



**St Peter's  
Woodlands**

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# Outdoor Education Policy



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## 1. Preamble

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**'We must not dis-able our children by making their lives easy'**  
*Kurt Hahn (founder of Outward Bound)*

## 2. Vision & Mission Statements

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### 2.1. Vision Statement

In the tradition of the early Australian explorers who inspire our House names the St Peter's Woodlands Outdoor Education Camp programme will engage, educate and empower students to appreciate, navigate through and stay safely in varying South Australian environments.

### 2.2. Mission Statement

To develop students holistically and ensure personal growth through life lesson experiences and the building of resilience. To progress students from dependence, through independence to interdependence.

## 3. Rationale

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Outdoor Education and Camps are an integral part of the school curriculum. St Peter's Woodlands believes that students, staff and the school community benefit considerably from participating in a sequentially and carefully planned Outdoor Education Program.

The camp programme begins in Year 2 with a focus on what makes a 'Happy Camper' and progresses with the aim for Year 6 being 'Intrepid Explorers and Survivalists'. Camps are planned as a continuous, sequential and coordinated program of development and education. This enables students to learn about, navigate through and stay in various SA environments as well as developing a deeper understanding of indigenous culture.

The Outdoor Education curriculum will utilise as its core experiences: camping, navigation, problem solving, team building, communal living, personal organisation and responsibility, challenge in a structured, supportive and safe environment, expeditions, food preparation and cooking, hygiene, planning.

As well as delivering skills and knowledge in a range of activities such as bushwalking, kayaking, climbing and orienteering. St Peter's Woodlands views Outdoor Education as a vehicle through which we will develop our students holistically and nurture core values and traits.

Teaching and learning in the outdoors provides a dramatic contrast to the classroom. It is motivating, has impact and credibility. It provides a source of fascination and facilitates breakthroughs in learning as students learn through what they do, what they encounter and what they discover. An ideal fit with the PYP.

The experiences and curiosities that are provoked enable students to discover potential that may well surprise them, uncover interests and fire the imagination in ways to be physically active that they had previously not considered.

The St Peter's Woodlands Outdoor Education curriculum provides a holistic experience that integrates educational, developmental, environmental, relational, recreational and spiritual disciplines/aspects/understandings.

## 4. Aims

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- To progress our students from dependency, through independence to inter-dependence (me to we)

- To foster personal growth through the building of self-confidence, resilience and perseverance – to do your best
  - To develop personal organisation, time management and task prioritising
  - To learn to express realistic perceptions of personal capabilities and to appropriately share ideas, feelings, values, beliefs and information with others
  - To develop a variety of communication skills including compromise, assertiveness and conflict resolution
  - To learn to use problem-solving strategies in response to unfamiliar situations
  - To have opportunities to demonstrate initiative and leadership
- To develop a strong sense of community spirit, selflessness and team
  - To develop patience, manners and consideration of and for others
  - To assist students to value themselves as important members of groups and make positive contributions
  - To promote healthy, respectful relationships and friendships
  - To encourage social interaction and inclusion, acceptance and tolerance of others
  - To educate for healthy relationships through outdoor experiences
- To foster an understanding of and appreciation for our natural environment and indigenous culture. To develop a global perspective and understanding of where we are in the world.
- To provide an opportunity to participate and have fun in challenging activities and develop a passion and involvement in Outdoor Education.
  - To adapt to varied demands of a range of roles, responsibilities and physical activities.
  - To follow safety guidelines and correctly use equipment in relevant situations.

These goals will be achieved through being engaged in the natural environments of SA, engaging professional Outdoor Education staff to ensure high standards, safety and outcomes for students and parents. St Peter's Woodlands will make a constant commitment to promote and value these aims.

## 5. Partner Providers

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SPW will work with the appointed partner provider in all matters relating to camp and decisions will be made in collaboration.

