

Murtoa College

SCHOOL SOCIALS



Rationale:

Murtoa College supports student Socials as they help develop a sense of identity and are regarded as an important means of encouraging informal interaction between classmates and between students across different year levels. At the same time, we recognise our duty of care to ensure that Socials are conducted in a safe, controlled and organised manner.

Aims:

- To provide a safe and secure environment for all students and supervising adults involved
- To establish protocols and procedures that effectively manage the organisation and control of school Socials, whilst not compromising the opportunity for students to express their personal identity and interact with each other in an informal and responsible manner.

Implementation:

Responsibility

School Socials are the responsibility of the School Council. The School Council is ultimately responsible for the control of school Socials and therefore must ensure that Socials are adequately supervised and that responsible behaviour is exhibited by students. Approval by School Council must be given for a Social to proceed. The Principal will be responsible for working with the SRC or delegated students to ensure that all appropriate arrangements are made for conducting the Social.

Organisation

The organisation of all Murtoa College sanctioned Socials is to be the responsibility of the SRC.

Setting of dates, times and venue

It is the SRC's responsibility to set the date and times of the Social. A maximum of one Social a year may be held. Prior to submitting a proposed date to School Council, the SRC will ensure that the date and time has the approval of the Principal and the staff. The venue of the Social is to be the responsibility of the SRC. The venue is subject to the Principal's approval.

Supervision

The SRC must provide a Social supervision roster. There must be at least one supervising adult per 25 students attending the Social. At any one time there must be at least one male and one female teacher supervising. The most senior teacher supervising each hour will be designated as the Supervising Adult in Charge of the Social during that period. The roster must be approved by the Principal. Unless adequate supervision is organised, the Social will not proceed. All supervising adults are expected to maintain and enforce the rules and regulations of the Social mentioned herein.

Student Rules

- **Attendance:** Only students currently enrolled at Murtoa College may be admitted to the Social. Tickets must be purchased **prior** to the Social and will **not** be available for purchase on the night of the Social. Students will not be admitted to enter the Social after 45 minutes from the advertised commencement time. Every attempt will be made to advise parents of non-admittance, if this occurs. The only exception is if a written notification is provided by a parent/guardian to the Principal or Assistant Principal in advance of the night of the Social; **NOT** on the night of the Social.
- **Permission Forms:** All students must present a Social permission form signed by the student and the parent in order to purchase a ticket. In the event that buses are provided, students must also return a Bus permission form signed by their parent in order to purchase a bus ticket. Both permission forms must be presented **prior to the Social**, no tickets will be sold to students who do not present a signed permission form.
- **Tickets:** Social and bus tickets will be sold **prior** to the Social and **will not be available on the night of the Social**. If insufficient tickets are sold then the Social will not proceed or if there are insufficient bus tickets sold then the bus will not be provided. In the event of Social or bus cancellation, parents will be notified and all

students who have purchased tickets will receive a full refund.

- **Behaviour at the Social – Smoking, drugs and alcohol:** In accordance with normal school rules, no smoking, alcohol or drugs are permitted at the Social. If students are suspected to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or not eligible to attend the Social as required by the attendance regulations, the supervisors have the right to refuse entry. Attendance at the Social is accordant with the School Council requirement that all students may be breathalysed prior to entry to ensure the safety of all students and supervising adults. If the breathalyser detects a positive alcohol reading the student will be denied entry or removed from the Social. The parents will be required to collect their child at their own expense. Adequate notification of breathalysing must be provided in the Newsletter. The Social permission form must outline the use of the breathalyser and must be signed by both student and parent. Any student who is removed from a school Social may be banned from attending future Socials, at the Principal's discretion.
- **Behaviour at the Social – Student responsibilities:** Students are expected to behave in a socially responsible manner. Behaviour at the Social is no different to the behaviour expected at school, specifically:
 - students are not allowed to hold hands
 - students are not allowed to sit on each other's knees
 - students are not allowed to kiss
 - students are not allowed to dance intimately
 - students are not allowed to dance on other student's shoulders
 - students are not allowed to stage dive
 - students are not allowed to mosh (rough house dancing)
 - songs with swear words are banned and songs should reflect the school's values and be socially appropriate

Supervisors can ask students to leave the Social if they believe their behaviour is unacceptable. The student's parents will be notified and asked to collect the student at their own expense. If parents cannot be notified, immediate supervision of the student will be provided until the conclusion of the Social. Parents will be notified the following school day. Again, any student who is removed from a school Social may be banned from attending future Socials, at the Principal's discretion.

- **Travel to and from the Social:** Students are required to leave the Social venue at the conclusion of the Social and go directly home. Parents need to ensure that they have made suitable arrangements for the collection and transport home of students from the Social. With the exception of those students travelling by bus, school responsibility for students begins upon entry to the Social and ceases at the conclusion of the Social. School responsibility for students travelling by bus begins when students board the bus at the 'pick-up point' and ceases when students disembark the bus at the 'drop-off point'. Bus drivers will be responsible for checking the bus list as students are collected from the 'pick-up point' and again as students are collected from the Social. Parents need to ensure that they are fully aware of the arrangements for students to travel by bus. For students travelling by bus, normal school and bus rules apply.

Evaluation:

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

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