

*General
Information
Booklet*

Contact Information

School Address

Yarrawarra Public School
43 Old Bush Road
Engadine NSW 2233

School Phone

02 9520 0277

Email

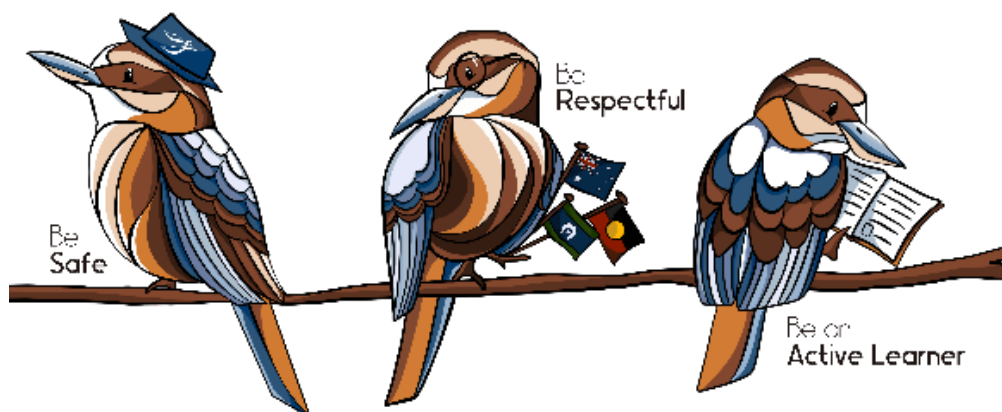
yarrawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web

<https://yarrawarra-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Before & After School Care

Camp Australia
0406 934 294



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

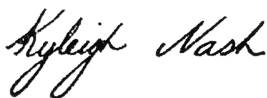
Welcome to Yarrawarra Public School, a school with a 55 year history of valuing high quality academic achievement in our unique bush setting. Yarrawarra Public School provides a wide range of opportunities for every child to experience success in a stimulating, caring and nurturing environment.

Our highly dedicated and enthusiastic teachers provide students with quality education programs tailored to individual learning needs. Our attractive school is well-resourced and provides student access to the latest technologies to further enhance their learning. All classrooms are fitted with the latest interactive whiteboards, "CommBoxes", and we have a well-resourced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) flexible learning space to ensure that every child has access to contemporary educational pedagogy.

Our children's learning is enriched by programs such as: Learning Support, our High Potential and Gifted Education program, and our many exciting and inclusive extra-curricular activities including: chess, dance, drama, music, debating and public speaking, choir, art, and environmental initiatives. We also offer all students the opportunity to compete in a range of competitive and non-competitive sporting activities.

We pride ourselves on our valuable social skills programs, as well as our caring and friendly on-site Before & After School Care, and our strong parent and community partnerships. We are a friendly and nurturing school that values hard work, self-discipline and respect for each other and the environment.

Within Yarrawarra Public School every student is known, valued and cared for. I am confident your child will enjoy a positive and rewarding learning experience with us at Yarrawarra Public School. Please contact me to discuss how we can ignite a love of learning through nurturing your child's needs.



Kyleigh Nash

Principal

Updated January 2024

School Purpose

Yarrawarrah Public School's purpose is to:

- Challenge, inspire and support every child to reach their potential and embrace learning as an active and creative life-long pursuit.
- Equip students with the skills, values, understandings and efficacy to have choice and opportunity in future education, employment and life and be happy and successful in an ever-changing and complex world.
- Nurture confident, informed and community-minded citizens with a strong sense of identity, belonging and social responsibility.

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION VALUES

NSW Department of Education – Values

Excellence

- We have high expectations and we continually seek to improve ourselves and our work.
- We strive to excel and invite the best ideas from everyone in and outside the department.
- We use and share evidence, research and data to underpin policy and practice.
- We welcome collaboration and learning with others.

Equity

- We ensure that every student has access to high quality public education.
- We respect diversity and the views and contributions of others.
- We treat people fairly.

