

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.
Outdoor Education Program	A camp that forms part of the teaching curriculum and runs over two to five days with overnight stays with the intention of developing student resilience, skill and self-confidence as well as form cohesion in the cohort.
SRC	The Single Resource Charge is a consolidated amount that is included in the school fees and covers all core educational materials including cocurricular resources and outdoor education camps.

3. Policy Scope/Coverage

The Outdoor Education Attendance Policy applies to students in Years 3-11 and their parents / carers. as well as 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 Head of Faculty - Character and Resilience Education, 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 Outdoor Education curriculum, they do so in an age-appropriate manner that is inclusive of students of all physical abilities as far as reasonably practicable.

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 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. Parents / carers are provided with an overview of the students' collective experience via the school's platforms.

There are very limited situations in which the College would support a student not taking part. These are described in Section 5.2.

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
- 5.2.3 A risk assessment of a student's individual circumstances deems the risk of participation too high.

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 Head of Faculty - Character and Resilience Education with the support of the Manager of Care Central and the Risk and Compliance Officer (where appropriate) to make a determination. This determination is presented to the Head of Junior/Senior School to make a decision. The relevant Head of School or their delegate will communicate the decision to the parents / carers.

5.3 Unacceptable grounds for not attending:

While students with acceptable grounds for not attending will be excused from participating in outdoor education, the College reserves its right to determine the acceptability of reasons provided. Examples of unacceptable grounds for not attending outdoor education includes but is not limited to:

- 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 Senior or Head of Junior School, student absence from school will be recorded as Unapproved Leave.

The school does not provide an alternative program onsite for students who are not attending Outdoor Education. This is due to staff accompanying students and overseeing the scheduled teaching programs for the cohort during the Outdoor Education Program. As such, parents / carers need to make alternative arrangements for care of the student during this time.

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

6.1 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.
- Obtain the necessary risk assessments and insurance documents from the provider.

6.2 Student:

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

6.3 Parent/Carer:

- Support students in their participation in the Outdoor Education program.

- Communicate with student’s Head of House (Yr 7 – Yr 11) the Head of Faculty – Character and Resilience Education and/or Head of Junior School, the classroom teacher (from Yr 3 – Yr 6) 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 every three years. Canterbury College, however, reserves the right to review this policy at any time.

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Acknowledgements:	