



Larrakeyah Primary School  
Pathways to Excellence

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# Outdoor Education Policy

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide a positive and supportive learning environment that encourages students to strive for high academic success. We aim to instil a desire for life-long learning and to promote leadership and responsible citizenship.

## RATIONALE

The Larrakeyah Primary School Outdoor Education Policy aims to cover all off-site visits and activities organised through the school. The Policy aims to provide students with experiences that promote social skills and attitudes such as self-confidence, self-discipline, co-operation, independence and responsibility in group situations when away from home and the school environment. It involves obtaining knowledge, values, and skills that enhance safe access, understandings and appreciation of the outdoors.

## AIMS

- To provide opportunities for students to participate in and enjoy leisure and hobby activities and improve their associated skills.
- To learn the value of co-operation, to respect the rights of others and to develop an awareness of independence.
- To ensure that students acquire knowledge, values, and skills that help understanding and safety in the outdoors.
- To encourage the personal development of students through interaction with others in a variety of practical decision making activities.
- To develop better relations between teachers, pupils and parents
- To encourage the development of self-discipline, initiative, independence and leadership skills.
- To learn to enjoy, value and care for the natural environment
- To broaden children's concept and experience of different environments
- To develop the social and emotional skills of being away from home
- To provide direct experience for the implementation of relevant academic programs such as pre- and post- camp activities

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

The Outdoor Education Program (OEP) will provide all students in grades Transition to Year 6 the opportunity to participate in activities in a range of environments – local, bush, beach and urban. Activities that are part of the Program include Sleepovers, Camps and Study Tours, Swimming programs, sporting trips and local excursions.

- All arrangements for activities in the OEP will comply with NT Dept. of Education Guidelines
- All activities will have appropriately documented planning, risk assessment and approval processes
- All activities require Principal or Assistant Principal approval with a designated teacher in charge
- All students will be required to provide written permission from their parents to attend an activity, as well as a completed 'Permission for Student to Attend Excursion' Form.
- Parent information sessions will be held where appropriate
- Male/female staff representation will be considered when selecting staff to attend an activity
- Student, teachers and parent volunteers will uphold school values and the rights and responsibilities documented in the 'Care and Conduct Policy'
- The cost of an activity is the responsibility of parents. Parents experiencing financial difficulty should discuss the situation with a member of the school leadership team (Principal, Assistant Principal, one of the Senior Teachers). Decisions relating to alternative payments arrangements will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- Students will further consolidate their Activity experiences and knowledge through pre- and post- activity activities

## COMPONENTS OF THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Camps/Study Tours:

- Locations:
  - Year 3 will attend a 1 night , 2 day Sleepover at School
  - Year 4 will attend a 2 night , 3 day camp at Bachelor Outdoor Education Unit
  - Year 5 will attend a 3 night, 4 day camp at Litchfield Outdoor Education Camp
  - Year 6 will attend a 5 night, 6 day study tour to Singapore
- Students remaining at school will participate in a relevant non-camp program
- Where possible teachers of the grades involved should be given preference to attend camps. It is desirable, but not necessarily expected, that teachers in the grade that are undertaking the camping activity attend that camp.
- The planning and preparation of each camp will be the responsibility of the teachers attending the camp and overseen by a Senior Teacher. A Camp Organiser (Leader) will be appointed. The Camp Organiser (Leader) will be responsible for, and shall make, all on-site decisions.
- All NT Department of Education (DEC) regulations and guidelines must be adhered to when planning and implementing a camping program The principal has the responsibility for approving all camps

- Students on the Study Tour must be “Self-Managing”, i.e. students effectively regulate, manage and monitor their own emotional responses, and behaviour, and persist in completing tasks and overcoming obstacles without the aid of an adult.
- When appropriate and at the discretion of the Principal or Assistant Principal, parents may be selected to assist with the camp program.
- Camps are to be staffed according to NT DEC guidelines – 1 adult: 15 students. Gender balance of staff should also be taken into consideration. Where possible the ratio of women/men supervising on camp should reflect the ratio of girls/boys.
- Parents on school camps: Parents attending school camps should understand the high level of responsibility determined by this role. Parents should understand that the role is a demanding one requiring high level supervision “round the clock”. Parent helpers on camps are obliged to meet with the teachers prior to camp departure. This meeting is for the purpose of providing familiarity of staff and students. All parents attending camps as volunteers are required to have a current Working with Children (Ochre) Card.

