Rationale

St. Anthony's Primary School is a community of faith and life in which the total development of the whole person is the focus. As a Catholic school, St. Anthony's works in partnership with parents, caregivers and parishioners in providing a safe, happy and caring environment, rich in Catholic identity and heritage; sound in academic learning; supportive of personal skills and maturity.

St. Anthony's Primary School is committed to the development of the child through the provision of a range of learning experiences including camps and excursions where students participate in a variety of learning experiences not normally available within the general classroom or school environment.

We believe that school camps and excursions offer a unique opportunity for learning. Many of the activities are not normally available in the regular school setting and students and staff have an opportunity to interact in a different environment from the regular classroom.

1. Camps and excursions are an opportunity for a child to develop their independence and as such will be given the opportunity to participate without parental involvement unless specifically invited to attend for student/teacher/parent ratios and/or special needs.

2. Camps and excursions are always linked to the classroom curriculum and therefore an expectation is that all children will participate.

Values

The St. Anthony's Camps and Excursions Policy gives expression to the following values, inherent in the creation of a school community of faith and life which is characterized by a happy, safe and caring environment: justice, compassion, honesty, responsibility, accountability, dignity, wisdom, generosity, preferential option for the poor, prayer and nurturing of Catholic faith and personal spirituality.

Policy Statement

St Anthony's Primary School will provide camps and excursion experiences which are commensurate with the age, maturity and needs of the students. Camps and excursions will be thoroughly planned having regard for curriculum outcomes, safety, risk assessment and management, staff members’ duty of care, cost, transport arrangements and site suitability. Camps and excursions must be authorized by the Principal once evidence of planning is furnished by the staff member(s).

Policy Consequences

1. Students are provided with a range of educational experiences to enhance their physical, emotional, spiritual, social and academic growth.

2. Camps and excursions are thoroughly planned.

3. Parents/caregivers have confidence in the school and its staff that the activities have been thoughtfully planned.

4. Staff, Students and parents/caregivers are made aware of the necessity for personal responsibility.

5. Any changes to the policy will be made available through the school newsletter and website.
Guidelines

1. Excursions should be related to curriculum outcomes.
2. Students should participate in at least two excursions per year.
3. Initial excursion ideas and cost estimates should be submitted prior to Budgeting time in September of the preceding year.
4. The Principal, in consultation with staff will allocate funds for each class to attend excursions.
5. The provision of excursion experiences should be considered in light of all other school budget costs.
6. Excursion experiences should be developmental with regard for the ability and maturity of students.
7. Excursions for students in the Early Years (Prep to Year 2) should be of a local nature.
8. Thorough planning for a proposed excursion/camp including written Variation to School Routine forms must be submitted to the Principal for approval three weeks before the proposed excursion.
9. Permission for camps outside the Diocese of Toowoomba should follow Diocesan protocols.
10. Camp costs are not covered by the Activities Fund and parents/caregivers must pay for these experiences separately.