Accountability

- We take responsibility for decisions and outcomes.
- We allocate and use resources efficiently and effectively.
- We monitor and review performance to drive improvement.

Trust

- We build relationships based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- We support each other.
- We respect others' expertise, experience and points of view, and listen with an open mind.


Integrity

- We act professionally with honesty and consistency.
- We communicate clear expectations.
- We are transparent with information and our decisions.

Service

- We are flexible, innovative, responsive and reliable.
- We provide coordinated and aligned services to enhance teaching and learning.
- We work openly in partnership with parents, communities and organisations.

education.nsw.gov.au



Behaviour code for students

NSW public schools

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.



General Information for Parents

Absence from school / Attendance

In NSW all children between the ages of 6 and 17 are legally required to attend school. Research highlights a clear correlation between student attendance and the achievement of quality academic, socio-economic and health outcomes. For this reason, above 95% is our expected student attendance.

If children are absent from school, a text message is auto generated from School Bytes each day, please reply to this message to explain your child/ren's absence, alternatively, you can advise of an absence via the [School Bytes Parent portal](#), this can be done in advance. Appointments and holidays should not be scheduled during school hours. Absences for these reasons will be marked as unjustified. In the event of overseas travel please contact the office for a [Travel Certificate application](#). This form is also available on the Parent portal. This must be signed by the Principal prior to going on leave. Other acceptable absence notifications are a written note to the teacher or an email to the school email address. Absences should not be sent directly to the teacher.

If your child is late to school, they must come to the office for a 'late note'. Our Attendance and Wellbeing Officer will be in contact over the year to keep parents informed of your child's attendance rate.

Students who achieve >95% attendance in a term are rewarded with a special "Attendance Certificate". Those children who achieve 100% attendance for the whole school year are given a special attendance Bronze Award which can be used in attaining the next level in the school's award system.

Assemblies / Awards

K-6 assemblies are held every second Friday at 2.30pm in the school hall. Special awards are presented to students. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend these assemblies. Details are in the parent portal calendar and weekly What's on.

Each year we hold a number of special assemblies. These include events such as ANZAC Day, Easter, NAIDOC, Education Week, Grandparents Day and Christmas. These are always publicised well in advance and we encourage parents and friends to attend.

Our Annual Awards Day is held in Term 4. This is an opportunity for parents and friends to join us in celebrating the year's achievements and recognise special student achievement. You will be contacted if your child is receiving a special award for this occasion.

Our whole school reward system focuses on our school values (REACH - see Student Wellbeing section). Students are responsible for keeping and trading in their awards at the office to achieve the next level of achievement. Here is a run down of the rewards and awards:

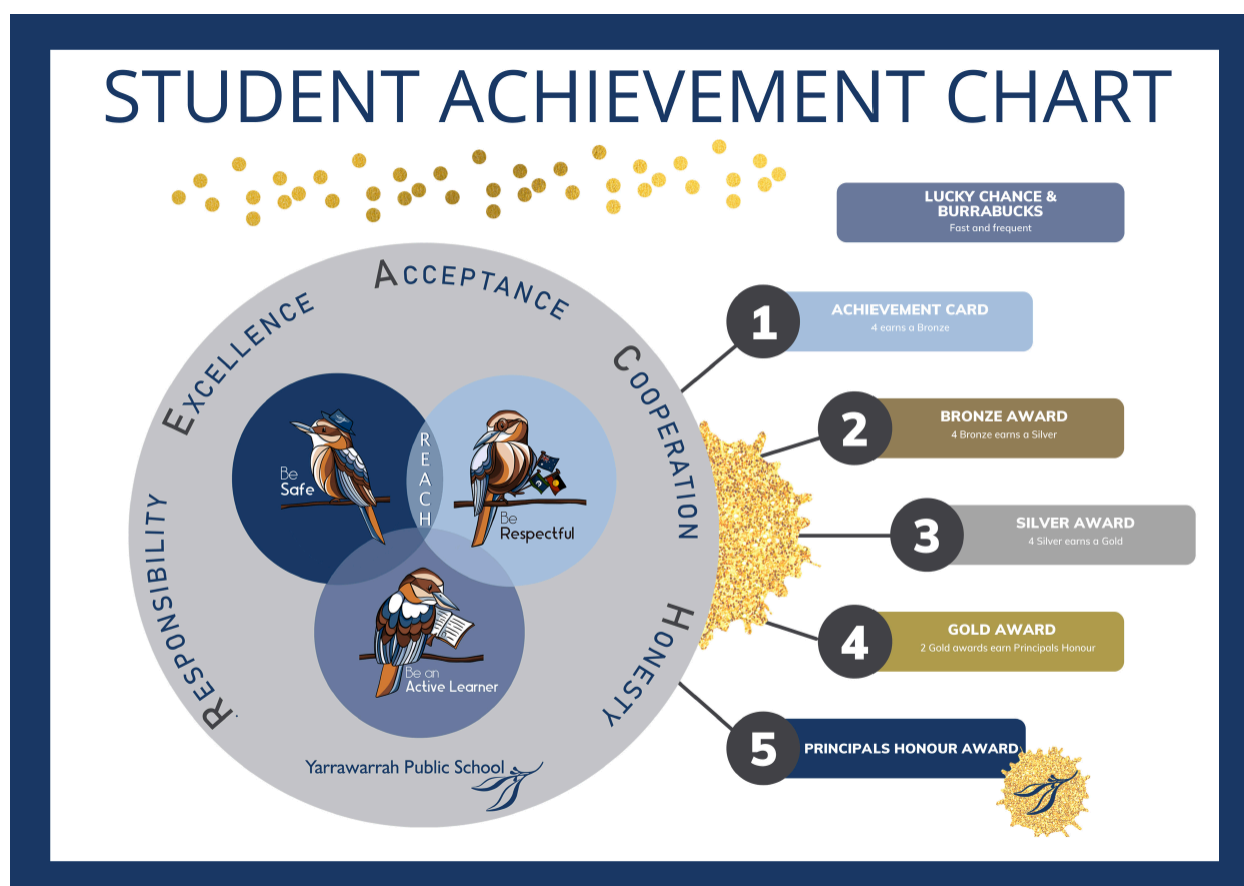
Fast and Frequent

- Burrabucks are small tokens awarded to students in class and on the playground for positive behaviour. Burrabucks are placed in the PBL rewards tube in the colour of the student's assigned house team (Bradman = green, Freeman = red, Thorpe = blue). The team that received the most Burrabucks in the term participates in the PBL rewards day at the end of the term to celebrate their achievement.

- Lucky Chance cards are awarded to students who are demonstrating the school values. Lucky Chance cards need to be completed with the student's name and class and put into the letterbox on the admin building near the lost property box. At our fortnightly assemblies, one 'Lucky Chance' winner is drawn out of a hat and they receive a free lunch order from the canteen.

School Award System

- Achievement Cards are handed out by teachers in class for outstanding class work. Once a child has 4 Achievement Cards they can be handed in at the office to be converted into a Bronze Award.
- Bronze Awards are also handed out by class teachers fortnightly in our regular K-6 assembly. Once a student has 4 Bronze Awards they may trade them in at the office for a Silver Award.
- 4 Silver Awards can be traded at the office for a Gold Award. Gold Award winners have their photograph taken and put in the newsletter.
- 2 Gold Awards results in achieving the highest level of our Awards System - a Principal's Honour Award badge. Principal's Honour Award winners are photographed with the principal and celebrated in the newsletter.



Assessment and Reporting to Parents

Assessment of student learning is a continual and ongoing process. When an area of concern is identified, teachers will contact parents, arrange an interview and may refer the student to the School Learning Support Team or Counsellor for further assessment.

Formal reporting on student outcomes takes place at various stages of the year:

- End of Term 1 – Parent / Teacher interview
- End of Term 2 – Semester 1 Report
- End of Term 3 – Parent / Teacher interview by request
- End of Term 4 – Semester 2 Report

Assessment of student achievement takes place at all stages of learning. Both formal and informal assessments assist teachers in making judgements about student achievement. Samples of student work are collected and referred to when measuring individual progress. Teachers follow an assessment schedule and the data collected from assessments are used to target teaching to individual needs.

Belongings

All jackets, jumpers, hats, raincoats, school bags, school equipment etc. need to be labelled with your child's name. Unclaimed, unlabelled property is placed in the lost property box located outside the admin building near the basketball court. The lost property box is cleared at the end of every term.

Book Club

Six times per year, children receive a brochure regarding books that are available for private purchase from Scholastic Australia. These books are chosen from a wide range of publishers and are carefully selected to cover specific reading and interest areas. Prices are reasonable and there is no obligation to buy. The school receives complimentary rewards from Scholastic for each purchase made. These rewards are used to purchase books for the Library. Payment is made online via the LOOP App and books are usually delivered 10 days after payment.

Bus Travel

Passes for free bus travel to and from school are available for all children depending on distance travelled. If your child is travelling to or from school you must notify the class teacher in writing. When you feel your child is confident to travel home on the bus, you must notify the class teacher in writing. Before this, it is advisable for a parent to travel on the bus with the child several times. Application forms for student Opal cards are available online:

<https://transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/ticket-eligibility-concessions/school-student-travel>

Bicycles and Scooters

All students who have completed a Rider's Agreement (supervised K-4, independent Years 5-6) may ride bikes or scooters to school. On reaching the school gate, the child must dismount and walk his/her bike/scooter to the bike racks/ fence between the council oval and school behind the Stage 1 classrooms. No riding of bikes or scooters is permitted in school grounds. The school holds no responsibility for the safety and security of bicycles and scooters whilst at school. Students are to wear helmets whilst travelling to and from school on bikes or scooters. Students and parents/carers need to have read the [YPS Bicycle and Scooter Policy](#) and returned the appropriate agreement through the School Bytes app prior to bringing their bike/scooter to school. This policy is available on our website. The permission form can be accessed through the School Bytes App.

Canteen/School Lunches

The school canteen is run by the P&C and relies on parent volunteers. Its operation is dependent on volunteer availability. Over the counter sales are available whenever the canteen is open and lunch orders are available on Fridays only. Helpers are always needed, so please put your name on the roster in School 24 if you are available. The children love seeing their parents/grandparents in the canteen. To place a lunch order, please register at www.school24.com.au/login. Follow the prompts to register as a parent. School registration ID is 25231963. For any enquiries regarding canteen please email the P & C at yarrawarrahpandc@gmail.com. For information on whether the canteen is open please see the [P & C Facebook page](#). It is important that each year you update your child's class.

Communication

The school has established a [community communication plan](#). This helps our community understand how we communicate with our families and the best way to communicate with us (teachers, Assistant Principals, Principal).

Community and Parent Involvement

Parents and family members can become involved in many ways. These include:

- Attending assemblies
 - Parent/ teacher interviews
 - Involvement in committees – e.g. Fundraising Committee (Mother's day, Father's day stalls), Uniform Shop
 - Volunteer to work in the school canteen
 - Attending P&C meetings
 - Yarn Up
 - Sport – attending school carnivals, PSSA games, knock-out competitions.
- If you would like to volunteer your time we require you to complete a [Working with Children declaration for volunteers](#). This is available from the office and the School Bytes Parent portal.

Court Orders

In the event that your family has current court orders/legal documents in place, please provide a copy to the office when enrolling your child, or as applicable. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure the school has a copy of the current court orders/legal documents.

Enrolment

All children who attain the age of five years on or before July 31 may be enrolled at the beginning of the school year. Attendance at school is [compulsory](#) for children turning six within a calendar year.

Prior to enrolment, a birth certificate, immunisation certificate and 100 points of address identification must be produced to the office. Enrolment forms are now located [online](#) on our school website; supplementary documents can also be uploaded through the parent portal. Out of Area enrolments must also be applied for online and will be considered by a panel. Please contact the school if you would like to enroll your children.

