

CAMPS AND EXCURSION POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the processes and procedures Hazel Glen College will use when planning and conducting camps, excursions and adventure activities for students.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all camps and excursions organised by Hazel Glen College. This policy also applies to adventure activities organised by Hazel Glen College, regardless of whether or not they take place on or off school grounds, and to school sleep-overs.

This policy is intended to complement the Department's policy and guidelines on excursions, camps and adventure activities which all Victorian government schools are required to follow [Excursion policy](#) will follow both this policy, as well as the Department's policy and guidelines when planning for and conducting camps and excursions.

This policy does not apply to student workplace learning or intercampus travel.

DEFINITIONS

Excursions

For the purpose of this policy, excursions are activities organised by the school where the students:

- are taken out of the school grounds (for example, a camp, day excursion, school sports);
- undertake adventure activities, regardless of whether or not they occur outside the school grounds;
- Attend school 'sleep-overs' on school grounds.

Camps are excursions involving at least one night's accommodation (including school sleep-overs).

Local excursions are excursions to locations within walking distance of the school and do not involve 'Adventure Activities'.

Adventure activities are activities that involve a greater than normal risk. Further information and examples of adventure activities are available on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library, at the following link:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/excursions/guidance/adventure-activities>

Note: workplace learning activities (such as work experience) and intercampus travel are not considered school excursions.

POLICY

Camps and excursions can provide a valuable educational experience for our students which are complementary to their learning, as they provide access to resources, environments and expertise that may not be available in the classroom. Hazel Glen College aims:

- To provide all students with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program.
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness.
- To reinforce and extend classroom learning.

- To provide programs that promote self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, co-operation and tolerance of others.
- To further develop a student's problem solving and life survival skills.
- To extend understanding of a student's physical and cultural environment.

For all camps and excursions, including adventure activities, our school will follow the Department's Policy and Advisory Library: [Excursions](#).

Planning process for camps and excursions

All camps require School Council approval. Information presented to the School Council will include:

- The educational aims and objectives of the camp.
- The names of all adults attending and their expertise and experience.
- Travel arrangements and costs.
- Venue details and an itinerary of events.
- Procedures to be followed to ensure the safety of the children.
- Details on the number of students not attending the camp.
- Alternative program for students not attending camp.

All camps and excursions will comply with Department planning requirements.

Part of this planning process includes conducting risk assessments, to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risks associated with each proposed camp or excursion. Hazel Glen College's risk assessment will include consideration of arrangements for supervision of students and consideration of the risk of bushfire activity in the excursion location. In the event of a Code Red Day being announced, excursions or camp activities in effected locations will be cancelled or rescheduled. Planning will also cover arrangements for cancelling, recalling or altering the camp or excursion for any other reason.

Hazel Glen College is committed to ensuring students with additional needs are provided with an inclusive camps and excursions program and will work with families during the planning stage, as needed, to support all students' attendance and participation in camp and excursion activities.

In cases where a camp or excursion involves a particular class or year level group, the Organising Teacher will ensure that there is an alternative educational program available and appropriate supervision for those students not attending the camp or excursion.

Supervision

Hazel Glen College follows the Department's guidelines in relation to supervision of students during excursions and camps.

All excursion staff (including parent volunteers) will be familiar with supervision requirements and the specific procedures for dealing with emergencies on each camp and excursion.

All school staff will be aware that they retain overall responsibility for the supervision and care of students throughout all camps and excursions (including adventure activities), regardless of whether or not external providers are managing the activity.

A senior staff member will be in attendance at the College whilst the children are returning from a camp or excursion. The Teacher in charge on the camp or excursion will communicate with this person in regards to the anticipated return time.

Parent volunteers

Parents may be invited to assist with camps and excursions. The School will pay for the associated camp costs for parents/carers invited to attend. School staff are in charge of camps and excursions and parent/carer volunteers are expected to follow teachers' instructions. When deciding which parents/carers will attend, the Organising Teacher will take into account: any valuable skills the parents/carers have to offer (e.g. bus licence, first aid etc.) and the special needs of particular students.

Volunteer and external provider checks

Hazel Glen College requires all parent/carer camp or excursion volunteers and all external providers working directly with our students to have a current Working with Children Check card. All parents/carers and volunteers must meet the School's requirements in accordance with the School's Volunteer Policy. [Volunteer Policy](#)

Parent/carer consent

For all camps and excursions, other than local excursions, Hazel Glen College will provide parents/carers with a specific consent form outlining the details of the proposed activity. Hazel Glen College uses Compass to inform parents about camps and excursions and to seek their consent to their child's participation. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any questions or concerns that they or their child may have with a proposed camp or excursion.

