

ARNCLIFFE PUBLIC SCHOOL



Information Booklet

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Arncliffe Public School

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Welcome to Arncliffe Public School

Congratulations on choosing Arncliffe Public School for your child. Our school has an outstanding reputation in the community as a centre of excellence, which embraces multiculturalism and inclusivity. Every student is 'known, valued and cared for' in a safe and nurturing environment. All students can access a curriculum that allows them to Connect, Succeed and Thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Arncliffe Public School provides a comprehensive range of quality educational programs, differentiated to cater for the individual needs of students, whilst maintaining a harmonious and caring atmosphere. Your child will be engaged and will receive an excellent tuition from highly skilled, sensitive staff who work together with the parent community to provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment.

Our goal is for every family to have an enjoyable and rewarding association with the school. We welcome and encourage parents to take an active interest in each child's educational and social progress. We value you as a most important part of a team that strives to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children.

I look forward to sharing the learning journey with you and celebrating all the success stories along the way.

Pamela Ladd
Principal

Executive Team:

Melissa Cameron Assistant Principal

Mikala Junee Assistant Principal

Natalia Bernard Assistant Principal

Elizabeth Raadik Assistant Principal Curriculum and Implementation

VISION STATEMENT

Arncliffe Public School educates students to become responsible, respectful and resilient learners through an innovative and challenging curriculum.

CORE VALUES

We believe that participation and trying our best is success

Our school motto is loyalty and truth

We are responsible and active learners

We respect everyone's right to be safe and happy

We care about our community and environment

We work together as a team

Everyone has a say

We are a proud school community

School Strategic Directions

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Student Growth and Attainment

Purpose:

To improve student achievement, growth and performance in reading and numeracy through establishing a culture of high expectations and collaborative practice.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Enhanced Collaborative Teaching Habits.

Purpose:

To build teacher capacity to strengthen outcomes by embedding whole school collaborative practices

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Strengthening Learning Partnership

Purpose:

To increase parental involvement in the school curriculum using the app See-Saw

General Information

For Kindergarten in **Term 1**: school starts at **9.00 am**
and finishes at **2.30 pm** for weeks 1-5
and **3.00 pm** for weeks 6-10

For **Terms 2, 3 & 4**: school starts at **9.00 am** and will finish at **3.00 pm**

There are two breaks during the school day. It is important that your child is given the appropriate food for each of these breaks.

Lunch 11:00 am – 11:50 am

Recess 1:40 pm – 2:00 pm

Our school also has 'Crunch & Sip' throughout the day. Your child will need to bring a fresh fruit or vegetable to snack on.

Does your child have a:

- ❖ hat
- ❖ uniform
- ❖ school bag
- ❖ lunch box
- ❖ raincoat
- ❖ sport uniform
- ❖ spare underwear and change of clothes

PLEASE clearly label all your child's belongings

Accidents - Wet /Soiled

Please note if your child has an accident at school you will be notified with a phone call. If they wet themselves and have a change of underwear/clothes they will be required to change themselves. If they soil themselves the office will contact you so that you can pick up your child. Please ensure you pack a change of underwear and clothes for your child.

Finance

The school does not encourage students to have money at school with the exception of small amounts to spend at the canteen or on special days eg mufti fundraisers.

A note through School Bytes will always be sent home on occasions where money may be required for mufti days, Mother's Day and Father's Day gift buying. On these occasions, please put the exact money in an envelope clearly marked with the child's name, class and purpose.

All other payments such as incursions and excursions are sent through School Bytes and are to be completed online with permissions notes.

Take Home Reading Program

To promote the literacy skills of all our students and to develop their enjoyment of reading, we have a Take Home Reading Program operating K-6. Children in all classes are able and expected to borrow books from school to take home and read as part of their home learning program. We want to encourage all students to make reading a habit not only in the classroom but also at home.

The program operates as follows:

- ❖ Each classroom has a selection of books which are suitable to the children's reading ability.
- ❖ In Kindergarten, the children are issued with a Home Learning Folder to protect the books.
- ❖ Parents are asked to listen and observe their child reading as well as talking about each book, discussing pictures etc and encouraging reading as an enjoyable activity.
- ❖ Children will be expected to take care of the books and the cost to replace lost books and bags will have to be paid.

