

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

WHAT IS EOTC

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 an introduction to some outdoor pursuits.

Real experience is often best; involving all the senses and focusing on an awareness and feeling for the human and natural environment.

EOTC may range through the opportunities provided by the school site and its immediate neighbourhood to those in the local community, its outlying areas and the wider outdoors. Many curriculum objectives can be more effectively achieved outside the classroom. Experiences outside the classroom are becoming increasingly important to counteract the tendency towards vicarious experience in modern society.

OBJECTIVES

- To help in the social development of children by aiding the understanding of oneself in relation to other people.
- To provide learning opportunities and motivation for integrated curriculum studies.
- To provide shared experiences which will help develop class togetherness, the teacher/pupil relationship and community involvement in the school.
- To enhance self-esteem in children by developing strengths and abilities not evident in the classroom.
- To introduce children to the challenges and danger of the environment and the skills for coping with them.
- To extend children's creativity and appreciation by focusing on the outdoors.
- To enrich classroom learning by providing a creative setting for teaching.
- To give purpose to aspects of the Physical Education and Health Programmes.
- To help students understand and appreciate the natural environment.

GUIDELINES

- Physical, emotional, social and intellectual challenges need to be suited to the children's age and capabilities. Refer to Risk Management attached. Health and safety are paramount.

- When an EOTC activity is planned it must be discussed with:
 - Syndicate leader;
 - Deputy Principal;
 - Principal.

and the appropriate school application forms filled in and submitted before the due dates.

- Newsletters are to go to the Deputy Principal and Principal for checking. Any intention, travel arrangements, supervision details form is to be left at the school office prior to departure.
- An orientation visit to the camp or venue is essential.
- Teachers need to:
 - Show sound leadership and management skills;
 - Have teaching skills appropriate to different environments;
 - Have the ability to capitalise on opportunities for the personal growth of students;
 - Be clear in their objectives;
 - Be familiar with the school's Risk Management Policy and its support material.
 - Communicate clearly with parents prior to an EOTC activity. Newsletters, meetings to outline details of objectives, costs if any, permission to go, transport and gear to take.
- Inexperienced camp leaders require support and assistance with planning, budgeting, menus, logistics, related programmes and how to lead a camp.
- Provide parents with a long term overview of planned EOTC activities and approximate costings. Be conscious of cost to parents. Local venues for EOTC activities are to be preferred over distant ones to minimize travel and costs.
- Risk management – Teacher/Leaders must be familiar with the “Ngatuhua Lodge RAMS” book. All other trips and venues require RAMS. Parent helpers must be made aware of all RAMS before the trip/camp. All EOTC activities are subject to there being sufficient adult (parent) helpers to meet our pupil : teacher ratio of 1 : 7 and 1 : 5 for water activities.
- **Alcohol may not be brought to or consumed at any overnight EOTC activity.** Leaders are reminded of their need to show informed, good judgement decisions when dealing with emergencies.

- It is usually desirable that any outdoor learning experience be preceded by pre-teaching and followed up by activities designed to capitalize on the experience and evaluate it.
- The school's camping equipment will be used carefully, returned in good condition and stored appropriately, ready for other uses.
- Bushcraft and campcraft skills can be effectively taught and practiced prior to camp. There will be NO CHARGE to parent helpers.
- All Year 7 classes will attend camp at Ngatuhua Lodge in Term 4. All Year 8 classes will attend two days at Waimarino Adventure Park and one day at Adrenalin Forest.

Reading and Resources

- EOTC Risk Management Policy
- NZMSC Resources Boos 1-10
- Ngatuhua Lodge Booklet (school's)
- Kaimai Youth Camp Society Inc Booklet
- Bushcraft Manual NZMSC
- NZMSC pamphlets
- Human resources available locally, eg DOC, Forest and Bird, environmental agencies
- Education Outside The Classroom
- Guidelines for Good Practice – Ministry of Education 1995