For local excursions, Hazel Glen College will provide parents and carers with a Local Excursions consent form upon enrolment. Hazel Glen College will also provide advance notice to parents/carers of an upcoming local excursion through Compass. For local excursions that occur on a recurring basis (for example weekly outings to the local oval for sports lessons), Hazel Glen College will notify parents once only prior to the commencement of the recurring event.

The Organising Teacher will be responsible for managing and monitoring parent/carer consent and will provide the classroom Teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

Cost of camps and excursions, refunds and support

The cost of all camps and excursions are to be paid by parents/carers unless alternative arrangements have been agreed to by the Principal prior to the excursion. All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for all activities. Consent forms will have clearly stated payment amounts and payment finalisation dates.

Parents/carers will be sent a reminder via Compass before the camp or excursion departure date reminding them of the need to finalise payment. Students who have not finalised payment by the required date will not be allowed to attend unless the Principal determines exceptional circumstances apply and has approved attendance at the camp or excursion.

Hazel Glen College will make all efforts to ensure that students are not excluded for financial reasons. Families experiencing financial difficulty are invited to discuss alternative payment arrangements with the Organising Teacher. The Organising Teacher can also discuss family eligibility for the Department's

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), which provides payments for eligible students to attend school activities, including camps and excursions. Applications for the CSEF are open to families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents and are facilitated by the school. Further information about the CSEF and the application form are available at [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#).

If a camp or excursion is cancelled or altered by the school, or a student is no longer able to attend part or all of the camp or excursion, our school will consider requests for partial or full refunds of payments made by parents/carers on a case-by-case basis taking into account the individual circumstances. Generally we will not be able to refund payments made for costs that have already been paid where those funds have already been transferred or committed to a third party and no refund is available to the school. Where possible, we will provide information about refunds to parents/carers at the time of payment. Parents may also refer to the School's Parent Payment Policy [Parent Payment Policy](#)

Student health

Parents and carers need to ensure the school has up-to-date student health information prior to camps and excursions. A member of staff will be appointed with responsibility for the health needs of the students for each camp/excursion. Teachers will administer any medication provided according to our *Medication* policy [Administration of Medication](#) and the student's signed *Medication Authority Form*. In addition to the required written permission for their child to attend a camp or excursion, parents are required to complete and provide a "Confidential Medical Information and Special Dietary Requirements Information for College Council Approved Excursions" form.

The College will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills and will provide a Level 2 First Aid Teacher on each camp. To meet the school's obligations relating to safety, a first aid kit and mobile phone will be taken by teachers on all camps and excursions.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure their child/children are in good health when attending excursions and camps. If a student becomes ill during a camp and is not able to continue at camp it is the parent/carer's responsibility to collect them and cover any associated costs. If the Principal approves a student joining a camp late, transport to the camp is the parent/carer's responsibility.

Behaviour expectations

Students participating in camps and excursions are required to cooperate and display appropriate behaviour to ensure the camp or excursion is a safe, positive and educational experience for all students involved.

Parents/carers will be notified if their child is in danger of losing the privilege to participate in an excursion or camp due to behaviour that does not meet the standards of behaviour set out in the school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* the *Student Code of Conduct* and the *Bullying Prevention Policy* [Bullying Prevention Policy](#) The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal, in consultation with the Organising Teacher. Both the parent/carer and the student will be informed of this decision prior to the camp or excursion.

If on a camp or excursion the Teacher in Charge considers an individual student's behaviour does not meet required standards, then the Principal or their nominee may determine that a student should return home during the camp or excursion. In these circumstances the parent/carer is responsible for the collection of the student and any costs associated with this.

Disciplinary measures apply to students on camps and excursions consistent with our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy*, *Student Code of Conduct* and *Bullying Prevention Policy* [Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#)

Electronic devices

Students will not be permitted to bring electronic devices to camps or excursions except with prior approval from the Principal and Organising Teacher. The Principal and Organising Teacher will only approve students bringing electronic devices to a camp or excursion in exceptional circumstances and when it is in the best interests of the student, and may place conditions on its location and use during the camp or excursion.

Food

Students are not permitted to bring their own supply of food items to camps and excursions unless the item is medically indicated and discussed with the Organising Teacher, or included as an item on the clothing and equipment list for that camp or excursion.

Accident and Ambulance cover

Any costs associated with student injury rest with parents/carers unless the Department is liable in negligence (liability is not automatic).

Unless otherwise indicated, Hazel Glen College and the Department do not provide student accident or ambulance cover. Parents/carers may wish to obtain student accident insurance cover and/or ambulance cover, depending on their health insurance arrangements and any other personal considerations.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

- [Excursions](#)
- [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Camps and Excursions Policy:

- [Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#)
- [Volunteer Policy](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Parent Payment Policy](#)
- [Asthma Policy](#)
- [Anaphylaxis Policy](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 11th March 2022 and is scheduled for review every 3 to 4 years.