

Extra-curricular Activities Framework

Objectives - Policy statement

At John Palmer Public School, we pride ourselves on providing high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all students. We recognise that all students are different and need access to a wide and varied curriculum to enable students to grow socially and academically. To promote a love of learning amongst our students and the school community, we enable students to access extra-curricular activities that build self-esteem and develop their skills in areas not generally catered for in a classroom environment.

As with all school activities, we aim to ensure that we provide the best quality programs we are able to, recognising that the staff who lead these groups have varying levels of expertise, and that any school program needs to fit into the framework of whole school planning.

Some of the strategies we will utilise to assist in maintaining the quality of extra-curricular programs are:

- High expectations of student attendance, participation and behaviour
- Capping the number of students accepted into each activity
- Assessing student's suitability for the activity through Expression of Interest and trial processes.

Context

At John Palmer Public School we have a number of different activities which take place to compliment the regular school program. These activities are an important part of school life and would often not happen if it weren't for the generosity of the staff at John Palmer Public School and the support of the parents and community.

The staff, through their willingness, generosity and talent allow our students to experience a wide range of other activities. The extra-curricular activities supported at John Palmer Public School occur outside of normal classroom time, generally before school, during lunch times and after school hours. The staff who will lead these activities have made a commitment to take on an increased workload to provide these opportunities to the students of John Palmer Public School.

Responsibilities

The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that extra-curricular programs meet all DEC and JPPS policy guidelines, fit within the current context of the school, and do not negatively impact student learning.

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The teacher

The teacher is responsible for planning and implementing quality extra-curricular activities, liaising with parents and the school community, and ensuring that all participants within the activity meet the requirements for continued participation in the activity. This includes attending training sessions, behaving respectfully at all times according to their code of conduct and wearing the uniform/clothing specified by the activity teacher.

The selection process for PSSA teams is taken seriously and great effort is made to make the process as fair and equitable as possible. The coach's (Supervising teacher) responsibility is to give every student a chance to demonstrate their skills and sporting knowledge allowing each student a fair chance to be selected. The coach will look for students who can demonstrate skills that are required in the chosen sport and their ability to work hard as part of a team. Only skills demonstrated at the trials will be taken in to consideration and not the students playing history outside of school. It is very important to remember that the coach is not a professional coach, but a teacher who has volunteered to help and supervise the students while they participate in a sport they love.

Like PSSA, the selection process for performance and additional extra-curricular activities is designed to be fair and equitable. As each activity has specific skill requirements and can only cater for a limited number of participants. The supervising teacher will often be required to make judgements based upon the time and resources available. Group sizes may vary depending upon the skill level of students.

The student

The student is responsible for meeting the high behavioural expectations held by JPPS. Students in PSSA teams are required to sign a contract that states the expected behaviours when representing our school. Students who do not meet these expectations may be excluded from participation in the extra-curricular activity. Students who do not behave appropriately during school time may also be restricted from participating in extra-curricular activities where they are required to leave school grounds or interact with visitors to our school.

Students are responsible for attending practice/training sessions. Continued absence from these sessions can affect the involvement of other students and may result in removal from the activity.

The parent

Parents are responsible for encouraging and supporting their child to attend all training sessions and promoting the high standards expected by all who attend JPPS. Parents will be informed of any teacher concerns regarding their child's participation in an activity and their support is invaluable in resolving any issues that may arise. At times, parents may have difficulty supporting their child's attendance at training or special events. We ask that parents speak to the activity teacher as soon as possible so that we can support the students continued involvement in the activity.

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Monitoring and Evaluation

In general, a plan for the year ahead will be established during Term 4, while allowing for modifications to be made during Term 1. Due to the nature of schools, we will not receive final staffing and financial allocations until mid Term 1.

Staff interested in coordinating an extra-curricular activity will need to identify

- the type of program to be run
- time and financial requirements of the school and the students involved
- the number of staff and students who will be involved
- the pre-requisite skills of students for inclusion into the program

These details will be forwarded onto the Executive Program Coordinator and the school executive for consideration at the next available Executive Planning meeting.

All staff coordinating activities will need to complete evaluations regarding time and financial costs incurred, possible staff training requirements and future directions.

Extra-curricular activities may include the following:

NOTE: Staffing changes, student numbers, financial issues and whole school organisational requirements can at times lead to changes in the activities offered and how they are structured.

Performance Groups:

K-2 Dance
3-6 Dance
K-2 Choir
3-6 Choir

Additional:

Debating
Public Speaking competitions
Other interest groups

Sporting:

Summer PSSA

NRL Tag (junior and senior)
AFL (junior and senior)
Cricket (junior and senior)
Softball (senior)/Tee ball (junior)

Winter PSSA

Soccer (boys and girls junior and senior teams)
Netball (junior and senior)
Newcombe Ball (opens)
Rugby League (junior and senior)

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PSSA Training Cancellation Procedure

- Training after school or before school;
- Teachers will have a *buddy* teacher who will train at the same time;
- Cancellations must be kept to a minimum;
- Messages on the App kept to a minimum and only used for last minute training cancellations;
- Office will at no time be responsible for calling parents to inform them of cancellations;
- Office will only be responsible for placing a pre-written message on the school App;
- Information given to the parents outlining the below information prior to the season commencing.

Cancellation Procedures:

More than 24 hours' notice

- Message placed on the school App or sent by email;
- Students informed by their activity teacher

Last minute wet weather (raining)

- A message will be placed on the school App or sent by email;
- Coaches will jointly supervise any students who can't get home until the specified finishing time if training is after school.

Grass closed (concrete dry)

- Training will not be cancelled! Coaches must modify activities so training can be conducted on the concrete or in the classroom (video analysis).

Teacher Sick

- Teacher will inform the PSSA coordinator who will inform the office;
- A standard pre written message will be placed on the school App or sent by email;
- The students will be informed and told of their options;
- Students who will be included in the *Buddy* teacher's training session if necessary.