



## ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM POLICY

### RATIONALE

The term "Education Outside the Classroom" encompasses those activities which use the outdoors to enrich all aspects of the curriculum and also provide further opportunities for learning, personal growth and social development.

This range is very broad and may include curriculum related field studies, environmental education and visits to places of educational interest, along with "camping", tramping and other outdoor pursuits.

It may progress through opportunities provided by the school site and its immediate neighbourhood; to those in the local community and its outlying environments; to those further afield.

Catholic Character underpins the Outdoor Education curriculum at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School. Wherever possible children will be encouraged to marvel at God's creation and respect the environment.

### PURPOSE

1. To enhance self esteem in children by developing strengths and abilities not always evident in the classroom.
2. To help in the social development of children by the understanding of oneself in relation to other pupils, adults and the community.
3. To enable children to appreciate the natural environment and thus value conservation.
4. To provide opportunities for the involvement of the senses and an awareness of the environment.
5. To enhance classroom learning by providing a range of experiences and perspectives.
6. To extend children's creativity and aesthetic appreciation by focussing on the outdoors.
7. To help children understand and appreciate other cultures - past and present.

8. To introduce children to the challenges and dangers of the environment and develop skills for coping with them.
9. To provide further opportunities for the community to participate in the education of young people.

## GUIDELINES

1. The school will have an overall plan/policy allowing for sequential development through E.O.T.C. which takes into account:
  - the environment, facilities & activities available
  - the needs of the students
  - the skills and experience of the staff
  - the financial resources of the students
  - the safety procedures applicable to the activities chosen
  - liaison with other educational areas.
2. Programmes including E.O.T.C. must:
  - have specific activities related to educational objectives
  - be within the capabilities of all taking part
  - present outdoor activities as an appropriate behaviour or interest for both sexes
  - be adequately supervised with appropriate adult/child ratio 1:4 for water based programmes and those in the bush 1:8 minimum standard. (The ratios mentioned are a broad guideline and must be reviewed in light of the conditions at any particular time. For example, if the teacher determines that the sea is too rough then the children should not be permitted to enter. If it is moderately rough they must adjust the parent ratio accordingly).
  - have the support of the community
  - foster an awareness of and sensitivity for the total environment
  - be aware of and utilise opportunities in the area before venturing further afield
  - have caregivers permission to take part.
  - have detailed and recorded the associated "Risks" of the E.O.T.C. by using the Risk Analysis Management forms (R.A.M)
3. Teachers need to:
  - show sound leadership and management skills.
  - capitalise on opportunities for personal growth of students
  - show informed, good judgement when dealing with emergencies
  - be aware of their legal responsibilities for students participating in E.O.T.C.
  - seek information from parents regarding transport arrangements and request a declaration for school trips.
  - be conversant with the school Health and Safety policy.

- Undertake pre camp visits.
4. The consumption of alcohol on school camp is not permitted.
  5. Refer to the Education Outside the Classroom Guidelines.
  6. All parents attending overnight school camps will be Police Vetted prior to the camp starting.
  7. If a teacher or staff member raises concerns or is uncertain about a parent / caregiver's involvement / behaviour at a school activity they must report this to the principal.

## **CONCLUSION**

Learning is best done in a variety of settings. Experiences outside the classroom enhance learning opportunities and success.

*Approved by: K Weir  
Chairperson*

*Date Reviewed: Term 3, 2016*

*To be Reviewed: Term 2, 2019*

## **USEFUL REFERENCES TO SUPPORT THIS POLICY AND RELATED PROCEDURES:**

- Education Outside the Classroom: Guidelines: Bringing the Curriculum Alive.
- Preventing Injuries at School: Guidelines for Boards of Trustees. In the Prevention of Injury Programme (kitset). Accident Rehabilitation and Compensation Insurance Corporation, Learning Media, Wellington, 1995.
- Health and Physical Education in the New Zealand Curriculum.
- Relevant and related resources held in the school.