### Wilderness Escape Outdoor Adventures (WEOA)

- Largest single entity provider of outdoor education in the state.
- Over 25 years of operation.
- Accredited with Australian Camping Association (Managing Director of WEOA is Board Member for 3 years)
- Accredited tourism provider.
- Accredited member Recreation South Australia. (Managing Director of WEOA is Board Member for 8 years)
- Embedded in outdoor industry of SA to extent we are role model to schools and organizations.

### WEOA staff:

- Employ on average of 50 people per day.
- Range in minimum qualification levels from Certificate 4 in outdoor recreation leadership to a bachelor in Outdoor Education.
- Each holds specialist instructor qualifications through external bodies or internal training.
- Each completes national police clearances and catholic education checks
- Remote first aid or higher.
- Child safe training



- All adhere to our code of conduct for instructing

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

### Executive Leadership Team (with support from School Operations & Events Manager)

- Plan and prepare camps with WEOA
- Review and provide information around assessments
- Support and facilitate communication with staff and provider
- Set dates and times for camps, information evenings, skill development sessions, meetings
- Set and develop budgets
- Communicate with year level staff

### Year Level Staff

- Liaise with Deputy Principal in regard to camp
- Responsible for administrative documentation in regard to year level

### Partner Provider

- Liaise with Deputy Principal and Head of Physical Education & Sport in writing camp programs

## 7. St Peter's Woodlands Camp Program

### Focus: Outdoor Education

- SA environment, progressing from school base to remote camp locations
- Adventure activities / Understanding landscape / Indigenous culture
- Building resilience / Dependent → Independent → Interdependent / PYP Connection

CONTINUUM:	FROM "HAPPY CAMPERS"		TO	"INTREPID EXPLORERS"	
	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Outline	Overnight camp at SPW.	1 night at Woodhouse	2 nights in Douglas Scrub	2 nights River Murray / Blanchetown	2 nights Hindmarsh Island
Focus	'Happy Campers', individual organisation, hygiene, hydration, nutrition, consideration	Camp craft, natural environment, inclusion, patience, preparation, thinking ahead, organisation	Indigenous culture Coastal environment Teams, running a camp,	Expedition preparation, teams, respect environment & friends, navigation, challenges, food prep.	Expedition Navigators, Explorers,
Accommodation	1 night in Baddams Hall / Classrooms or indoor teepees	1 night dorm	2 nights camp: x1 base, x1 'remote'	1 night remote camp 1 night camp (both in tents)	Remote camp, minimum impact
Catering	BBQ dinner, Breakfast	WEOA	WEOA	Student x1 meal, WEOA x1	Student x1 meal, WEOA x1



Activities	Campfire stories, Putting up a tent, Treasure Hunt	Camp skills, Bowl making, Shelter, Orienteer, Climb, Rope bridge, Billy Carts	Kayak, Shelter (coast), Food trails, Basket weaving, Team Challenge,	Canoe expedition, Rafts, Problem solving, Boomerangs, Fishing	Canoe, Problem Solving, Expedition planning
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## 8. Monitoring and Review

On completion of camp week, feedback forms are distributed to Year-level leaders to complete. Information is then collated and presented to WEOA at a planned meeting facilitated by the Deputy Principal.

This policy will be reviewed at least every five years or as required by operational need or regulatory environment. Compliance with this policy will be monitored by the Deputy Principal (or delegate).

## 9. Further Information

Further information regarding this policy is available from any member of the Executive Leadership Team.

### Relevant Legislation

None

### Related Policies

PRIN-04 Child Protection

WHS-13 First Aid, Incident, Injury, Illness

### Related Procedures & Standard Operating Procedures

WHS-05-04 Off-Campus First Aid Overview

### Related Forms & Checklists

None

### Related Safe Work Practices & Guidance Notes

None

### Related Other Documentation

Camp Documentation as provided by WEOA in consultation with St Peter's Woodlands

InfoSheets