

Outdoor Education Attendance Policy

1. Purpose and Objectives

This policy provides information to students, parents/carers and staff regarding student attendance requirements in the Outdoor Education program.

2. Definitions, Terms, Acronyms

Canterbury College	Canterbury College Ltd or any controlled entities of Canterbury College Ltd.
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3. Policy Scope/Coverage

The Outdoor Education Attendance policy applies to students in Years 3-11 and all teaching and administrative staff responsible for managing the Outdoor Education program.

4. Policy statement

4.1 Background

Canterbury College designs and implements an Outdoor Education program for Years 3 to 11, consisting of topics and skills which supports and challenges students in a supportive and age-appropriate manner. Canterbury appoints a Director of Student Development, who plans the over-arching program and coordinates each experience.

This Policy sits alongside Student Behaviour Policy, Acceptable ICT Use Policy, Attendance Policy and Assessment Policy as the core elements of the partnership between families and the College.

4.2 Rationale for Outdoor Education

A Canterbury education is focused on developing all-roundedness in all our students, in keeping with our vision, to make our students ready for the world. Across Prep to Year 12, the College provides a specific academic, wellbeing and co-curricular program. A Canterbury education is about engaging in all three of these, because none of these three elements are optional. Outdoor Education focuses on social, emotional, physical and intellectual wellbeing. There are opportunities for personal and group challenge, for working collaboratively and for enjoying a level of independence.

In an era when society is crying out for young people to be more resilient and to handle complexity and challenge with courage and optimism, it seems especially necessary for schools to plan quality Outdoor Education experiences. It is in these environments that new friendships blossom, new confidence results from overcoming challenges and true leaders step forward. When our teaching team plan out the three to five days of Outdoor Education curriculum, they do so in an age-appropriate manner that is inclusive of students of all physical abilities.

5. Guidelines/Procedure/Process

5.1 Determination

Outdoor Education experiences vary in length from three to five days and are planned during term time. The dates are published on the MyCC calendar at the beginning of each school year. The costs per student are factored into the Single Resource Charge (SRC).

It is the College's expectation that all students will attend the designated Outdoor Education experience for their year level, as it is a core element of the teaching and learning program at Canterbury College. Feedback on how each student participated in each experience is shared with parents on MyCC. There are very limited situations in which the College would support a student not taking part. These are described in Section 5.4.

5.2 Acceptable grounds for not attending:

- 5.2.1 Serious injury which prohibits walking or standing for long periods of time;
- 5.2.2 Social-emotional grounds, with supporting evidence from a treating physician (e.g., psychologist) which specifically addresses the individual circumstances of the student;

In these cases, the student's Classroom Teacher (JS) or Head of House (SS) should meet with parents to discuss their concerns and work with the Director of Student Development and Head of Junior/Secondary to make a determination.

5.3 Unacceptable grounds for not attending:

- 5.3.1 Minor injury or ailment that would normally not prevent the student attending school;
- 5.3.2 Lack of experience or confidence in the outdoors;
- 5.3.3 Preference to not sleep in tents or dormitory style accommodation;
- 5.3.4 Fear of heights or wildlife;
- 5.3.5 Friendship or socialisation issues;
- 5.3.6 Age-appropriate anxiety about spending time away from home;
- 5.3.7 Reluctance to spend time in physical pursuits, fearing potential injury.

5.4 Accommodating difference and individual concerns

The College understands that to make an Outdoor Education experience of benefit to all students that allowances and modifications would need to be made for some students. The College's very experienced Outdoor Education team are very accomplished at accommodating student difference. This may mean shortening the overall length of the experience, alternative activities on some occasions, or negotiating other elements of the trip. These will be considered on the basis of individual student need, as summarised for example, in an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

5.5 Consequences of not attending Outdoor Education

If the reasons for not attending (i.e., in Section 5.2 of this Policy) are not the case, in the opinion of the Head of Secondary or Head of Junior School, student absence from school will be recorded as Unapproved Leave.

5.6 Refunds from Single Resource Charge

A portion of the SRC is dedicated to covering the costs of Outdoor Education for each student, based on the assumption that every student will attend. There are significant costs for camp/facility hire, buses, specialist instructors, food and specialist activities and resources. As these costs are calculated in advance and divided equally amongst all students, refunds are not available.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Canterbury College:

- Provide clear guidelines regarding Outdoor Education attendance requirements.
- Provide a process for students and parents/carers to communicate impediments to participation in the Outdoor Education program.

Student:

- Participate in the Outdoor Education program in accordance with attendance requirements.

Parent/Carer:

- Support students in their participation in the Outdoor Education program.
- Communicate with student's Head of House and/or Head of Junior Schools regarding grounds for non-attendance in a timely manner and provide documentary evidence where necessary.

7. Review

This policy and its associated procedures, quick reference guides and protocols will be reviewed in accordance with the College's policy review processes. Canterbury College, however, reserves the right to review this policy at any time.

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