedures and safety and survival skills for use during these experiences
- The cost of all EOTC is to be kept at a level affordable by those participating. School funding/parent fundraising and applications for grants may help to subsidise experiences so that all children may benefit.
- Outdoor education experiences should include pre-activity learning and post-activity follow-up, to make the most of camps and other trips
- Staff should make themselves familiar with the venue for any excursion or camp beforehand, especially safety and supervision aspects. Teachers should be aware of the hazards and risks involved, identify them for others and provide contingencies for them.
- This includes completing RAMS forms for all EOTC activities. Also Parent Helper and/or Student Contract forms where applicable
- Any person transporting students must have a current full drivers license and vehicle must have a current warrant of fitness and registration.
- BOT can Police Vet for any EOTC activity however police vet is required for overnight activities.
- The safety of students is paramount. If there are not enough adult helpers or if the weather, traffic, transport or other conditions are unsuitable the excursion should be postponed or cancelled
- An emergency vehicle is to be provided on all excursions, camps and overnight stays outside the city limits, or where there are additional risks (sports injuries etc). The Board of Trustees will reimburse for the use of emergency vehicles on all excursions.
- The Teacher/s in Charge are responsible for leadership, and will make the decisions having first consulted with colleagues, and adult helpers as appropriate.
- Parents/caregivers must be fully-informed about every excursion and have signed the yearly permission form.
- Students with special educational needs will be encouraged to participate in all outdoor activities, provided there is enhanced staffing.

CONCLUSION:

Education outside the classroom enables children to practice the key competencies, learn new skills, experience leadership and face challenges in a supportive and safe environment