

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM POLICY

WHAT IS EOC?

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 outdoors pursuits.

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

EOC 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:

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

GUIDELINES:

1. Physical, emotional, social and intellectual challenges need to be suited to the children's age and capabilities. Refer Risk Management below. Safety and Health are paramount.
2. When an EOC 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 to Deputy Principal and Principal for checking. Any intention, travel Arrangements, supervision details form is to be left at the school office prior to departure.

3. An orientation visit to the camp or venue is essential.

4. Teachers need to:
 - ❖ Show sound leadership and management skills
 - ❖ Have teaching skills appropriate to different environments
 - ❖ Have the ability to capitalize 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 EOC activity. Newsletters, meetings to outline details of objectives, costs if any, permission to go, transport and gear to take.
5. Inexperienced camp leaders require support and assistance with planning, budgeting, menus, logistics, related programmes and how to lead a camp.
6. Provide parents with a long term overview of planned EOC activities and approximate costings. Be conscious of cost to parents. Local venues for EOC activities are to be preferred over distant ones to minimize travel and costs.
7. Risk Management: Teacher/leaders must be familiar with the "Ngatuhua Lodge R.A.M.S."book. All other trips and venues require R.A.M.S. Parent helpers must be made aware of all R.A.M.S. before the trip/camp. All EOC 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.
8. Alcohol may be used appropriately and in moderation during any overnight EOC activity. Pupils should not be aware of alcohol being consumed. Leaders are reminded of their need to show informed, good judgement when dealing with emergencies.
9. 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.
10. The school's camping equipment will be used carefully, returned in good condition and stored appropriately, ready for other users.
11. Bushcraft and Campcraft skills can be effectively taught and practiced prior to camp. There will be NO charge to parent helpers.
12. All Year 7 classes will attend a camp at Ngatuhua Lodge in Term 4. All Year 8 classes will go canoeing at the Waimarino Canoe Centre. Year 8 activity may be preceded by a session at the Dive Pool in Term 4.

READING AND RESOURCES:

EOC Risk Management Policy

NZMSC Resources Books 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