



# CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS POLICY

Policy 2022-2026



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Glenroy College on 9304 0400

### Purpose:

To explain to our school community the processes and procedures Glenroy 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 Glenroy College. This policy also applies to adventure activities organised by Glenroy 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. Glenroy College 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.

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 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. Glenroy 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 the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a Catastrophic fire danger rating (FDR) day, excursions or camp activities in affected locations will be cancelled or rescheduled. Planning will also cover arrangements for cancelling, recalling or altering the camp or excursion for any other reason.

Glenroy 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**

Glenroy 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.

## **Parent volunteers**

Parents may be invited to assist with camps and excursions. School staff will notify parents/carers of any costs associated with attending. 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**

EG: Glenroy College requires all parent or carer camp or excursion volunteers and all external providers working directly with our students to have a current Working with Children Check card.

## **Parent/carer consent**

For all camps and excursions, Glenroy College will provide parents/carers with a specific consent form outlining the details of the proposed activity. Glenroy College informs parents about school camps and excursions by providing a note to students and asking parents/carers to return the part of the note that asks for parents/carers signature confirming they 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.

## **Parent Payments for camps and excursions**

Most camps and excursions provided by Glenroy College enhance and broaden the schooling experience of our students but are not a mandatory component of our curriculum. These activities are provided on a user-pays basis in accordance with the Department's Parent Payments Policy.

Consent forms will have clearly stated payment amounts and finalisations dates, and families will be given sufficient time to make payments.

Students who have not finalised payment by the required date for camps and excursions provided on a user pays basis will not be able to attend unless the Principal determines exceptional circumstances apply.

Where a camp or excursion is provided as part of the standard curriculum requirements, parents may be invited to make a voluntary contribution but all students will be able to attend regardless of whether their parents contribute.

## **Financial Help for Families**

Glenroy 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 Business Manager/Principal/Organising Teacher. The Business Manager/Principal/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](#).

## **Refunds**

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.

## **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 and the student's signed *Medication Authority Form*. 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* [INSERT other policies relevant to behaviour such as the *Student Code of Conduct* or *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*.

## **Electronic Devices**

Students will be permitted to bring electronic devices (such as iPads, iPods, mobile phones) but these may only be used during times set by the Teacher in Charge. Students are responsible for the care of any personal

electronic device brought to a camp or excursions and the school will not be responsible for lost or damaged devices.

## 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, Glenroy 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](#)
- [Parent Payments Policy](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Camps and Excursions Policy: [insert details of your related school policies. A sample list is provided as follows]

- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Volunteer Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy

## Communication:

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes
- *Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required*
- Included in our staff policy handbook
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request
- *Uploaded to our school website*

## Policy Review and Approval:

Policy last reviewed	October 2022
Approved by	Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	October 2026

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Appendices connected to this policy are:

- APPENDIX A: PUPIL/TEACHER RATIOS
- APPENDIX B: CAMP/EXCURSION CHECKLIST FOR STAFF
- APPENDIX C: CRITICAL INCIDENTS – All (please refer to following websites for all Critical Incidents Reporting)

- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/excursionsafety.aspx>
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/management/pages/emergency.aspx>



