Rationale:
- The school’s excursion program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Day excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Aims:
- To reinforce, complement and extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom.
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school, and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world.

Implementation:
- Day excursions are defined for the purpose of this policy as any organised and supervised school activities that require children to venture beyond the school boundary.
- The Principal is responsible for the approval of all non-adventure single-day excursions.
- School Leaders are responsible for approval of all overnight excursions; camps; interstate and overseas visits; excursions requiring sea or air travel; excursions involving weekends or vacations; and adventure activities.
- A designated ‘Teacher in Charge’ will coordinate each day excursion.
- Prior to the commencement of any detailed planning relating to a proposed day excursion, the Teacher in Charge must meet formally with the Principal, to present a Risk Assessment and Risk Treatment Action Plan. The Principal will then complete the Offsite Activity Locator Proforma.
- When presenting information to the Principal, the Teacher in Charge must be aware that the Principal will consider the following:
  - What is the purpose of the excursion and its connection to student learning?
  - Do staff members attending have the competence to provide the necessary supervision of students throughout the excursion?
  - Is an appropriately trained member of staff able to provide first aid?
  - Have supervisory adults who are not registered teachers completed a Working with Children Check?
  - Is the location of staff and students throughout the excursion including during travel known?
  - Is a record of telephone contacts for supervising excursion staff available?
  - Is a record of the names and family contacts for all students and staff available?
  - Has parental consent for those students on the excursion been obtained?

- St Thomas’ prefers that students only travel on buses fitted with seatbelts if available.
- The Principal requires that a report from the Teacher in Charge occur after each day excursion if any mishaps or concerns have arisen.
- All endeavours will be made not to exclude students simply for financial reasons. Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend a day excursion, 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.
- Office staff will be responsible for managing and monitoring the payments made by parents and will provide classroom teachers with detailed records on a regular basis.

• Information will be provided to all parents of non-English speaking families in a manner that allows them to provide an informed consent to their children attending excursions.
• Classroom teachers will be given the first option to attend excursions.
• The school will continue to provide the opportunity for teachers to update their first aid skills.
• The school will provide a first-aid kit for all day excursions.
• Access to permission forms and medical information must be available to staff at all times.
• A senior staff member will be in attendance at school whilst the children are returning from any out-of-school-hours excursion. The Teacher in Charge will communicate with this person with regards to the anticipated return time.
• While school excursions are a team activity requiring the cooperation and common-sense of all participants, it is the Teacher in Charge who oversees the operations of the excursion, takes charge of events, makes key decisions and accepts ultimate responsibility for the excursion.
• Parents may be invited to participate in excursions. When deciding on which parents will attend, the Teacher in Charge will take into account –
  1. Any valuable skills the parents have to offer. eg. bus licence, first aid etc.
  2. The preference to include both male and female parents.
  3. The special needs of particular students.
• Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable behaviour at school will be invited to participate in school day excursions. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in an excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the Teacher in Charge.
• Further information is available from the following website:
  http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au

Evaluation:
• This policy will be reviewed as part of the School Renewal Process, or after any unexpected or adverse incident origination from an excursion.

This policy was last ratified by the School Leadership Team in.... March 2014