COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, EXCURSIONS AND SPORTING OUTINGS

Community activities, excursions and sporting outings at Fowler Road SSP aim to:

- collect information on behaviour outside the school setting to inform students' Individual Learning Programs;
- give students the opportunity to practise skills in different settings and promote generalisation;
- extend students' experiences and skills, motivate and support learning activities to reach KLA outcomes.

The safety of students and staff is paramount. On enrolment and each year thereafter, parents/carers complete Medical Information Form alerting staff to issues including health issues, asthma and allergies. These are placed on the school data base forming an 'Alert' report/list. Child protection alerts are indicated with a 'CP'. Each teacher receives an 'Alert' list and they are also placed in folders near telephones. They are updated each year or as alerts change.

In planning and undertaking community activities, excursions and sporting outings the following needs to be addressed.

- Class teachers need to feel that students' behaviour away from the school will be as safe and appropriate as possible. This can be usually assessed by the student's behaviour at school and reflected in the student's progress in keeping the school rules. Students' risk management plans can assist in making this decision. The decision for a student to remain at school can be made right up to the group leaving, after the group has left or the student can be brought back to school providing there is sufficient supervision for the remaining students.
- The level of staffing required to maintain duty of care and safety of students and staff should not exceed 1:4.
- Before leaving the school it is important to refer to the 'Alert' list and follow procedures outlined in DET policies, for example, students who are epileptic must have a staff member with them at all times.
- Comprehensive insurance and current driver’s license – copies held in office. Seatbelts must be worn.
- Consider the appropriate staff. No SASS is required to transport students.
- Before leaving the school, students should be reminded of expectations of appropriate behaviour, safety and protective behaviours, and appropriate behaviour around animals.
- Ensure that students have appropriate clothing (for example, soft peak hats, safe footwear – spiked shoes are not permitted), sun protection and, to minimise risk, check length of nails and jewelry.
- Any students leaving the school must be accompanied by a person with a current emergency care certificate renewed every three years.
- Staff who leave the school with students must take the appropriate first aid kit and a mobile phone.
- Staff and students who leave the school are to be recorded in the school diary.

Costs of activity outings, excursions, and sporting excursions are usually born by the school except where the cost exceeds $10. In these cases a contribution from the parents can be requested.

Costs for students from the DCS settings may be reclaimed by the principal from the student's case worker.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

These are brief, local (within 15 kilometres) educational activities and are generally held on Thursdays and Fridays after recess. Venues will vary according to teachers' class program and need to be in the context of the above aims. Parents are informed of the community activities on enrolment, asked to sign that they understand the program and give permission for students to participate and be transported in staff vehicles. Parents are reminded of this each year in the school newsletter.

Regular community activities include: money skills and shopping, fitness activities, ball skills development, nature walks, social skills for eating out, movies, technology/games, observations of plant/animal life.
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Venues for community activities include: Kidseum, Centennial Gardens, Parramatta Park, Parramatta Lakes, local restaurants, put-put golf, Ten Pin Bowling, local cinemas, local shops, local parks, local halls, Merrylands or Parramatta shopping centres.

If fishing forms part of a community activity a staff member must have a current fishing license.

Movies with more than a PG rating are only considered for students aged 15 years and over. Venues with such activities as computer games or laser zone are a special reinforcer and visited no more than once each term. Under no circumstances are visits to the homes of staff appropriate.

**Excursions**

To support learning programs excursions are organised to such venues as the Zoo, Museums and high interest venues such as Luna Park for special events, including a student's farewell or birthday.

A specific permission note signed by parents/carers is required as well as completion of an **excursion approval form** as outlined in the DET Excursions Policy (2004). If parents/carers are unavailable to sign, verbal approval may be sought. This is to be noted on the excursion approval form.

The school camp requires a detailed risk assessment and management plan.

**Sporting Outings**

These involve a number of regulations (for example, a current CPR Certificate and Bronze Medallion are required to take students swimming) and always require parent/carer permission. Teachers undertaking such activities need to ensure that they have met the requirements outlined in the *Guidelines for the safe conduct of sport and physical activity in schools* kept in the staff room.

Activities undertaken at this school include: **Golf (driving range only), Ice-Skating, Indoor Rock Climbing, Swimming, Snorkelling, Soccer (wearing sports shoes only).**

The following sports are not engaged in at this school: