



Dapto Public School

We Work as a Team

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About Us - 2022



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Dapto Public School. We pride ourselves in the excellence of learning where children can work towards and achieve their potential. With a strong emphasis on the development of the basics, success is achieved through becoming effective readers, writers and mathematicians. However, we hold most pride in the creation of a supportive and caring atmosphere throughout our school, an atmosphere where children can grow in an environment conducive for learning.

Our reputation for providing the best possible education, which includes a wide range of activities, ensures all students are engaged and motivated. Our school is the winner of numerous awards in educational initiatives. Our programs in the creative arts have a proud tradition of excellence and we are renowned throughout the Wollongong and South Coast area. Our teachers have been recognised for their personal excellence and contribution to education. Most importantly, past students have gone on to selective educational placements and, post schooling, to successful careers.

Dapto's proud history continues in the day to day interactions with children and in giving them the 'keys to success in life' through a strong and effective education. We have all students in permanent buildings and are creating wonderful playground spaces for them to explore and socialise.

I warmly welcome you again to your community's school.

Mr Tony Friedrich

Principal



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Section 1: Dapto Public School

Our Statement Of Purpose

Dapto Public School provides quality educational experiences and opportunities for all students.

We aim to develop the individual talents, interests and abilities which will enable students to reach their full potential, with the capacity and confidence to succeed in the 21st Century.

A Brief History

Dapto Public School was opened in 1876 in Dapto. It was relocated to Horsley in 2004 and now has 38 permanent classrooms. We have recently completed the new 20 classroom building and are enjoying having all students learning in permanent educational spaces. The school has an extensive library and a hall which can be used for school and community functions.

Our School Education Director

Ms Raechel McCarthy
Wollongong Network of Schools

School Contact Details

Ph. 4261 2247 or 4261 1015

Email: dapto-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.daptops.nsw.edu.au.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DaptoPublicSchool

The Staff

The School Executive

Mr Tony Friedrich	-	Principal
Mrs Klepczarek	-	Deputy Principal
Miss Wood	-	Deputy Principal
Mrs Hol	-	Assistant Principal
Mrs Tucker	-	Assistant Principal
Mrs Pett	-	Assistant Principal
Mrs Nordstrom	-	Assistant Principal
Mrs Smith	-	Assistant Principal
Miss Lamb	-	Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction

At the commencement of each school year a list of class teachers' names is published together with the class that they will be teaching.

A Teacher/ Librarian is employed for five days each week. This is for children to access literature for research or enjoyment.

Release from Face to Face (RFF) teaching is provided to all full time teachers for two hours release per week to allow them to plan lessons, conduct parent interviews and to prepare

individual programs. RFF teachers continue to work on each class' learning program during this time.

Supporting Students

Learning Support Team

The role of the Learning Support Team at Dapto Public School is to facilitate and coordinate a whole school approach to plan and provide support for individuals, groups of students and staff. The Learning Support Team coordinates the planning process and resourcing for students with additional needs. It has a key role in developing and supporting teachers' capabilities to design, implement and evaluate programs, personalised learning and support plans and deliver adjustments that enable all students to access learning.

Learning Support Teachers

Dapto Public School has a range of Learning Support Teachers (LST) who provide direct and timely specialist assistance to students who have been identified as requiring extra support to meet their individual needs.

School Counsellor

School counselling staff are members of the school learning support team. A teacher may recommend the service by referring the student to the team. The school counselling service can:

- support students who are worrying about school work, friends, getting in trouble at school or just feeling down
- assist parents make decisions about their child's education
- assess a student's learning and behaviour
- help teachers and students identify and address disabilities that may affect learning
- liaise with other agencies regarding student wellbeing

School counselling is a confidential service.

School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs)

School Learning Support Officers work under the direction and supervision of the classroom teacher. They provide assistance to students with a disability and additional learning and support needs enrolled in both specialist support classes and regular classes.

School Administrative Support Staff

Ms Brittany Doyle	- Business Manager
Mrs Bec Van Mouwerik	- School Administrative Officer/Business Manager
Mrs Renata Pierro	- School Administrative Officer
Mrs Heather Hopkinson	- School Administrative Officer
Mrs Krystin Smith	- School Administrative Officer
Mr Kim Wall	- General Assistant

Classes

Classes are formed at the beginning of the school year. Class formation will be carefully considered with regard to individual need. At the beginning of each year the school will retain students in holding classes (which are last year's classes) for a couple of days while numbers are confirmed for the year.

School Hours

School commences	- 8:55 am
School finishes	- 2:50 pm
Morning Session	- 8:55am – 10:55am
Lunch	- 10:55am – 11:35am (includes 10 mins eating time)
Mid Session	- 11:35am – 1:20pm
Recess	- 1:20pm – 1:50pm
Afternoon Session	- 1:50pm – 2:50pm

The School Environment

The school is situated in Horsley in the middle of an established residential area. The grounds are pleasant with large grassed and concrete playing areas for the students. Security fencing surrounds the school supporting a safe learning environment.

After finishing the building of the new 20 classroom spaces, all students are in permanent classrooms that have the latest in technology and educational teaching aides. Every class has a smart television. This is the latest in educational technology. All computers are connected to the internet ensuring that all children have access. There is wireless connectivity throughout the school to support our ICT and BYOD program.

The school hall provides a venue for assemblies, dance, drama and musical activities. Visiting performance groups use the hall to present items of educational value to the children. The hall is also used by Before and After School Care and government elections.

Our school has two covered outdoor learning areas (COLA) to provide areas for Dapto students to have a place to play out of the sun and rain, along with another venue for assemblies and special events.

The Library is a focal point of the school, and is situated in the middle of our grounds. It is computerised and connected to the Internet. There is a network of computers for students to enhance their research and technology skills.

Supervision

Supervision by staff is provided from 8.25am each day. **It is not safe for students to be on the premises before this time as they are not supervised.**

For students who need to come to school before 8.25am and require care after 2.50pm, Before and After School Care is available in the school hall. Interested parents should contact Peak Sports and Learning on Ph. 1300 467 325 for more information or click the link from our school's website.

Late Arrivals

Any child who arrives at school after 9.00am must obtain a late note from the school office before going to class. This is because class teachers would have already marked the student as absent on the class roll. This is very important to ensure that we have accounted for all students during an emergency.

Early Departure

To ensure the safety of our children, if you wish to collect your child before the end of the school day you must obtain a leave pass from the school office before going to the classroom. The leave pass is then handed to the class teacher. A note must be provided to the class teacher if someone other than yourself is to pick up your child. Please go to the gate on Sierra Drive and press the buzzer to speak to our office staff.

Visiting The School

When visiting the school during school time, buzz at the office at the Sierra Drive gate. When allowed to enter, you must report to the office and sign in the visitors register via our sign in iPad. You will be issued with a visitors badge to wear whilst in the school grounds and classrooms. Please return the badge to the office and sign back out on the same iPad when leaving the school.

Interviews

You are always welcome to arrange an interview to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling. If you wish to have an interview please contact the office via phone or email to arrange a time when the class teacher will be available. Interpreters can be provided. There are scheduled interviews at the beginning of Term 3 each year, held after half yearly reports have gone home. Additionally, each year in the first half of Term 1 there is a meet the teacher evening.




School Uniforms

School policy, determined by the school community, is that the children should wear school uniforms. We are extremely proud of our students and our school. Wearing school uniform fosters pride in the school and assists in the development of good tone and conduct.



School uniforms are available from Lowes in Dapto Mall.

Current Price List/Order forms can be downloaded from the school's website.

Girl's Uniform

Summer Options		Winter Options
<p>Blue and white check A-Line dress, white socks, black shoes & school hat.</p> 	<p>School shirt worn with royal blue culottes white socks, black shoes & school hat.</p> 	<p>School shirt, royal blue slacks, royal blue fleece jumper or school jacket, black shoes, white socks & school hat.</p> 

Boy's Uniform

Summer	Winter
<p>Grey shorts worn with school shirt, grey socks, black shoes & school hat.</p> 	<p>School shirt, grey pants, royal blue fleecy jumper or school jacket, grey socks, black shoes & school hat.</p> 

In the interests of health, children are required to have a school hat when playing in the playground, at sport or on an excursion. Our school's policy is "No hat, play in the shade".



Labelling

You are asked to ensure that all school clothing is appropriately labelled so that lost items may be readily returned.

Home School Communication

The school recognises that the education of our children is the shared responsibility of the home and the school. Our School App is designed to deliver streamlined communication as soon as events occur. We will keep you updated with daily news and reminders, as well as celebrating the success of our students. Notes requiring permission will be available through the school App and will also be attached to the school's website for parents to download.

We try to keep you as fully informed as possible on all matters relating to your child's education. Any concern felt by you should be discussed with the class teacher or the Assistant Principal for your child's stage as soon as possible. In turn, we will contact you if we have concerns for your child as well. Please ensure the office has your latest contact numbers.

Student Wellbeing

Student Wellbeing involves everything that the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of our students. It is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered. It incorporates effective discipline and preventative health and social skills programs.

The Dapto Public School's Student Wellbeing program provides opportunities for our students to:

- enjoy success and recognition
- make a useful contribution to the life of the school
- derive enjoyment from their learning

The Welfare System

At Dapto we have developed a Welfare Policy which promotes and encourages the growth and development of self discipline and excellent behaviour. We provide a safe and happy environment in which students can achieve their full potential.

We have a system of rewards/awards to encourage and support positive behaviour. Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour are also in place so that children can realise that there are consequences for their actions.

The Welfare Policy, which is strongly based on the Department of Education's *Student Welfare and Student Discipline in Government Schools Policy*, has been reviewed during 2017 to incorporate changes, and is currently being reviewed again to ensure it stays current and relevant.

Students work towards earning awards, all aimed at positive reinforcement, which supports their development. Awards include Merit Certificates presented at assemblies and the School Spirit Award which is given out twice a term to recognise and support positive behaviour.

There are 3 encompassing 'School Rules' which are the basis of the values we teach here at Dapto. They are; **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner.**



School Website & School APP

You can visit our school website at:

www.daptops.nsw.edu.au

There you will find information about our school, student work samples and news updates.

Celebrating EXCELLENCE in EDUCATION at Dapto Public School

On Wednesday evening our Year 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 students were very fortunate to attend the Dapto Public School Open Day. The students were very proud to represent their school and to show the community the progress they have made in their studies.

OPEN DAY was a HUGE Success!!

Welcome to Dapto Public School!

We are located in the heart of the Dapto area, just off the main road. Our school has a convenient location providing the best in education for all students. We are proud to be a part of the Dapto community and to provide a safe and secure environment for all students.

Our professional teachers interact with each other and work together to ensure that all students are successful in their studies. Our school has a proud tradition in the science and technology fields and we are proud to be a part of the Dapto community.

Our school has a strong focus on the development of literacy and numeracy skills. Our professional teachers interact with each other and work together to ensure that all students are successful in their studies. Our school has a proud tradition in the science and technology fields and we are proud to be a part of the Dapto community.

NEWSLETTERS

Subscribe to our newsletter to receive the latest news and updates from the school.

The School Environment

The Grounds

The school is situated in Hervey in the middle of an excellent residential area. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with large grassed and concrete playing areas for the students. Security fencing surrounds the school supporting a safe learning environment.

Our school has two covered outdoor learning areas (COULAs) to provide areas for Dapto students to play out of the sun and rain, along with being another venue for assemblies and special events.

The Library, Computer Lab & Multimedia Centre

The library is a focal point of the school, and is situated in the middle of our grounds. It is computerised and connected to the internet. There is a small network of computers for students to enhance their research and technology skills. Associated with the library building is our school's computer lab and multimedia centre. This houses 30 desktop systems to provide for the latest in technology. Features of this room include, projector, full internet access and a server for students to individually login and retain their work.

The library is also equipped with a Connected Classroom Interactive Whiteboard which teachers can use to communicate and share lessons with other participating schools.

A Book Fair is held at least once a year with all money raised from the sale of these books going to further expand our resources in the library.

The Classrooms

Our classrooms contain the latest in technology and educational teaching aids. Every class has an interactive whiteboard. This is the latest in educational technology. All computers are connected to the internet ensuring that all children are connected to the world. Each classroom has a class bank of computers which have filtered internet access.

School Hall

The school hall provides a venue for assemblies, dances, drama and musical activities. Visiting performance groups use the hall to present items of educational value to the children.

The hall is also currently used by After School Care and as a polling venue for elections.

Dapto Public School App!

EXCITING NEWS! We Have a School App!

Our new communication app is designed to deliver streamlined communication as soon as events occur. Our new school app replaces our previous Newsletter and will be more effective in communicating with parents in terms of news, emergency alerts, notes and other information. We will keep you updated with daily news and reminders, as well as celebrating the successes of our students.

Remember, the Dapto Public School website also has plenty of school information and a school calendar of events for everyone to access. Everything that is posted in the app can be accessed on the school website, under 'News & Events'.

More in depth instructions on how to download the app are on the back of this note.

Download the free app to receive information, news and alerts!

iPhone / iPad and Android: Press the App Store or Play Store icon on your device, search for "Dapto Public School".

Windows Phone / Windows: Press the Windows Store icon on your device, search for "School News". Download app, open and search for "Dapto Public School".

DPS App Guide

- Check news and alert notices. Community and whole-school updates will be found in 'News & Newsletters'. Notes and notices that are specific to certain year groups can be found in each year's list. Reminders of upcoming deadlines and due dates are also posted.
- Download permission notes in case they get lost between school and home!
- Subscribe to your child's year list through the 'Settings' icon.
- DID YOU KNOW?** At the start of each year, your subscription is automatically rolled over to your child's new year group!
- Check upcoming dates and events on the school calendar.
- Make payments for excursions and other events.
- Complete and submit permission notes.
- Fill out absentee notes (the school will be notified automatically).
- Be taken to other important links. From here you can check things like the Carlsen Menu and P&C updates!

How To Download the App

- Press the App Store icon on your device (Play Store for Android devices).
- Press "Search" at the bottom of the screen. Search "Dapto Public School" in the search bar.
- Find our DPS logo, and press "Get". Remember, our App is FREE!
- The App will download. Once downloading is complete you will be able to open it.
- When you open the app, it will ask about notifications. Press ALLOW - this way, you will be alerted as soon as any new alerts or reminders are posted!
- DON'T FORGET! Make sure you go into "Settings" and select which lists you would like to subscribe to. These automatically roll over every year as your children move into higher grades.

Take some time to look through and become familiar with the app. If you have any questions, or are unsure about anything, please do not hesitate to ask!

Section 2: The School Curriculum

English / Literacy

The aim of the Australian English K-10 Syllabus is to develop competence in using language and encourage positive attitudes towards learning English.

The new Australian English Syllabus was implemented in 2014 and covers the following objectives:

- Speaking and Listening
- Writing and Representing
- Handwriting and using digital technologies
- Reading and viewing
- Spelling
- Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary
- Thinking imaginatively and creatively
- Expressing themselves
- Reflecting on Learning

You can best support the school's program by reading to or with your child for a short time each evening and by encouraging your child to choose and read books in their areas of interest. It is a good idea to then discuss the text with them.

The handwriting style used in NSW schools is called Foundation style. In the later years of primary school, children are encouraged to develop their own style of handwriting.

Mathematics / Numeracy

Mathematics is best learned in an atmosphere of engagement and challenge. The Mathematics program at Dapto provides children with opportunities to learn to:

- describe and apply patterns and relationships
- reason, predict and solve problems
- calculate both mentally and in written form
- estimate and measure
- interpret and communicate information presented in numerical, geometrical, graphical, statistical and algebraic forms

The new Australian Mathematics Syllabus was implemented in 2016 and ensures that children progress through sequential activities in the areas of Number & Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.



History and Geography

In Geography K–6, students investigate the diversity of places, including economic, demographic and social differences across countries. They explore business activities and trade connections across local and global scales and the effects of technologies and economic activities on people's lives. Students examine how local and state governments organise and manage places.

The *History Syllabus* provides opportunities in K–6 to learn about Change and Continuity. Students continue to investigate their connections with the past through personal, family and local community history. They examine significant events and people that shaped Australian colonies and the nation.

Science And Technology

This learning area is concerned with preparing children for life in the 21st Century so that they are able to respond to the growth of scientific and technological knowledge. Science is concerned with finding out about the world in a systematic way. Technology is about the effective use of resources to meet the needs of our modern society.

Computer Education

The school operates a diverse technology education program in all classes. The program is designed to develop skills in the use of computers and the internet, as well as encourage students' understanding of the benefits that technology brings to an individual's life. All students are given the opportunity to use computers as a learning tool across all areas of the curriculum.

Each classroom has a smart TV. This education tool is the latest in educational technology and provide students with access to the internet and other learning resources. This tool stimulates learning and allows teachers to demonstrate skills in a creative and effective way. All classrooms in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 have a small bank of iPads and desktop computers to support learning programs. Students in Years 3 to 6 participate in the school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. The BYOD program allows each student to have their own device which they can work with in their classroom. The devices enhance learning for all students and support existing classroom practices. All devices are connected to the internet which is filtered by the department to ensure inappropriate material is not accessed by the students.



Creative Arts (CA)

Incorporates Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. The Creative Arts Curriculum is designed to enable students to gain increasing understanding and accomplishment in the visual arts, music, drama and dance and for students to appreciate the meanings and values that each of the art forms offer personally, culturally and as forms of communication. At the beginning of each year, Year 3-6 children will be offered an area of the arts to specialise in for the year.



Personal Development, Health And Physical Education (PDHPE)

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education is the Key Learning Area in which children gain an understanding of themselves, how they can relate effectively with others, make responsible decisions and take action enabling them to enhance the quality of their lives. More directly than in any other curriculum area, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education emphasises the importance of leading healthy lifestyles and the need for understanding the mental, physical and social factors that influence personal health.



School Sport

We offer a large range of sports to all our children both through the school sports program and the interschool Gala Days. The sports program aims to encourage participation and cooperation whilst providing training in skills needed in a variety of sports.

- The Year 3 to 6 students have the opportunity to trial and participate in PSSA Gala Day competitions in various sports.
- Competitive competition in Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country.
- Special sporting options include ten pin bowling, tennis and sporting clinics as available.
- State knockouts including soccer, rugby league, AFL and basketball.
- For talented students in the area of sport, there is the opportunity to trial for representative teams. Representative honors are at a Zone, Regional, State and Australian level. We have had many students successful in achieving representative teams. These students have enjoyed and developed their sporting abilities.

For purposes of school based sporting competitions, pupils are grouped into 4 Houses:

Dimond (Blue) named after Bob and Peter Dimond, both ex-pupils of our school who represented Australia many times in rugby league.

Wongawilli (Green) the name of the coal mine opened here in 1888, one of the first coal mines to produce a million tonnes of coal a year in 1962.

Beach (Red) named after William Beach, a local blacksmith who became the world champion in rowing in 1884. He trained in Mullet Creek and defended his title 6 times before retiring, undefeated.

Marshall (Yellow) Sarah and Henry Osborne came to Dapto in 1829 to take up a 2,560 acre land grant they called Marshall Mount (after Sarah's maiden name). They were very involved in public affairs and St Luke's Church.

Children are placed in a House in Kindergarten and remain in that House for the rest of their time at the school. Children from the same family are placed in the same House.



Section 3: General Information

Change Of Details

Please notify the school of any alterations to custody, work contact numbers or address details as soon as there is any change. Providing accurate details promptly will allow for effective communication between parents and the school. This process is for both the health and safety of your child and, as stated above, for the collection of relevant data.

Emergency Contacts

It is extremely important that in the event of an emergency the school is able to contact parents during school hours. Any change to emergency contact telephone numbers or relevant information during the year should be notified immediately to the school office.

Custody Of Children

When children attending school are in the custody of one parent or guardian, a copy of the court order outlining the conditions of custody should be sighted by the Principal. It is important that this procedure be carried out so that we are aware of the situation and can act in the best interests of your child.

School Attendance

The Education Act (1990) requires that parents ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school. Regular attendance plays a vital role not only in a child's academic progress but also in their social and emotional development.

The Department of Education requires a valid reason from parents and carers when their child is away from school.

These may include:

- An unavoidable medical or dental appointment
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstances
- Being sick, or having an infectious disease

If your child has to be absent or is absent the school must be notified within seven school days of the absence occurring. This is usually by way of a note but can also be a phone call or visiting the school to inform the class teacher or office. Our office sends out text notifications each day to parents/caregivers of absent students, which can also be replied to with an explanation or reason for the student's absence.

Holidays

Parents are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. However, if it is necessary to take holidays during school time, parents can apply for a **Certificate of Extended Leave**. This will ensure that absences are not recorded as unjustified. Forms are available from the office.

Arrival on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students don't miss out on important learning activities
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Reduces disruption to the class

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained the same way as other forms of absence.

Money and Permission Notes Collection

When money and permission notes are needed to be returned to school it should be **sent in an envelope** to the office and placed in the postal slot in the school foyer wall. The envelope needs to have clearly written:

- your child's name
- class
- the activity the money is for

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or POP (Parent Online Payments). The online payment portal can be accessed through our school website or the school app.

Permission notes are available digitally on the school app, as well as in hard copy form from the school office.

School Library

The school library is open for children to read or borrow books at lunch and recess each day and also during class library lessons. All children must bring a library bag to school when borrowing and returning books during their library class time. A serviceable library bag can be purchased from the Office.



First Aid

First aid for any serious injury incurred by your child at this school is provided by a member of the Administration Staff who has a current First Aid certificate. Any child requiring first aid should firstly report to the class teacher or the teacher on playground duty. All teachers receive training in emergency care. Any injury or illness of a more serious nature will be notified to the parents on the contact number provided.

Lost Property

All items of lost property are handed in to the school office. Items that have names marked on them are returned immediately to the correct student. Children or parents wishing to look for missing items should check the front office. Please remember that labelling your child's belongings will greatly assist in preventing lost property.

Medicine

In the interests of safety for all children the school requires that all medications be handed in at the school office where the office staff will oversee distribution and dosage. All medication must be accompanied by a completed and signed *Request for Support at School for a Student's Health Care Condition* form, in order for it to be administered. This form must also be accompanied by a letter from your child's Doctor stating the medication plan including the child's name, medication, dosage and time for administration. All medication is required to have a prescription label identifying the child's name, medication and dosage requirements. All medication must be in its original packaging.

Teachers are not permitted to administer any medication. Members of the Administrative Staff are certified in the *Administration of Prescribed Medications and Asthma Treatments*.

Please advise your child's class teacher of any medication regularly administered at home, which might have an impact on your child's performance and behaviour.

Asthma puffers may remain with students after consultation with the office staff.

Students requiring a Health Care plan are required to arrange a meeting with the Deputy Principal to ensure procedures are documented and that the school is best meeting the needs of the child.

School Photographs

In Term 1 the school arranges for individual, class and special group photos to be taken by professional photographers. Photographs are organised on a prepaid order basis. Every class and student is photographed.

Bus Travel

All students in Infants are eligible for free bus travel to and from school. Primary students are eligible for free bus travel if the distance travelled to school is greater than 1.6km. Opal Cards must be tapped on and off during travel. If lost or stolen a replacement Opal Card can be purchased via Transport NSW: transportnsw.info/school-students.

When travelling on buses, students must observe the NSW Department of Transport Code of Conduct to protect their own safety and the safety and comfort of other students. A copy of the code of conduct is available from the school office.

Opal Cards may be withdrawn as a result of poor behaviour. You can direct any bus enquiries to Premier Illawarra on 4271 1322 or Transport NSW on 131 500.

Bicycles

Children may park bicycles in the bike racks which are located on the school grounds:

- Only children 10 years or older are permitted to ride a bike to school. This is in line with the Department of Education and Training and NSW Roads and Traffic Authority recommendation that children under 10 years of age DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult.
- Children must return a completed Bicycle Users Contract to school before riding to school. They will be issued a Dapto PS bike license tag to attach to their bike.

- The bicycle is to be parked and locked in the bicycle racks and not ridden in the school grounds
- The road rules are obeyed whilst riding to and from school
- Helmets are worn at all times while riding
- The bicycle is road worthy

Under no conditions are bicycles to be ridden on school grounds.



Skateboards, scooters and rollerblades are not permitted.

Religious Instruction

Members of the clergy and other volunteers conduct half hour classes in religious instruction for students each Tuesday. Classes are formed according to religious denominations. Parents are asked to give permission for their child to attend these classes and to select which denomination they wish to attend.

Ethics Classes

Ethics classes are available for students who do not attend the available Scripture classes. Ethics is a branch of philosophy and examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances.

Classroom Assistance

During the year parents, grandparents and caregivers provide valuable assistance by helping in the classrooms. They supervise activities, listen to children read, help with writing and research and also with Physical Education. If you are able to help in any way, please contact your child's teacher. If you are assisting in the classroom you are required to complete a *Child Protection* form and to sign in at the office each time so that we have a record of your visit. This is for safety and insurance purposes.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, unfortunately we are unable to accommodate any parent helpers at this time, however, we will notify the community once these restrictions are lifted.

Classroom Requisites

The Department of Education provides most of the exercise books and other materials required by the students. Pencils, pens and rulers etc. are tools or resources that students need to bring daily to school to enable them to complete their tasks. Childrens' learning opportunities are hampered by the absence of these resources. Your child's class teacher will send home a list of resources that you need to buy for your child. Please supply your children with these resources as soon as possible. In Kindergarten, most resources are provided, including pencils.

The Parents' And Citizens' Association

The active Parents' and Citizens' Association (P & C) meets Monday evenings in weeks 4 and 8 of each school term. The branch organisations of the P & C work together to raise funds to provide additional materials and equipment which is needed for the school's educational programs. At the regular meetings, matters are discussed relating to the educational programs of the school and the welfare of the children.

We encourage you to join the school's P & C Association and attend these meetings.



The School Canteen

Our school canteen is operated by a private business called 'Made Fresh'.

The canteen is open every day, Monday to Friday, from 8.25am to 1.50pm.

Orders are handed in at the canteen before the commencement of school. Orders should be written on a paper bag of suitable size, showing the name and class of your child. Please ensure that sufficient money is enclosed with orders, preferably the exact amount. They also have an online ordering system called Flexischools which simplifies the lunch order process. For further information, please log onto www.flexischools.com.au.

Information about our canteen can be found under the 'Links' tab on our School App.



Mufti-Days

Occasionally during the year the school will have “Mufti-Days”. Generally these days are held for fundraising purposes and children are asked to donate either an item or gold coin for the privilege of attending school in plain clothes (not uniform). On these days there are still guidelines to follow:

- No thongs
- No midriff tops
- No shirts with inappropriate language or slogans

Homework

At the beginning of the school year each teacher informs parents of the homework procedures for his/her class. In general, homework in Stage 1 should not exceed 20 minutes per night. In higher grades homework should be limited to not more than 30 minutes. Kindergarten home reading will commence when the children are ready. Homework is valuable in that work learned during the day can be consolidated. It develops good study habits and provides a link between home and school. It is also a good practice to read to or listen to your child read each night. Please visit our website to view our homework policy.

How Parents Can Help

You, as the parent, can help greatly by showing your interest. You can:

- see that your child brings homework home regularly and returns it on time.
- help to provide a regular time and place where your child can work free from interruptions.
- be available to hear reading and discuss the content of the text.
- make this time a happy, sharing time for you and your child. If homework becomes stressful for your child, please discuss the matter with the class teacher.

The Environment

The whole school is concerned with our environment. We are active recyclers and participate in various recycling programs. The school is actively investigating ways to utilise our water resources effectively whilst developing conservation ideals. A rainwater tank to harvest the water from the school stormwater has been installed and used to water gardens. Our school fosters revegetation of the local area and students run an environmental program where seedlings are grown and distributed to the families of the school.



Extra Curricular Activities

Our school offers a variety of opportunities for students to join activities which may be held outside of class time. These activities are used to develop individual talents of students while providing choice and personal interest in education. Some activities include;

- Dance Group for students in Years 3-6.
- Choir for students in Years 3-6.
- Sporting teams that may train before school or during lunch breaks.
- Extension Art
- Debating and public speaking activities.

Excursions And Incursions

Excursions and visiting performances (Incursions) are part of the school's educational program. Each activity is chosen to support an educational program which is operating in the classroom.

All children are expected to participate in the excursions and incursions organised for their class in order to gain maximum benefit from the classroom activities conducted before and after the activity.

Written details will be provided to parents and written parental permission will be sought before a child can participate in an excursion or performance.

Student Assistance

The school has access to limited funds for parents who are facing financial difficulty in providing resources needed for their child at school whether it be uniforms or workbooks, or making payments for incursions or excursions. Please contact the office at school for information on the guidelines for applying for Student Assistance. All requests for Student Assistance are strictly confidential.

Student Leadership

Dapto Public School strives to foster leadership in the students in a variety of ways.

School Captains

Each year School Captains and Vice Captains are elected. These students perform many important tasks at a variety of school functions. They are expected to provide an example of appropriate behaviour and attitude to the rest of the school, as are all senior students.



Opportunity Classes

In May each year, parents of Year 4 students may apply to sit for the placement test to attend an Opportunity class in Years 5 and 6. In Term 1 of Year 5, students may apply to sit for the placement test to attend a High Potential and Gifted and Talented class, that runs one day per week.

Entrance To High School

This process begins in Year 5 with applications for interested students to Selective High Schools. Local High School placements are arranged when your child is in Year 6. Dapto High School & Kanahooka High School are our local High Schools. Children seeking entrance to Selective State High Schools, Technology High Schools, Schools of Excellence or other High Schools must nominate at the appropriate time. Private Secondary School enrolment must be arranged by parents.

School Assemblies

Formal Assemblies are held on a fortnightly basis for Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6). Assemblies are run by the students and have student presenters who report on school activities. Classes regularly present items related to their class work. Merit awards and other awards are presented at assemblies. Teachers will indicate when parents are invited to attend any special assemblies.

Student Progress Reports And Parent Teacher Meetings

Assessment of students is ongoing throughout the year.

All teachers will conduct Parent/Teacher interviews at the end of Term 1 and start of Term 3.

Our school reports on students to parents through a formal written report twice a year. This report is consistent with the NSW Department of Education policy on reporting.

Kindergarten Enrolments

Intending Kindergarten enrolments should be registered with the school the year prior to enrolment. Proof of Date of Birth and Immunisation Certificates will be required before enrolment day. A number of forms must be completed for school records.

Our Transition Program for future Kindergarten students takes place during Term 4 prior to the commencement of school. Written information will be given regarding the day and the time of enrolment.

Immunisation

Children enrolling in a Government school for the first time will be required to provide the school with an immunisation certificate which indicates whether or not a child has been fully immunised.



Preparing Your Child For School

Commencing school is a major step in the life of your child. When talking to your child about starting school, be positive and encouraging. Show enthusiasm about school but do not build up unreal expectations. Encourage your child to be independent, self-reliant and show initiative.

Please have all belongings clearly labelled. It is a good idea to tie a piece of ribbon or put a picture on the outside of your child's school bag for easy recognition.

Before your child starts school it is very helpful if he/she:

- knows his/her full name
- can recognise and care for his/her belongings
- is able to take off and put on outer clothing, tie shoe laces and button and unbutton clothing
- knows how to use the toilet and wash hands after using the toilet

To help your child prepare for school you can:

- encourage your child to speak correctly
- listen to your child and share conversation with him or her daily
- read to your child daily
- ensure that he/she has adequate rest and a sensible amount of exercise and play in fresh air daily

Developing Independence In Your Child

Children need:

- praise, to develop self-confidence
- support and encouragement
- opportunities to talk about their day at school and to ask questions
- opportunities to become independent by doing small jobs by themselves
- plenty of sleep in regular hours

Our Department's website has a Parents and Carers section that can provide you with extra information and resources. Go to www.education.nsw.gov.au

We are looking forward to working with you to provide the best possible learning environment for your child.

