Rationale
The school's camping program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:
- To provide all children with the opportunity to participate in a sequential camping program
- To provide shared class experiences and a sense of group cohesiveness
- To reinforce and extend classroom learning’s
- To provide a program that delivers skills and knowledge that may lead to a lifelong involvement in worthwhile leisure pursuits
- To provide a program that promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance

Implementation:
- A camping program will operate at Broadmeadows Valley Primary School
- This will include the following:
  i. LN3 students will be given the opportunity to take part in a five day camping experience every even year
  ii. LN2 students will be given the opportunity to take part in a 3 day camping experience every odd
  iii. Year 2 students will have the opportunity to experience an overnight onsite ‘sleepover’
- A camp is defined as any activity involving at least one night’s accommodation
- The program will be developed sequentially throughout BVPS
- The Broadmeadows Valley Primary School Council will ensure that all school camps are maintained at a reasonable and affordable cost, and comply with all DEECD requirements
- Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable by the Camp Coordinator
- Students will not be excluded from camps simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend camp, will be required to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a case-by-case basis
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual camps. Parents will be sent reminder notices a fortnight before the camp departure date reminding them of the need to finalise payment. Children whose payments have not been finalised at least two school days before the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Principal
- Any family who has not met the required payment for a previous camp will be unable to participate in the camping program until this payment is finalised
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide the Camp Coordinator with detailed records on a regular basis
• The designated Camp Coordinator of each camp will ensure that all camps, bus arrangements and camp activities comply with DEECD guidelines. The ‘Notification of School Activity’ form will be completed and forwarded to the DEECD at least eight weeks prior to the camp departure date. All students will be required to provide written permission from their parents to attend the camp, as well as a completed ‘Confidential Medical Information for School Council Approved Excursions’ form.

• Home group teachers in the Learning Neighbourhood that is attending camp will be given the first option to attend camps.

• A senior staff member will be in attendance at school whilst the children are returning from camp. The Camp Coordinator will communicate with this person in regards the anticipated return time.

• Parents will be invited to assist in the delivery of school camps. When deciding on which parents will attend, the camps committee will take into account –
  i. Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. e.g. bus licence, first aid etc
  ii. The need to include a balance of both male and female adults
  iii. The special needs of particular students

• Parents selected to assist with the camps program will be required to undertake a working with children check including a NCHRC.

• Parent volunteers may be required to pay the accommodation and meals cost of the camp.

• Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the camping program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in a camping experience due to poor behaviour at school. If the unsatisfactory behaviour continues, the child will then be excluded from camp. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the Professional Learning Team.

• Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Camp Coordinator, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

• All camps require School Council approval. This approval is sought at a scheduled meeting at least eight weeks prior to the departure date. Information presented to the School Council will include:
  i. The educational aims and objectives of the camp.
  ii. The names of all adults attending and their expertise and experience.
  iii. Travel arrangements and costs.
  iv. Venue details and an itinerary of events.
  v. Procedures followed to ensure the safety of the children.

• Further details can be accessed on the Special Event Approval which can be found on BVPS SharePoint. The Special Event Approval form needs to be submitted to the Principal prior to approval from School Council

• The above information will be provided to the Principal at least a week before the School Council meeting date.

Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four year review cycle.

Ratification
This school policy was ratified at the Broadmeadows Valley Primary School Council meeting on …../……/20…..

School Council President ____________________________  Principal ____________________________