We ask for your support and encouragement for the continued success of our Take Home Reading Program and the development of our students' Literacy skills.



Who Can Help You?

It is important that you as a parent feel comfortable in approaching the school on any matter that relates to the education of your child.

Your Class Teacher:	Can assist you in relation to the social adjustment and learning progress of your child within their class.
Learning and Support	Works closely with the school Counsellor and parents to provide advice to parents with students experiencing additional needs including social, emotional and academic. The learning and Support teacher delivers and coordinates school intervention programs. They also prepare applications for additional funding support where applicable.
School Counsellor:	Can assist you with advice for helping children experiencing emotional, psychological, social and learning problems.
Assistant Principals :	Can assist you with any queries regarding the classes or general organisation of the school and teaching program, as well as matters that relate to the education of your child.
Principal:	Can assist you with matters of a more urgent and serious nature.

Please remember to notify the school of any changes to your present situation that may affect your child's behaviour or progress at school.

Up-to-date contact information is essential for emergency situations.

Parent Participation

Parent Involvement

We encourage parents to be part of the life of the school in ways they feel are appropriate. Parents help in classrooms, in the canteen, in fundraising and on organisational committees within the school. The Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association at our school holds regular meetings, conducts fundraising activities and provides a forum for discussion about educational matters.



Be Excited About Reading (B.E.A.R) Program

Parents can also be involved in a reading program at school for students in Year 1. Parents will be trained in the program and will be required 3 times a week for a 10 week period to support individual students. The activities taught will also be a great help when working with your child during Home Learning activities.



Be Excited About Reading

Up-front Costs

Voluntary School Contributions

This money has always been used to supplement finance given to the school from the government and has helped supply the variety of resources and materials that your child uses in their class throughout the year.

Although school contributions are not compulsory the extra financial support towards school learning programs has proven very beneficial in improving student outcomes. We request \$50.00 per year for each child.

Textbooks and online programs

Classes within the school make use of textbooks to supplement teaching in one or more areas of the curriculum. The teacher's decision to use a particular textbook is made after careful consideration of its value to the class program.

The textbook levy includes three online learning program subscriptions. The programs are literacy and numeracy based, called Reading Eggs, Mathletics and Seesaw. These programs are used by teachers to enhance the learning opportunities for all students. Seesaw is aligned with the curriculum where teachers create lessons to reinforce the teaching and learning in the classroom. Seesaw connects family members to like and leave encouraging comments on their child's posts after the class teacher sends the work.

The school has a policy of keeping textbook use to a minimum. In the past approximately \$60.00 per child was requested to cover the cost of these books and online programs. Textbooks once purchased remain the property of the student.



Excursions

All excursions, performances and carnivals are a part of the school's curriculum and require your child's attendance and/or participation. It is not for your child to decide if they go or not. They are always organised to enhance and support work within the classroom. If you have any difficulty in this area, please contact us so the matter can be discussed. We are able to provide some financial assistance if necessary. Kindergarten usually visits a Farm, Botanical Gardens as well as a trip to Cronulla.

Notification of excursions is usually given at least two weeks prior to the date through School Bytes. The email will include important information regarding times that the students will leave and arrive back at school, cost and what they need to take with them.

Teachers always appreciate the assistance of parents on excursions but are sometimes limited with the number that they can invite.



In-School Performances

Throughout the year there may be performances held at school that are relevant to your child's class work. Once again, we encourage participation by all students at these events.

Facilities

Information Technology Centre

This area of the school consists of the library and computer room. The purpose of the centre is to enable the school community to develop information skills and make use of current technology vital to today's society.

The Library

School libraries are a central resource centre for the school. Our library provides a range of information technology and aims to help develop your children as effective users of this information.

Your child will visit the library at least once a week with their class and will be encouraged to borrow books and use the resources that it has to offer. In order to be able to borrow your child will need to have a School Library bag.



The Computer (Technology) Room

This room has been set up to assist the school community to become more familiar with current technology. Your children will make use of the room to develop their skills in technology alongside their learning in other areas of the curriculum.