Homework

The NSW Department of Education supports the concept of homework for students of all ages. In early years of schooling this will tend to be done by promoting informal, optional experiences. Children will always engage in activities in the home which are valuable learning experiences and which relate to school work (e.g. reading books, collecting items, preparing speeches). As schooling becomes more structured, the teacher establishes, with the individual child or group of children, more formal homework programs appropriate to their needs.

Homework helps to reinforce good study habits. Homework is also a means by which aspects of the school's program are introduced into the home setting and revised. It can often reinforce the teaching and learning fostered by the school and help in meeting the needs of the child. Homework at YPS involves reading and mathematics retrieval.

House Teams

The school has 3 sporting house teams: Bradman (green), Freeman (red) and Thorpe (blue). Students are placed into a house team when they first commence their enrolment and the office / your child's teacher can advise you of what house your child is in. Students earn points for their house when they participate in sporting events such as the swimming carnival or cross country. Students are able to wear their sport house shirt (purchased from the uniform shop) at all school sports events days (not Friday sport or external events e.g. Zone carnivals). Burrabucks (see Assemblies/ Awards) are placed into the token collector in the playground in the correct house colour tube. The house with the most Burrabucks at the end of the term participate in a PBL rewards day. When students are in Year 5 they may nominate to be elected as a House Captain leader at our school.

Medication / Medical Needs

If your child is required to have medication administered daily by school staff, we request the medication to be supplied to the school office in blister packs. This is a recommendation from the Department of Education. Blister packs package tablets into individual, tamper proof cavities. This allows office staff to easily identify how many doses have been supplied and will ensure an accurate dose is always administered.

At Yarrawarrah Public School we recognise the importance of the relationship between health and education and the need for schools to work in partnership with parents and the community in managing the medical requirements of students. Health care plans are developed in consultation with parents and medical practitioners as required.

Should your child be injured at school they will be attended to by a staff member who has up-to-date first aid qualifications. Parents are contacted in the event of sickness or serious injury requiring further medical attention. In the event of serious injury/illness an ambulance will be called immediately. Ambulance costs are covered by the Department.

Please ensure that your contact details and emergency contact details are up to date. This enables us to notify you immediately if your child becomes ill.

Mufti Days

“Mufti” is a term borrowed from the armed services meaning “Out of Uniform”. On these days, children are encouraged to come to school out of uniform (with appropriate **enclosed footwear**, no midriff or singlet tops and a sun safe hat). To celebrate your child’s birthday, they may come to school in mufti for the day. If the student’s birthday falls on a weekend, public holiday or in the school holidays, they may choose to come in mufti prior to or following the particular date of their birthday. Whole school mufti days are published in the newsletter, School Bytes and Facebook. Parents are informed if there is a donation required.

Newsletters

Regular fortnightly newsletters will keep you informed of what is happening at school. The newsletter is sent via School Bytes. Upcoming events are published in the newsletter, including all planned activities e.g. parent meetings, excursions and performances. The newsletter is also available on our website and via the School’s facebook page.

Orientation Days

Orientation programs are held for Kindergarten and Year 6 each year. We run an extensive Kindergarten Orientation program in October and November each year. A school expo evening is held in Term 1 and all incoming YPS families are encouraged to attend. In addition, Year 6 students proceeding to high school the following year will be invited by their chosen high school to attend an orientation program in Term 4. Information in regards to this will be sent out by the Stage 3 team.

Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)

The P&C meets on a Monday of Weeks 3 & 8 each term. Times for these meetings are advertised in the school newsletter and through the P & C Facebook page. The Principal and/or Assistant Principal present a report of school activities. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Email: yarrowarrahpandc@gmail.com

Canteen & Uniform Shop

The canteen and uniform shop is run by the P & C and volunteers are always needed. The uniform shop can be contacted via email : ypsuniforms2233@gmail.com

Facebook page

The P & C Association has a Facebook page with regular updates on meetings / fundraising activities. www.facebook.com/groups/YarrowarrahP&C

Payments

The school’s Payment system is School Bytes. This is the preferred method of payment for all school activities. EFTPOS is also available for payments. Semester 1 and Semester 2 invoices will be emailed to you at the beginning of each Semester. These invoices will contain an itemised list of reference books, activities and excursions. Please click the link in the email to pay online. Any issues relating to payments should be directed to the School Administrative Manager.

