

YEAR 10 OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP POLICY

Updated: 2025

Rationale

The Year 10 camp is a compulsory event and one of the central experiences of the Pastoral Care program at Our Lady of Mercy College. This camp will be held across two weeks, with half the cohort in attendance, subject to the College Calendar approval. Students are away for four nights providing an opportunity for the Year 10 cohort to develop skills as they prepare for the challenges of Years 11 and 12. The College views the camp as a further opportunity to develop the Mercy Values and build upon the student character strengths.

Students demonstrate these values in the following ways:

- Courage when they face and overcome challenges.
- Service when they take care of the environment and their fellow group members.
- Compassion when they offer support and encouragement to others.
- Respect when they acknowledge the gifts and talents of their peers.
- Hospitality when they welcome those in their group who are not necessarily students with whom they have regular contact.
- Justice when they deal fairly with group members and camp leaders.

Each year, the College witnesses the benefits of this experience as students return from camp. They have enhanced their physical, social, and emotional skills, which they can utilise and further develop in upper school.

Finance

Parents begin paying for this camp in Year 7, ensuring the full cost is not required in one single payment. Once students commence Year 9, there is a requirement that the College makes part payment to the organisation facilitating the event. Whilst we appreciate there could be extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from attending, the College makes the payment based on the entire cohort attending the event.

Notification of Extenuating Circumstances/Credit

The College understands at times there are extenuating circumstances preventing your child from attending the camp. Families are required to notify the College at their earliest possibility should this be the case, preferably, before the conclusion of Week 5, Term 1. Parents are to notify the College in writing, to the Principal indicating the reasons for the request of credit. Supporting documentation, where applicable, should be provided.

Notifications after this date, will need to follow the same process.

Following the completion of the camp, each extenuating circumstances/credit request will be reviewed by the Deputy Principal – Senior School, Head of Year and Finance Manager.





Our Lady of
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Where a decision is made to provide a credit, the following guidelines will apply:

1. The family has notified the Principal in writing of their child's inability to attend the Year 10 camp prior to the conclusion of Term 1, Week 5 of the Year 10 academic year. If approved, the family will receive a maximum of 75% credit of the fees paid toward the Year 10 camp. The retained balance is to offset the costs incurred for the booking of the camp.
2. The family has notified the College of their child's inability to attend the Year 10 camp **between Term 1, Week 5 and Term 2, Week 5** of the Year 10 academic year. If approved, the family will receive a maximum of **50%** credit of the fees paid toward the Year 10 camp. The College retains the balance to offset costs incurred.
3. If the family notified the College after **Week 6, Term 2 in Year 10**, the family will receive **no** credit for the fees paid toward the Year 10 camp. At this point, the College has incurred the total costs towards the camp and will retain the entire balance to offset these costs incurred. If extenuating circumstances arise after this date, consideration will be made at the discretion of the College.

If students wish to attend in a part-time capacity due to extenuating circumstances.

- In this situation, no credit can be awarded because the College still incurs the full cost. However, the student has received some benefit from attending part-time.

Please note, the exact dates will be notified in writing by the Deputy Principal – Senior School and the Head of Year prior to the conclusion of the previous academic year.