



Student Safety

Supervision (Duty)

All staff at Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School (PAICS) must be 'on alert' at all times under their duty of care responsibilities, particularly in the outside areas at recess and lunch time. There are two areas of duty that teachers rotate between to ensure student safety. These are:

- 1) Playground and Oval
- 2) School Kitchen area

Staff are provided with a duty roster to ensure there are always two adults on duty at any one time (1 qualified teacher and a Gija educator) to supervise behaviour, safety and to administer medical care if needed.

Teachers and staff may go home for lunch breaks when they are not required to be on duty.

Excursions

Excursions outside the classroom provide great enjoyment to all students involved. Careful planning is required to ensure the continuing welfare and safety of students and staff concerned. Teachers must complete a Risk Assessment for any excursions off campus and this is to be approved by the principal.

Responsibility for the welfare and safety of students lies with the school through the registered teaching staff at all times whilst the students are in PAICS care. This includes excursions held outside the school grounds. Duty of care can be transferred to non-teaching staff, volunteers and external providers under certain circumstances.

Standard of Care

Each excursion holds a different level of risk and therefore a different standard of care. The higher the risk, the higher the standard of care required. The level of duty of care varies according to:

- Age of the student (Kindy, Junior Primary or Upper Primary)
- Venue
- Conditions (Wet Season, Hot Weather etc)
- Ability of students.

At all times, staff must take every reasonable action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students in their care.

Breach of standard of care

The standard of care is breached when injury or damage occurs after a teacher has not met the appropriate standard required. In this case, the teacher will be compared to the standard set by a capable teacher.

If a student is injured because of a duty of care breach, the parent may bring a negligence action against PAICS. In some circumstances, however, the teacher alone might be liable. For example, a teacher may be liable if grossly negligent or acting outside the school policy guidelines.

In and around the Kimberley are some of the greatest adventures to be had. With this comes risk. PAICS always makes sure it conducts a risk assessment of an excursion before choosing a venue and time.

Questions that we ask ourselves include:

- What safety risks will staff and students be exposed to?
- What are our protocols for emergencies (i.e. phones, email, radio, spot tracking device)
- What conditions may we be forgetting at this particular time of year (heat, rain etc.)

The school always ensures its insurances are up to date to cover all possible incidents it may incur.

Permissions Slips

PAICS does not use a generic permission slip for excursions. PAICS generates permission slips to meet the excursions needs.

Generic information required in most cases includes, but is not limited to:

- Name:
- Age:
- Medical Information:
- Are you happy for your child to: Bush Walk, swim etc...

No child can attend an excursion or camp unless they have the written authorisation of a parent or guardian.

Verbal permission can be given for a student to attend an excursion provided teachers record this on the Student Management System, including the date and time, who gave the permission, what their relationship is to the child, what excursion permission was given for and by what means the permission was given (phone, text, in person).

Water Safety

PAICS enjoys offering students plenty of opportunities to learn how to swim in a safe and fun way. Children are trained by qualified professionals in a Royal Life Saving Program in Terms 1 and 4, when it is hot and the local pool is open. PAICS uses the Warmun Pool for water activities. The pool is always supervised and kept hygienic and clean at all times by the Pool Manager.

PAICS assesses all excursions beforehand to ensure student – teacher ratios are appropriate and legal.

Version Number	Purpose/Change	Author	Endorsed Date
1.0	Implementation	Principal	2/2013
1.1	Included verbal permission for excursions	Libby Hammond	11/2023
