



Merbein P-10 College

International Cultural Exchange Program Policy 2014

Purpose

The College's International Cultural Exchange Program aims to:

- Encourage a collaborative exchange of knowledge between young people of different cultures to broaden their perspectives and aspirations within a global community
- Promote awareness, tolerance and appreciation of another culture and way of life
- Enable young people and their families identify some of the key similarities and differences that exist within the international community and to build longer term friendships and harmony

Student Participation and Expectations

Students will be invited to apply in writing to participate in the International Cultural Exchange. Their application requires the full support and endorsement of their parents or carers.

Applicants will be required to participate in a selection process, which may include an interview and endorsement of key staff as to the student's capacity to effectively represent their school and community.

Successful applicants will be required to participate in preparation activities and to attend all planning meetings with a family member as required.

They will be required to meet the requirements of high standards of safety, behaviour, social skills, sensitivity and care required by the program.

Students will be required to confirm their readiness to undertake overseas travel away from their family and serve as ambassadors for their community and country.

Students will be required to communicate regularly with their host family as part of the exchange process.

Students will be required to report back to the school community about the program.

Where possible two emergency replacement students will be identified in the event a successful applicant is prohibited from participating, due to unforeseen circumstances.

Staff Participation

Staff will be invited to apply to participate in the International Cultural Exchange Program through an open and transparent selection process.

They will be required to assist in the planning and preparation of the program, participate fully in the full program and lead the post program evaluation to report back to the College Council and school community.

They will be expected to prepare for and participate in ceremonial activities as ambassadors for their community and country.

Travel and Safety Requirements

Permission is to be sought and granted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood and the College Council for overseas travel by students and staff.

The program organisers are required to regularly check the safety status of travel with the Australian Federal Government

Students and staff will be required to complete medical forms, and declare any medications that they may require during the course of travel.

At least one staff member accompanying the students will be required to have a current First Aid Certificate.

Students and staff may be required to undertake immunisation as an entry or re-entry requirement as part of their travel.

Costs and Budget

Travel

- The travel costs and insurance for the exchange program and home stay arrangements as hosts will be met by the family.
 - Staff travel costs and insurance will be supported by the College.

Activities program

- The College Council will contribute towards the organisation and costs of the school students' activities program that it conducts for visiting overseas students.

Gifts

- The College council will contribute towards the cost of gifts to be presented by the school delegation on arrival to the overseas host schools and organisations.
- Host families will be responsible for any exchange of gifts, and are encouraged to keep this within reasonable grounds. Participating students should be careful not to solicit for gifts, and will be required to meet any quarantine requirements.

Teacher Replacement

- The College will cover the cost of teacher replacement to release the program staff to participate

Ratified in 2014 Review in 2017