The Canteen

Arncliffe Public School has been acknowledged within the region as having a quality healthy canteen. Our Canteen Manager Donna maintains a high level of nutrition and variety in the food that she provides. Due to her creativity and highly developed management skills, the canteen food is very popular with the children.

Lunch orders can be placed online through My School Connect. The canteen also provides snack foods which can be purchased at break times.

Donna employs part time staff to ensure the canteen consistently provides high quality food and service.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year Arncliffe Public School offers a variety of extra-curricular activities to enhance classroom learning experiences and improve student outcomes.

These include:

Wakakirri (song & dance musical)	(3-6)
A-Factor	(K-6)
Junior Choir	(K-2)
Stage 2 Choir	(3-4)
Stage 3 Choir	(5-6)
Public Speaking & Debating	(K-6)
School Band (Junior Music Group, String Ensemble, Recorder)	(1-6)

Student participation in extra-curricular activities is voluntary.

Depending on the activity and the organising teacher, some activities will include a selection process ie Talent Quests.

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

Seasons for Growth
Peaceful Kids / Peaceful Parents
Rock and Water
Clean Up Australia Day
Mother's Day / Father's Day Stalls & Breakfasts
Kindergarten Orientation & Transition
Education Week Performances
Book Week Celebrations
Easter Festival / Hat Parade
Grandparents Day / Harmony Day
Community Lunch / Dinner
Presentation Day
School Picnic
Nativity Play / End of year concert
Excursions & Incursions each term



School Programs

Sport and Fitness

All students K-6 participate in a fundamental movement skills program 3 days per week. This activity involves children learning the skills of jump, hop, skip, side step, leap, strike, catch and throw.

Minor and major games are played during class PE activities and Friday school sport programs. Common games include netball, soccer, cricket, softball, T-Ball, basketball and inline skating for students in Years 3-6.

The Botany Bay District has a very strong PSSA Competition. In this competition talented sport students are given the opportunity to compete against students from other schools. Arncliffe PS offers cricket and softball in summer and soccer, netball, NRL and OZ Tag in winter. The team selection process is based on the skill level of each individual student at the time of the selection trials. All PSSA representatives are required to sign a Sport Code of Conduct notice which they must adhere to in order to keep their place in the team.

Students in Years 3-6 participate in three major sport carnivals throughout the year. Students are placed into four houses (Mirribi, Wuri, Djindjingara and Djadjung). Houses are allocated points during the carnivals and winning houses are presented with a trophy at Presentation Night. House numbers are divided as evenly as possible to ensure the competitions are fair and equitable. It is a common practice to place siblings in the same house group. Early Term One a whole day swimming carnival is conducted to identify the most talented swimmers in the school. In Term 2 the Cross Country Carnival is held and in Term 3 an Athletics Carnival takes place at one of the local sporting grounds. The school selects a team from each carnival to represent the school in district competitions. District team selection is based entirely on student performance at school-based carnivals and district qualifying times.

Arncliffe PS promotes a very strong sporting culture. Our goal is to foster an attitude of participation and enjoyment in sport.



Student Representative Council

The SRC consists of class representatives from Year 1-6 who meet to discuss issues concerning the life of the school. The SRC organises activities to promote student participation in school decision-making.

Special Religious Instruction (SRE SEE Ethics)

Personnel from the following denominations - Anglican, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and Orthodox - are invited to visit the school weekly to give 30-minute religious instruction lessons. Combined (Ecumenical) Services are held every year around Easter.

Please make sure that you have indicated on your enrolment form or informed your class teacher which religious instruction class you wish your child to attend.

Ethics classes are also offered during Scripture time (instead of attending a religious lesson). The ethics teachers are usually parents associated with the school who have been trained in the delivery of the program, discussing moral dilemmas and life decisions.

Home Learning

Home Learning usually involves the completion of class work, mini-research, problem solving, reading and/or revision work. Generally, home learning is from Monday to Thursday.



