Camp/Outdoor Education Policy

Rationale:
• The Gembrook Camp/Outdoor Education Program endeavors to promote the development of a child’s independence and self-reliance skills, in addition to fostering such social skills as co-operation, tolerance, leadership and environmental awareness.

Aims:
• To provide an opportunity for students to experience the richness of camp communal life in a variety of environmental settings.
• To give students the opportunities to further develop friendships and relationships with fellow students and teachers in a different setting
• To reinforce the values of our ‘You Can Do It’ program and school values in another setting.
• To provide Camp/Outdoor Education experiences which promote the values of independence, safe risk taking, having a go, respect and community.

Implementation:
• The Camp/Outdoor Learning Program at Gembrook provides all students in grades Prep to 6 the opportunity to participate in activities in a range of environments- local, beach, bush and urban.
• Camp/Outdoor Education Activities may include overnight stays or extended days
• It is our aim to provide a variety of settings – local, environmental, beach, urban – for children to experience and enjoy.
• Camp/Outdoor Education experiences will be offered every year to all year levels
• Camp co-coordinators will adhere to DEECD guidelines and procedures. The “Notification of School activity” form will be completed on line and forwarded to the Department of Education and Training three weeks prior to the camp departure date.  
• All Camp/Outdoor Education experiences will be approved by School Council.
• Clear and detailed information regarding camp location, facilities, activities, supervision details and the overall benefits of Camp/Outdoor Education participation will be distributed to parents with the initial Camp/Outdoor Education information.
• All parents attending camp will need to provide current Working with Children Check documentation.
• Parent information sessions will be held, where appropriate.
• Students will further consolidate their Camp/Outdoor Education experiences and knowledge through pre and post Camp/Outdoor Education activities.

Evaluation
• Evaluation by teachers, students and parents will be observational, descriptive and interpretive. These may include surveys, written reports, check sheets and anecdotal evidence.
• Direct observation by teachers and students of Camp facilities – food, accommodation and camp activities whilst on site will take place.

Policy was last ratified in 2012.