## Sleepovers:

- Location: School Premises
- Where possible teachers of the grades involved should be in attendance.
- The planning and preparation of the sleepover will be the responsibility of the teachers attending the sleepover and overseen by a Senior Teacher.
- All NT DEC regulations and guidelines must be adhered to when planning and implementing a sleepover. The Assistant Principal has the responsibility for approving all Sleepovers
- When appropriate and at the discretion of the Assistant Principal, parents may be selected to assist with the Sleepover.
- Sleepovers are to be staffed according to NT DEC guidelines – 1 adult: 15 students. Gender balance of staff should also be taken into consideration. Where possible the ratio of women/men supervising on the Sleepover should reflect the ratio of girls/boys.
- Parents on sleepovers: Parents attending Sleepovers should understand the high level of responsibility determined by this role. Parents should understand that the role is a demanding one requiring high level supervision “round the clock”. Parent helpers on Sleepovers are obliged to meet with the teachers prior to the Sleepover. This meeting is for the purpose of providing familiarity of staff and students.

## Sporting Trips and Local Excursions:

- Locations: Within the Greater Darwin area
- Students remaining at school will participate in a relevant program
- Where possible teachers of the grades involved should be given preference to the sporting event/excursion. It is desirable, but not necessarily expected, that teachers in the grade that are undertaking the sporting event/excursion attend.
- The planning and preparation of each sporting event/excursion will be the responsibility of the teachers attending the sporting event/excursion and overseen by a Senior Teacher. A Sporting Event/Excursion Leader will be appointed. The Sporting Event/Excursion Leader will be responsible for, and shall make, all on-site decisions.
- All NT DEC regulations and guidelines must be adhered to when planning and implementing a Sporting Event/Excursion. The Principal has the responsibility for approving all Sporting Event/Excursion.

- When appropriate and at the discretion of the Principal, Assistant Principal or Senior Teacher, parents may be selected to assist with the Sporting Event/Excursion Leader.
- Sporting Event/Excursion are to be staffed according to DEC guidelines – 1 adult: 15 students. Gender balance of staff should also be taken into consideration. Where possible the ratio of women/men supervising on Sporting Events/Excursions should reflect the ratio of girls/boys.
- Parents on Sporting Event/Excursion: Parents attending Sporting Events/Excursions should understand the high level of responsibility determined by this role.

## Swimming Program:

- Location – Larrakeyah Defence Base Pool
- As swimming is part of the PE/Health Curriculum all students are expected to take part unless there is a medical condition that prevents them from doing so. Parents are asked to notify the school in writing if their child is unable to attend a swimming lesson for medical reasons. Students who do not take part will be required to attend the Base Pool with their class and complete relevant classroom work.
- Where possible teachers of the grades involved will attend the swimming program with their class. It is desirable, but not necessarily expected, that the teacher in the grade will assist the swimming instructors by being in the pool with the students
- The planning and preparation of the Swimming Program will be the responsibility of the Assistant Principal. Classroom teachers will be responsible for, and shall make, all on-site decisions.
- All NT DEC regulations and guidelines must be adhered to when planning and implementing the Swimming Program. The Principal has the responsibility for approving the program
- When appropriate and at the discretion of the Principal, Assistant Principal or Senior Teacher, parents may be selected to assist with the program.
- The Swimming Program is to be staffed according to DEC guidelines – 1 adult: 15 students. Gender balance of staff should also be taken into consideration. Where possible the ratio of women/men involved in the Swimming Program should reflect the ratio of girls/boys.
- Instructors for the Swimming Program will be supplied by the Royal Life Saving Society of the Northern Territory. They will have qualifications recognised by the RLSS. Where possible there will be 3 instructors for each class. The RLSS Instructors will have full control over lessons and conduct inside the pool. They will be responsible for preparation of the series of lessons.