

## EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

### Rational

101

Education outside the classroom (EOTC) can make a substantial contribution to children's intellectual, social and emotional development. It provides opportunities for learning not available under normal circumstances in the classroom. Activities should reflect and enrich the curriculum providing further opportunities for individual learning, personal growth and development.

### Policy Statement

In implementing the EOTC policy guidelines, the school will:

1. help children grow socially in understanding oneself in relation to other pupils, adults and the community.
2. appreciate aspects of the natural environment.
3. involve the senses in an awareness of the environment.
4. enrich classroom learning by providing experiential perspectives.
5. extend creativity and aesthetic appreciation by focussing on the outdoors.
6. help develop skills to meet the various challenges and potential dangers of the outdoors.
7. enhance self-esteem by developing strengths and abilities.
8. provide opportunities for the community to participate in the education of young people.

### Policy Guidelines

1. Planning for sequential development through EOTC recognition will be paid to such things as facilities and activities available, needs of children, skills and experience of staff, financial resources of children, the application of all required safety procedures.
2. Activities must relate to specific learning objectives, be within the capabilities of participants, present appropriate activities, be adequately supervised, foster an awareness and sensitivity to the environment and utilise local opportunities.
3. Teachers supervising must have sound management and leadership skills, teaching skills appropriate to the environment, they should initiate personal growth of children, be trained and prepared in meeting emergencies and be aware of all legal responsibilities.
4. All general school rules must be followed by all participants, in EOTC activities.
5. School procedures in planning, obtaining appropriate approvals and conducting the programme must be followed.
6. All risk analysis must be completed and presented with approval applications in line with school requirements at least one week prior to the event taking place.
7. All overnight trips, events involving access to or activities around water or identified risks to student and staff safety must receive prior board approval.

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8. Adult to student ratios must follow MOE guidelines
  9. An annual report on all trips must be provided to the board with general comments on analysis of benefits, issues etc.
  10. All adults involved in overnight excursions must carry police vetting clearance, completed by the school.

Ratified by Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed for B.O.T.

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Date

Recorded in the Board of Trustees Minutes dated: \_\_\_\_\_

