

Weedons School
Guidelines for choosing parents to attend school camps

During a child's time at Weedons School, he/she/they will (usually) attend four camps.

- Year 4 - School camp: one night, one day, camping in tents and/or classrooms
- Year 5/6 - Hanmer Springs camp: two nights, three days
- Year 7 - High Country camp: two nights (one under canvas, the other in a woolshed) three days
- Year 8 - Wellington camp: three nights, four days

Taking students out of the school environment can provide them with life-changing experiences which they will remember for the rest of their lives. It can also put them at risk and into unfamiliar situations. Careful planning and preparation is needed to minimise risks and make the activity a positive experience for each student.

To make Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) effective and safe, Weedons School will follow Ministry of Education regulations and guidelines on safety and supervision, risk management, leadership, and legal requirements. School boards and individual teachers have a duty of care to students, and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Teachers in charge of camps at Weedons will carefully consider the activities to be undertaken, the supervision plan, including the ratio, to ensure they match any increased level of risk involved; the skills required of parents will also be taken into account.

Planning includes submitting the relevant documentation to the board, which must approve overnight camps and holds the ultimate responsibility for approved excursions. Decisions on supervision plans should take into account, as part of the risk assessment:

- the competence of volunteer assistants
- any special medical, educational, or capability needs of the students

It should please be noted that:

- Any parent wishing to attend a school camp will undergo police vetting
- Parents wishing to attend camps requiring non specialised skills might/might not be drawn out of a hat
- Parents with a specific set of skills might be approached privately and invited to attend camps with increased risk factors
- Parents declaring a willingness to attend a camp will not necessarily result in their being chosen
- Parents' contributions to school life, however broad, will not necessarily guarantee them a place on a school camp
- Parents may or may not be able to attend a camp at their own expense