VISION:

Catholic Schools in partnership with parents, in union with Christ’s saving mission and School communities, educate young people for participation in the church and world communities today. (SACCS Vision Statement)

St Joseph’s School Renmark supports the SACCS Vision Statement by;
- Working in partnership with parents to develop appropriate School Policies.
- Engaging parents in a process of consultation to determine activities that are appropriate to the age, year level and experience of the students.

RATIONALE:

At St Joseph’s School Renmark we believe Camps and Excursions will:
- Provide students with the opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that will equip them for effective and critical participation in local, national and future situations.
- Assist students to gain an understanding of structures and systems, heritage and change, environments, cultures and beliefs, business and economics.
- Help students develop an understanding of ecological processes, sustainable conservation, environmental ethics, aesthetics and decision making.
- Assist the children to develop an enquiring mind.
- Foster self esteem and confidence.
- Encourage children to evaluate critically the information given and thereby be able to use it intelligently.
- Nurture the process of moving from dependence on others to becoming independent.
- Develop appropriate social skills and nurture co-operative relationships.
- Help the children to improve their social confidence and competence individually and in groups, being recognised as an individual with talents and abilities that can be shared with others.
- Build on and add to the classroom learning at the time.

PROCESS:

Staff who are contemplating any of the following activities, Sleep Overs, Day Excursions or Camps are expected to follow this process;
- Consult with the Principal at the beginning of the school year that it is their intention to raise this matter with parents before the end of Term 1.
- At the Parent Information Night held early in term 1, or through written communication, invite parent’s comment/feedback on a camp or appropriate number of excursions for the students in that class.
- Parents need to be consulted on the following:
  - Camps: Number of nights, Cost (possible range), Type of experience, i.e. Education, Educational/Social or Social Skills experience, Timing (term 1, term 2 etc.).
  - Excursions: Appropriate number, Experiences.
If the decision is made to proceed the teacher will undertake the following:
- A circular containing details of the camp or excursion will be prepared and forwarded to parents as soon as possible.
- Confirming - consultation process: Type of experience negotiated, Number of nights agreed to, Cost (range) and arrangements discussed for payment (e.g. lay-by), Possible Venues, Timing.

Teachers will ensure parents are given sufficient advance notice so that they can budget for any camp or excursion. No child will be excluded from attending a camp or excursion due to financial hardship.

If a class is to attend a camp a follow up letter confirming appropriate details of venue and cost will be forwarded to parents before the end of Term 1. Parents are then required to make a commitment to supporting the camp.

If after this process of consultation there is insufficient support for the camp the teacher in consultation with the principal will;
- Cancel any tentative booking with bus companies and camp sites.
- Inform parents by way of letter that the idea has been abandoned for that year.

GUIDELINES FOR CAMPS/EXCURSIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

These guidelines are to be used in consultation with parent groups to assist discussion but should not be seen as prescriptive, rather a guide to assist the discernment and decision making process.

| Junior Primary | Half day excursions  
| | Full day excursions  
| | Sleep over  
| Middle Primary | Half day excursions  
| | Full day excursions  
| | Sleep over  
| | One night or two night camps  
| Upper Primary | Half day excursions  
| | Full day excursions  
| | Retreats  
| | Sleep over  
| | Camps 3 or 4 nights duration  

Signed:
Chairperson School Board: Kieran Johnson ..................................................................................................May 2014
Principal: Don DePalma .........................................................................................................................May 2014

Policy Review Date: May 2014
Next Review Date: May 2017

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools Camps & Excursions Policy.