

VAPS Philosophy Camp - Ballarat

The Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools (VAPS) will host a Philosophy camp in 2024. This camp will be structured in a similar way to other VAPS Philosophy in Public Spaces (PIPS) events. This includes:

- Multiple Schools & Mixed-School Groups
- Small group of students from each school
- Collaboration with external providers for philosophical stimuli (e.g., Sovereign Hill; Ballarat Art Gallery)
- Expert facilitators to run philosophical inquiry sessions, with additional teachers for supervision

This camp is primarily an **academically oriented camp** and will not involve adventure-based or high-risk activities

Details

This camp will run for **5 days and 4 nights**, Monday – Wednesday, **18-22 November** 2024.

The camp will accommodate students from **Year 5 - 9**. Schools considering bringing students in Year 5 or Year 9 specifically should consider the strength/weakness of those students' philosophical thinking and their capacity to engage in high-level philosophical dialogue with students across Year 5 - 9.

We anticipate 7-10 schools attending with 10 students each (depending on interest)

A full itinerary will be available later in the year.

Staffing

VAPS will have trained facilitators on-site for the whole camp, and our education partners (e.g., Sovereign Hill) will have staff on-site for parts of the camp, contributing to staff-student ratios.

Schools are recommended to bring 1 teacher to accompany their 10 students. DET guidelines state that minimum ratios for camps are 1:10, *with a minimum of 2 staff members*. However, we will be categorised as a whole group, which means that each individual school will not require a minimum of 2 staff members.

Anticipated ratios based on 24/7 supervision is approximately 1:6, so the camp is well and truly with ratio.

Costing

VAPS will provide some small subsidies for the camp, but the primary source of funding will come from schools. Schools may choose to fund the camp from their own budgets or to charge parents a cost.

Transport to the camp can be provided by the school itself (e.g., if a school has its own mini bus). Alternatively, schools can ask VAPS to provide transport and we will hire a big bus to pick up several Melbourne-based schools at the same time to save on costs.

The cost per student is still to be determined, but is anticipated to be **approximately \$600 for schools/parents** (after a VAPS subsidy).

Costing that is not covered and may be required to be covered by the school or additionally charged to students include:

- Costs associated with sending 1 staff member to camp (including CRT replacement & Time in Lieu provisions)
- Costs associated with sending an additional staff member/volunteer to camp if the school chooses (including CRT replacement & Time in Lieu provisions)
- Costs associated with administrative duties required to plan the camp (e.g., staff members' time to program the camp in the system; printing costs for permission forms)

Child Safety

See the Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools Child Safety Policy here:

<https://www.vaps.vic.edu.au/child-safety/>

See Sovereign Hill Child Safety Policy here: <https://sovereignhill.com.au/child-protection-and-safety>

See Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools Public Liability Insurance Certificate here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14PwYVGiVROEtiyY_JMDJm2wbOewOztK2/view?usp=share_link

See Sovereign Hill Public Liability Insurance Certificate here:

<https://sovereignhill.com.au/uploads/resources/SHMA-Public-Products-Liability-Certificate-of-Currency-22-23.pdf>