1. BASIC BELIEFS

1.1. Camps, excursions and special activities that are relevant to our teaching and learning program; that consolidate the foundations for achievement (Resilience, Organisation, Persistence, Getting Along & Confidence) and that challenge children to grow in independence, support the personal and academic development of our students.

1.2. These activities and major excursions should be planned in accordance with the whole-school curriculum plan which caters for each level Prep-6 through two-year learning focus (QUEST) cycles.

1.3. Safety of students, accompanying parents and staff is always a priority when conducting such activities.

2. POLICY

2.1. School camps and excursions are conducted under the policy guidelines provided by DEECD.

3. DEFINITIONS

DEECD  Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

4. GUIDELINES

4.1. The program of camps is based on the students’ age and development. Overnight camps on-site at school are designed to build independence and prepare students for longer out-of-town camps. In Grades 3/4 students will be away for two nights and in Grades 5/6, they will be away for up to four nights.

4.2. Excursions and camps are special events and students will not take personal electronic/digital devices or mobile phones on these activities (see APPS Digital Citizen Policy) where student independence and social development are being encouraged.

4.3. The coordinator of the unit concerned or, in their absence, the most senior member of staff (in terms of the incremental pay scale) attending the activity will be deemed to be the teacher-in-charge

4.4. Camp and excursion venues will be selected for their quality, the educational opportunities they provide to support the school’s program, and their costing

4.5. The cost of camps and major excursions will be advertised as soon as possible in advance to parents to encourage full participation and to facilitate their ability to plan for the expense

4.6. Vehicles fitted with seatbelts will be used for all excursions and camps that require travel beyond local municipal boundaries. Where possible, local excursions will also be conducted in buses with seatbelts fitted. Children must wear the seatbelt if one is provided. They must remain seated and travel safely at all times

4.7. Children will wear nametags and correct school uniform on excursions and camps uniform at the discretion of the teacher-in-charge and this will be dependent on the nature of the program

4.8. Parent helpers with an appropriate, current Working with Children Check are invited to express an interest in supporting the teaching staff on camp. Where expressions of interest are surplus to the required number for supervision purposes, gender representation will first be assured and then a ballot conducted at the principal’s discretion

4.9. Parent helpers may be asked to contribute to the cost of their accommodation on major camps
5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

5.1. All excursions and camps will meet the DEECD guidelines for such activities (available at www.education.vic.gov.au)

6. AUTHORISATION

6.1. The APPS Camps and Excursion Policy was adopted by the APPS School Council in May 2012.

7. REVIEW

7.1. These guidelines may be varied by the Principal in consultation with the School Council should the need arise.

7.2. In addition, the APPS Camps and Excursion Policy shall be reviewed every two years from date of adoption.

8. ATTACHMENTS

Appendix: Camps and Excursions Schedule 2012