Outdoor Education programme

Outdoor Education is an integral part of the programme to develop the character and skills of Christ Church boys. Challenge, initiative, self-reliance, leadership, teamwork, responsibility, healthy risk-taking, communal living and environmental care are all promoted through annual camps that engage boys from Years 5 to 10.

The programme takes them to the School’s outdoor education campus at Kooringal, to Shark Bay aboard the Leeuwin and culminates in a 10 day ‘venture’ to Walpole.

The programme is aligned with the School’s ‘Phases of Learning’, matching the age and stages of development with appropriate experiences to challenge the boys. These camps are a compulsory part of the curriculum and the cost is incorporated into the inclusive fee structure.

Year 5

Boys experience their first camp at Kooringal over 3 days, based around an Earth Keepers project that first starts in the classroom, to ensure the boys are prepared and get the most out of the experience. Earth Keepers engages ‘heads, hearts and hands’ to understand the natural world.

Year 6

A 3 day camp is held at Kooringal, promoting a theme of co-operation and offering more adventurous opportunities for the boys. Canoeing and orienteering is mixed with other resourceful activities such as cooking, cleaning and even humpy-making.

Year 7

The Year 7 camp to Kooringal is conducted over 4 days, in House groups. The activities and challenges are designed to build a strong awareness of self and living with others. The programme includes expedition bushwalking, environmental awareness activities, orienteering, canoeing and abseiling. They also cook one of their own evening meals.

Year 8

The outdoor education programme for Year 8 takes to the seas aboard the Leeuwin II for 6 days, sailing around the World Heritage site of Shark Bay. By providing a highly challenging experience, the aim of this partnership with the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation is to expand the boys’ capabilities and sense of themselves.

Year 9

The year 9 boys experience 9 days at Kooringal, taking on more challenges to build their capabilities in readiness for the Year 10 Venture trek. Their activities include expedition bushwalking and navigation, canoeing, a ropes course, regaining, a solo experience as well as community service. They cook many of their own evening meals and live in small groups that are randomly selected.
Year 10

Venture has been going for more than 20 years now and is a rite of passage for Christ Church Year 10 boys. It is an 11 day journey on walk routes through the bushland and coastal setting of Walpole Normalup National Park and a culmination of the learning programme for outdoor education. In the days before Venture, the curriculum becomes focused on Walpole, to deepen the learning opportunities from the experience.

Year 11

‘Venture Plus Sea Kayaking’ is an optional expedition for Year 11 boys. Held in the October school holidays, volunteers from both Christ Church and St Hilda’s go on a sea kayak expedition around the Shark Bay area.