Appendix A  
Pupil / Teacher Ratios

<p><i>Abseiling and Rock Climbing</i></p> <p>1:1 Rock Face 1:10 Others 2 Experienced Staff</p>	<p><b>Ropes Course</b></p> <p>1:12 3 students to any one element, 1 participant spotting <b>NOTE:</b> No student on any element unless supervised</p>
<p><i>Base Camping</i></p> <p>1:10 Residential; canvas 1:15 Study: residential</p>	<p><b>Scuba Diving</b></p> <p>1:8 Pool training 1:4 Diving, 2 buddy systems <b>NOTE:</b> 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><i>Board Sailing</i></p> <p>1:3 Beginners 1:5 Novice; intermediate; advanced 2 Experienced sailors</p>	<p><b>Shooting</b></p> <p>1:1 New or inexperienced 1:5 On the track or mound 1:15 Observers or waiting</p>
<p><i>Boats, Small Sailing - (Dinghies, Catamarans)</i></p> <p>1:8 Enclosed Waters 1:6 Open Waters 1:4 Open Waters, Adverse</p>	<p><b>Snorkelling</b></p> <p>1:8 Closed water: pool 1:4 Open water <b>NOTE:</b> 2 qualified staff</p>
<p><i>Bushwalking</i></p> <p>1:5 Overnight 1:10 Day</p>	<p><b>Snow Activities</b></p> <p>1:8 Alpine, Nordic – overnight 1:10 Alpine, Nordic – day 1:10 Non-skiing</p>
<p><i>Canoeing</i></p> <p>1:6 2 Staff members</p>	<p><b>Surf Activities</b></p> <p>1:10 Beach 1:8 Surf <b>NOTE:</b> 1 teacher/instructor in water and <b>NOTE 1</b> teacher/ instructor on beach</p>
<p><i>Cycling</i></p> <p>1:10</p>	<p><b>Swimming</b></p> <p>1:20 Enclosed pools 1:10 Open water</p>
<p><i>Horse Riding</i></p> <p>1:1 Basics 1:5 Beginners 1:8 Semi-experienced <i>Riding School:</i> 1 Experienced teacher with instructor 2 Experienced teachers if no instructor or group exceeds 10</p>	<p><b>Water Skiing</b></p> <p>1:20 Shore 1 Student on two at any one time; if highly experienced two may be taken together 2 People in boat – driver and observer; one must be staff member</p>
<p><i>Orienteering</i></p> <p>1:10 Bush</p>	

APPENDIX B

**Camp/Excursion Checklist for Staff**

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff attending: \_\_\_\_\_

✓	<b>APPROVAL:</b>
	Discussion to clarify that activity supports student learning with Learning Area Manager Discussion with Daily Organiser to find suitable date (some excursions will require contact with other teachers to examine the impact on class time)
<b>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b>	
	Bus Booking – Purchase order form, must be requested and a copy given to Finance Manager
	Accommodation Booked – Hard copy confirmation, together with the purchase order form must be requested and a copy given to Finance Manager
	Costing to be checked by the Business Manager or Finance Manager
	Consultative Committee provide in principle approval as College council give the ultimate approval for camps
	Camp Note/Parental Consent Form completed by Teacher In Charge
	If taking year 12 students, subject teachers must be informed well in advance to ensure students are not missing class beyond their capabilities.
	College Council Approval package; including Risk Register completed
	Teacher in charge to contact First Aid Officer to make arrangements for medication, forms, etc
	Excursion Approval Form to be given to Daily Organiser for excursions not requiring College Council prior to the College council meeting prior to your activity.
	Teacher-In-Charge to notify (if necessary): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canteen</li> <li>• Daily Organiser for timetable changes and yard duty replacement</li> </ul>
	Notice must be provided for cancellation if required.
	Notify the Daily Organiser of any students not attending and placements for them
<b>WEEK BEFORE</b>	
	Teacher in Charge to check students have paid
	Do you have all permission and medication notes? – check well before the day of the excursion
	Provide details of payment/purchase order required to the Finance Manager
<b>DAY BEFORE</b>	
	Organise collection of medication/emergency contact details folder, Medication
	First aid kit/bum bags from First Aid Officer
	Provide your mobile contact number or collect a College excursion phone
<b>ON THE ACTUAL DAY</b>	
	Cancel the camp or excursion, where possible, if a Code Red day is declared by the Emergency Management Commissioner
	Ensure attendance list is provided to the Attendance Officer
	Nominated medication teacher to collect medication from Sick Bay and take medical folder with them
	Upon arrival at camp, the teacher in charge must view the camp Code Red policy
<b>UPON RETURN</b>	
	Return the College Phone to the Office if applicable
	Return First Aid kits and Medication Register Form to Sick Bay