ALL ABOUT CHILDREN

School Rules

The school has three rules which are displayed and used to reinforce behaviour. They are:

Responsible

I must show others that I am proud of my school

I have the responsibility to:

- ❖ wear the correct school and sports uniform
- ❖ behave well on excursions and when travelling to and from school
- ❖ be in the right place at the right time

Respectful

I must respect myself and other people, their beliefs, opinions and belongings

I have the responsibility to:

- ❖ treat everyone fairly and with care
- ❖ keep my hands to myself
- ❖ treat others with respect and tolerance
- ❖ play sport fairly
- ❖ always be truthful and honest
- ❖ ask permission before using others peoples' belongings
- ❖ help keep my school clean and tidy
- ❖ take care of buildings, furniture and all school property

Learner

I must try my best to learn and allow others to learn without interference.

I have the responsibility to:

- ❖ attend school and follow class rules
- ❖ be on time for class and school activities
- ❖ listen and follow the teachers' instructions
- ❖ allow others to learn
- ❖ behave well in class and on excursions
- ❖ always do my personal best learning



PRACTICES DESIGNED TO RECOGNISE AND REINFORCE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Arncliffe Public School is a Positive Behaviours for Learning School (PBL) where students are encouraged to be Respectful and Responsible Learners.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Verbal approval
Stamps and stickers

Commendations at assemblies
Special privileges
Gotcha Awards

House points

Principal's award

Ongoing regular contact with parents

Merit certificates and awards

IMPLEMENTING THE AWARD SYSTEM

1. Awards are accrued throughout students' years at Arncliffe Public School – K-6.
2. When a child has **20 Gotcha Awards** they are presented with a **Bronze Award**.
3. Teachers and support staff award Bronze certificates at weekly assemblies.
4. When a child has **5 Bronze Awards** they are presented with one **Silver Award**.
5. When a child has **5 Silver Awards**, they are presented with one **Gold Award**.
6. When a child has **3 Gold Awards**, they are presented with one **Blue Award and a Merit Badge**.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Classroom management is the wide range of organisational and instructional strategies that a teacher uses to ensure that quality teaching and learning occur for all students.

1. Create a positive environment.
2. Being fully prepared and organised for each day's activities by providing tasks that children find interesting, challenging, appropriate and that ensures that students experience some success.
3. Develop positive relationships with students through:
 - ❖ being approachable
 - ❖ modelling positive relationships inside/outside the classroom.
 - ❖ respect for the children
 - ❖ praising
 - ❖ being consistent
4. Establish a small set of class rules, display them and ensure they are known and understood by all students.
5. Establish clear consequences for rule breaking.
6. Procedures are calmly and consistently implemented with all students.
7. Respond to appropriate behaviour more than unsuitable behaviour with positive feedback such as a smile, an encouraging comment, sticker, stamp etc.
8. Student self reflection is encouraged.

STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

LEVELS

0. All children begin at this level and remain at this level unless placed in behaviour records.

1. Two offences in either the classroom or the playground book in a floating five week period - the student is referred to the relevant welfare coordinator i.e; Learning and Support Teachers and Assistant Principal for counselling and a stern warning. Parents are contacted by phone requesting an interview.

2. Three offences in either the classroom or the playground book in a floating five week period – the student is referred to the relevant welfare coordinator, Learning and Support Teachers and Assistant Principal an interview with the parents is requested and the student is placed on a behaviour monitoring card addressing individual needs on return to class/playground, depending on the area of the problem.

At this level the child's behaviour is considered unsatisfactory for representation in school teams, attendance at performances or participation in school excursions. If the child receives another misbehaviour entry whilst on Level 2 they will be referred to the Learning Support Team or Principal. The child may be considered for suspension.

3. Recommendation to suspend: Continued offences whilst on Behaviour Card. The child has had many opportunities to address their behaviour and at this level the recommendation is made to the Principal for suspension.

BEHAVIOUR MONITORING CARDS

A behaviour monitoring card is an A4 sheet in size which contains room for a teacher comment on behaviour at various intervals during the day.

If the Behaviour Monitoring Card is the result of unexpected behaviour at school (in the classroom or playground), the card will contain an area for comment on behaviour in all daily sessions.

