

KOUMALA STATE SCHOOL CAMPING POLICY

(reviewed T3, 2026). Next review Sem 2 2028

Purpose

Our school camping program is an important part of our curriculum and provides students with authentic learning experiences beyond the classroom. Camps are designed to support students' academic, social and personal development while building confidence, resilience and independence. Every camp is planned as an educational experience that supports classroom learning while creating positive and memorable opportunities for students.

Aims of the Camping Program

Our sequential camping program aims to:

- develop students' independence and self-confidence and encourage responsibility and respect for others.
- build resilience and self-reliance
- strengthen social and teamwork skills
- provide meaningful, hands-on learning experiences linked to the curriculum
- develop leadership skills and positive peer relationships

Staff Responsibilities

The success of the camping program relies on the commitment of our staff. As camps extend beyond normal working hours, participation by staff is voluntary. Camps will be planned according to the availability of suitably qualified staff. The principal will:

- identify staff members who are willing to participate
- appoint a camp coordinator and provide support with planning and organisation
- provide guidance regarding venues, transport, budgeting, fundraising and workplace health and safety
- ensure all required departmental policies, procedures and risk assessments are completed
- ensure appropriate medical management and consent documentation is in place for students and staff
- provide regular updates to the P&C regarding camp planning
- ensure equitable and inclusive practices are followed throughout the program.

Where possible, class teachers will attend camps with their students. If required, alternative staffing arrangements may be made to ensure the camp can proceed. Parent volunteers are invited to assist where appropriate must hold a current Blue Card (Working with Children Check).

Student Participation

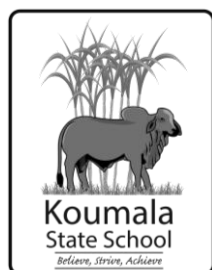
Students in Years 4–6 will be encouraged to participate in a progressive camping program that builds on experiences from previous year levels. Student safety is our highest priority. All camps are planned in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. The school will consult with parents/carers and relevant support staff to implement reasonable adjustments and support plans, to enable all students can participate safely. If, despite these adjustments and plans, the identified risks cannot be managed safely and reasonably, the principal, in consultation with parents/ carers, may determine that a student is unable to attend camp.

Commitment to Safety

The safety and wellbeing of students and staff is central to every camp.

All camps are planned in accordance with Queensland Department of Education requirements, including:

- School Excursion procedures
- Curriculum Activity Risk Assessments (CARAs)
- Enterprise Risk Management processes
- required consent and medical documentation
- transport requirements and permissions.



KOUMALA

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Through careful planning and strong partnerships with families, our camping program provides students with safe, engaging and memorable learning experiences that help prepare them for future challenges both in and beyond the classroom.

Camping Program Overview

Our camping experiences gradually increase in duration and independence as students move through the school.

Year Level	Experience
Prep	Under 8s morning activities
Year 1	Late afternoon activities (3:00 pm–4:15 pm)
Year 2	Evening program (4:15 pm–7:00 pm) including outdoor games, observation trail and cooking. Meals are supported by the P&C and parent contributions.
Year 3	Overnight at school (4:00 pm–7:00 am) including initiative games, arts and crafts, cooking, stories, singing, stargazing and environmental activities. Food and activities are supported by the P&C.
Year 4	Three-day cluster camp with neighbouring small schools (currently trialling). If this model is not viable, Year 4 students may join the Year 5–6 camp or camps may alternate between cluster and school annually.
Years 5–6	Four-day educational camp at a venue selected for its curriculum relevance, educational value and suitability for students.

Where student numbers in Years 4–6 are low, the school may combine year levels into a single camp to ensure the program remains viable and provides quality learning experiences.

Major Camp

Major camps will:

- support curriculum learning
- be held outside the local area where appropriate
- include leadership and personal development opportunities
- involve either a base camp or touring format
- be planned at venues that provide meaningful educational experiences.

Possible destinations may include locations such as:

- Outback – Longreach and Barcaldine; Regional centres – Townsville, Rockhampton, Airlie Beach; Capital Cities – Brisbane.

Camp destinations may vary from year to year depending on curriculum links, educational opportunities, student needs and cost.

Camp Costs and Payments

The school aims to keep camp costs as affordable as possible while providing high-quality educational experiences.

To assist families:

- an approximate camp cost will be communicated at least one term in advance
- confirmed costs will be provided as early as possible
- payment plans will be available from the term prior to camp, allowing families time to budget.

To secure a student's place:

- a **non-refundable deposit** is required
- full payment is expected **2–3 weeks before departure**, unless an approved payment arrangement has been made.

Refund requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will generally only be approved in circumstances such as:

- significant medical reasons preventing attendance, or
- significant family emergencies.

Any refunds will be subject to costs already incurred by the school and the policies of camp providers and transport operators.

“Believe Strive Achieve”