

Merriwa Central School



Valuing individual potential – achieving personal best

26 February 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers

RE: School Cross Country Colour Run – Parent Consent

Merriwa Central School is holding a combined Primary and Secondary Annual Cross Country Colour Run on **Friday 22 March, 2019**. It is our responsibility to seek permission for your child to participate in the colour run that will take place concurrently with the annual school cross country carnival. All measures have been taken to ensure that this event is safe for all students.

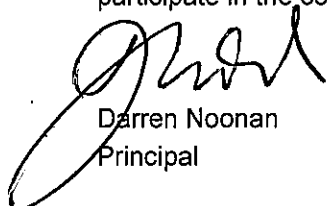
There will be various colour powder stations throughout the course with two designated lanes – one for colour powder, the other with no powder. Your child can still participate as a competitor or fun runner in the event should you not wish for them to be sprayed with colour powder.

The staff will do their best to throw the powder at the torso, however wind and other factors can cause the powder to protrude on the face. We are giving each participant sunglasses to protect their eyes. Students with respiratory conditions, such as asthma are advised to be careful in their decision to participate and should consider wearing a face mask or bandana. Students with known corn allergy should not participate in the colour run event.

The colour powder used in the event is non-toxic, biodegradable and environmentally friendly consisting of 98% corn starch and 2% food colouring. It will likely washout of your child's clothing, however we recommend that your child wears a plain white shirt that you don't mind being coloured.

Based on the toxicology profiles of the powders used, their concentrations in the formulation and the mode of use, the products pose a low level of toxicology risk. The product is considered safe for use. Get ready for a **BLAST OF COLOUR** and thanks in advance for your support! Happy fundraising!

PLEASE NOTE: By not completing the below consent form – You are confirming your child cannot participate in the colour run event.


Darren Noonan
Principal


Chad Grant
Sports Coordinator

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**Merriwa Central School
Cross Country Colour Run Consent Form**

Please complete and return to the office to indicate your consent for your child to participate in the School Colour Run.

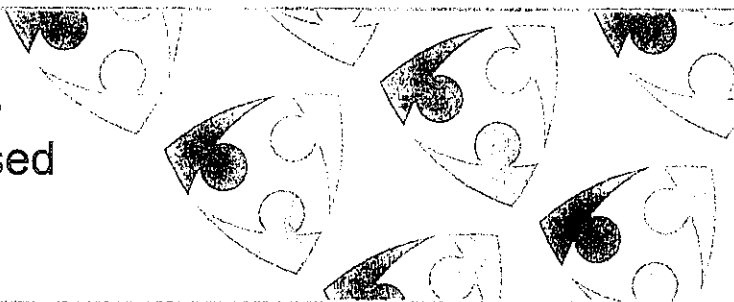
- I provide permission for my child stated below to participate in the School Colour Run
- I wish for my child not to participate in the Colour Run and to complete the Cross Country course as per normal.

NOTE: One signed form is required per child, even from families with multiple children at the school.

Students Name: Year:

Parent/Guardian's Signature: Date:

Health and Safety Directorate 'Colour Run' a Principal Endorsed Activity



Introduction

'Colour Run' activities are to be managed as a Principal Endorsed Activity. It is an open-air event conducted by an external provider engaged by the school.

Colour runs involve students racing along one or more 'Colour Run' routes with pre-determined colour throwing stations.

The material thrown should contain non-toxic colour powder comprised only of corn starch, baking soda and FD&C or D&C grade dyes.

Principal Endorsed Activities:

In relation to colour run activities, schools have the discretion under the department's Principal Endorsed Procedures to run events providing they conduct a health and safety risk assessment in relation to that activity.

Before any activity outside the standard school curriculum can be considered the procedures relating to Principal Endorsed Activities should be viewed at https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/health-and-safety/media/documents/risk-management/GUID004_Principal-Endorsed-Activity_V4.pdf and a risk assessment completed. To assist with the risk assessment, the schools' WHS consultant can be contacted [here](#).

The risk assessment for a colour run activity should address personal protective equipment such as masks for all participants and ensure that students with health conditions such as asthma have appropriate plans in place to enable them to participate safely.

Providers should give schools their risk management plan as part of any engagement, and schools can use this to inform their own planning activities.

General safety guidelines:

Providers need to have appropriate safety guidelines in place including:

- Participants must produce a signed liability waiver.
- The powder is released in open, well-ventilated areas.
- Powder is not thrown near open flames (grills) or near high heat sources (stage lights, electronic equipment).
- A water or dry chemical fire extinguisher is required to be on site in case there are outside dust fires. A CO₂ (carbon dioxide) extinguisher is not needed.
- Only hand-thrown, powder form colour may be used – not a spray powder.
- Colour powder should be thrown in the designated areas towards the runner's shirt or lower apparel and not towards the face.
- In case of an emergency, the first responder should have on-site a Safety Data Sheet for the colour powder.

Safety considerations for participants:

Students must have or do the following to participate:

- Wear enclosed shoes.
- Wear sunglasses or goggles for eye protection.
- Wear a P2 or P3 mask if they have an underlying respiratory condition, or wear a bandana to cover their face.
- Place their electronic equipment in a plastic bag or wrap in plastic.
- Apply hair conditioner or coconut or olive oil to their hair if they have light colored hair.



Health considerations as part of the risk assessment:

- Breathing in small particles such as corn flour over a long period can cause health problems.

To cover this, the risk assessment should address PPE including use of a P2 or P3 masks for students with an underlying respiratory condition, or a bandana for others.

- Inhalation of any airborne particles may trigger symptoms in students with a pre-existing respiratory condition due to irritation.
- In students with allergic sensitisation to an ingredient of the dust (e.g. corn) allergic inflammation in the lungs can also cause breathing difficulty.

To address this:

- Students with known corn allergy should not participate.
- PPE should be worn as above, individual health care plans to address emergency response and first aid should be available.
- Students who are unwell and experiencing asthma symptoms before the activity commences should avoid participation.
- On the day of the activity, other environmental factors such as pollen count, wind, and thunderstorm activity should be considered when assessing the potential risks.
- Students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis, or with asthma, should have appropriate health care plans in place, including emergency response arrangements (such as provision of an EpiPen or reliever asthma medication) which have been communicated to staff.
- Appropriate first aid equipment should be readily available and staff trained in emergency response.

Parental consent:

For any Principal Endorsed Activity, including the 'colour run' activity, consent is required from the parent or carer for all students wishing to attend.

To enable an informed decision to be reached, a copy of this Factsheet should accompany the consent form sent home to the parent or carer.

Further information

Please contact the WHS hotline on 1800 811 523 (option 6) if you would like assistance from a WHS Consultant.

Also refer to information at the following link:

[<Inside the department>](#)