



Camps and Excursions Policy

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.

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

Signed:

Chairperson School Board:

Steve Atkinson.....May 2023

Principal:

Don DePalmaMay 2026

Policy Review Date: May 2023

Next Review Date: May 2026

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

