Statement

The community of MacKillop Catholic College provides opportunities for, and encourages participation in, major excursions as part of a holistic Christian education.

Definition

A major excursion is a student group activity at least partly outside College hours, and outside normal sporting/academic commitments, or involves travel to a venue over 100 km from the College.

Rationale

Our College supports an education which is student centred, fosters a sense of belonging and which contributes to a more fully humane society. Major excursions provide opportunities:

- To practise leadership skills.
- To take on responsibility and to be given privileges.
- To practise cooperation and respect for others.
- To enkindle enthusiasm and a sense of comradeship.
- To understand and experience different cultures and places.
- To extend or enhance the curriculum.

Guidelines

1. Occupational Health and Safety guidelines and specific safety issues relevant to the activities involved will be given the highest priority in planning major excursions, including a detailed risk assessment document.

2. All major excursions should be authorised by the Principal/Deputy Principal.

3. Wherever reasonably practicable and, paying due care and attention to the safety of all involved (students, staff, contractors, volunteers), all excursions will be available to the whole group involved. Where a student may need to be excluded from an excursion due to health and safety considerations; all reasonable steps will be taken to provide an alternative experience for the student giving similar learning outcomes.

4. Guidelines for dress/appearance and behaviour on major excursions will draw on relevant College policies and will be outlined in a letter to parents seeking participation permission.

5. The cost will be considered in the light of its value in supporting the goals of the Mission Statement and curriculum initiatives.

6. There should be equity and transparency in supporting staff involved in major excursions, both financially and in time release.

7. In planning major excursions, the coordinator should liaise with the school Counsellor, Learning Equity Co-ordinator and relevant Head of Department area regarding pastoral care and learning needs of all students participating.