If a student is placed on a behaviour monitoring card the student is:

- ❖ responsible for collecting a card from the classroom teacher at the beginning of the day
- ❖ responsible for getting the comment from the teacher and the card signed
- ❖ responsible for taking the card home, discussing the day with their parent and getting it signed
- ❖ responsible for returning the card to the relevant welfare coordinator the following day

A behaviour monitoring card indicates that there is a serious problem with the student's behaviour. It provides a means of daily communication between school and home. Parents are encouraged to discuss the teacher comments with their child.

A student will stay on the behaviour monitoring card until they have returned 5 cards (1 week). These cards must contain positive teacher comments which reflect a change in the student's behaviour. If a student is placed on a second behaviour card, it is for 2 weeks.

Uniforms

Students are expected to wear full school uniform every day.

Girls Summer: Blue check uniform
Black shoes and white socks
Royal blue or white hair ribbons
Royal blue jacket/sloppy joe

Girls Winter: Royal blue tracksuit with a white polo shirt or skivvy
and white socks with black shoes
Royal blue check pinafore with white blouse or skivvy
and navy stocking with black shoes
Royal blue or white hair ribbons
Royal blue all weather jacket / sloppy joe

Boys Summer: Grey shorts
Sky blue polo shirt
Black shoes and grey socks
Royal blue jacket / sloppy joe

Boys Winter: Grey trousers
Royal blue tracksuit
Sky blue polo shirt or skivvy
Black shoes and grey socks
Royal blue jacket / sloppy joe

Sports uniform

Boys	Sport polo shirt Royal blue shorts or royal blue tracksuit Sport shoes with white socks
Girls	Sport polo shirt Royal blue shorts / skorts or royal blue tracksuit Sport shoes with white socks

A **school hat** is considered a **compulsory** part of school uniform all year and a “No hat-No play” policy operates in Terms 1 to 4. Hats are available at the school or Lowes Rockdale.

All uniform requirements are available from Lowes Rockdale.

On selected occasions throughout the year the P&C runs a second-hand uniform sale.

Helpful Hints

For children coming to a new school it is important that you try to help your child:

- ❖ Feel good about coming to school
- ❖ Play with school friends
- ❖ Speak in both their cultural language and English
- ❖ Bring all the equipment that they will need each day
- ❖ Know who at school can help them if they have a problem
- ❖ Take an interest in books (Read to them whenever you can)
- ❖ Get a good night's sleep and not stay up late
- ❖ Have a proper breakfast
- ❖ Complete homework given each night Monday to Thursday

Show an interest in your child's education:

- ❖ Talk with them about what they do at school
- ❖ Look at, praise and display work that they bring home
- ❖ Make sure that they arrive and leave school at the correct times
- ❖ Collect notes, newsletters and information sent home
- ❖ Appreciate that your child is an individual

School Website: <http://www.arncliffe-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Visit our website regularly to become familiar with our school programs, find out about upcoming events, find out about becoming involved and view current school policies.

Parent App and Portal: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education/auth/login>

Our school has implemented a system called School Bytes to manage payments for excursions and to email parents about important matters. Parents/carers can visit the School Bytes portal at any time to make a payment online, view payment history and apply credit. Visit above link to set up your account.

Arncliffe School song

Along the highway
Southwards from the city
Is Arncliffe School, it is our school.

And there we have a
gathering of children
From Arncliffe School.
It is our school.

We are children of so many nations
Across the sea. Across the sea.
“Loyalty and Truth”, it is our motto
True friends we’ll be.
True friends we’ll be.

“Arncliffe, Arncliffe”
Let the chorus ring
Arncliffe, Arncliffe, everybody sing
We work for truth and for the right
To wear our colours blue and white
Play the game and always aim to
Try with all our might (Repeat)



Arncliffe Public School Acknowledgement of Country

As the students, staff and community of Arncliffe Public School, we acknowledge the culture and wildlife on the lands of the Kameygal and Bidjigal Clans of the Eora Nation.

We as a school community succeed by doing our best and showing gratitude and kindness to teachers, friends and family.

We live and learn on what always was and always will be Aboriginal land, so we pledge to nurture our school with pride.

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hope for Aboriginal Australia.

As the Ancestors guide us, we shoot for the sky as it holds our sports houses Djindjingara our stars, Wuri our sun, Mirribi our thunder and Djadjung our moon.

Created in June 2024