Special Religious Education (SRE)

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide time in class for education in religious or non-religious education. Yarrowarra Public School offers Catholic, Protestant or non-scripture, including Yarn Up group, lessons. Parents must notify the school at enrolment of their choice.

Safety and Car Parking

We ask parents who drive to and from school to strictly observe the “No Stopping” and “Bus Stop” signs, also the pedestrian crossing in Old Bush Road. These signs are for the safety of all children. **Parents are not permitted to drive into the school.**

School Hours

The school playground is unsupervised before 8.50am and after 3.20pm. For safety and welfare reasons, your child should not be in the playground when it is unsupervised.

Bell Times:

Playground supervision:	8.50am
First bell to start morning session:	9.20am
Lunch eating time:	11.20 – 11.35am
Lunch play time:	11.35 – 12.00pm
Recess eating time:	2.00pm – 2.10pm
Recess play time:	2.10pm – 2.30pm
End of day:	3.20pm

Punctuality

If for any reason your child is late to school, he/she must report to the school office for a late note.

Sun Safety

The increasing incidence of skin cancers in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community. We encourage children to always wear the sun safe school hat when outside. We have a no hat, play or sit in the shade policy. Adopting preventative strategies such as hats and sunscreen in their formative years is essential in reducing the risk of skin cancer. All classrooms have a sunscreen dispenser available. Please complete the [permission slip](#) to enable your child to have access to sunscreen at school.

Uniform / Clothing Pool

New uniforms can be purchased at the YPS Uniform Shop and/or Claudine’s Clothing at Caringbah. To order new uniform items from the YPS shop you will need to register at www.school24.com.au/login.

Follow the prompts to register as a parent. The school registration ID is 25231963. Second hand uniforms in good condition are available at reasonable prices from the uniform shop. Any uniform enquiries can be made to the uniform shop co-ordinator at ypsuniforms2233@gmail.com.

School Uniform Code

The Yarrawarra Public School P & C Association (representing all parents at our school), has established a uniform code, as part of the school policy. School uniforms are compulsory. Our uniform is very attractive and quite distinctive, with navy and sky blue as our official school colours. The school logo is sky blue gum leaves and gumnuts. Students are to wear their sports uniform on a Friday. Typically the summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4 and the winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 and 3, however, students should dress comfortably for the weather of the day.

Year-round uniform items (Monday-Friday)

- Navy blue polo shirt with school logo (may be worn with a long-sleeved, navy blue shirt underneath for additional warmth)
- Navy blue shorts with sky blue piping
- Navy blue skort with sky blue piping
- Navy blue tracksuit pants (no leggings/tights)
- White socks
- All black sneakers
- Navy blue microfibre jacket with school logo
- Navy blue fleece jacket with school logo
- SunSmart navy bucket hat with school logo

Summer Uniform Items (Monday to Thursday only)

- Blue & white check dress (bike shorts or similar must be worn underneath)
- Blue short-sleeved shirt and grey shorts
- White socks
- Black shoes or all black sneakers (sneakers preferred but not compulsory)

Winter Uniform Items (Monday to Thursday only)

- White long-sleeved blouse with peter pan collar or long-sleeved white skivvy worn with either:
 - Blue tartan tunic (bike shorts or navy tights must be worn underneath)
 - Blue tartan trouser

Workbooks and Classroom Stationery

Information is available in regards to class requirements for the following year. Please contact the office for the requirements list.



Information about School Programs

Teaching programs are based on outcomes, which are to be achieved in 4 stages of schooling:

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)

There are 7 compulsory learning areas. These are all taught in each stage of learning.

English

Mathematics

Science & Technology

History

Geography

Creative Arts

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

For more information about the NSW syllabuses which follow the Australian Curriculum, please visit <http://syllabus.nesa.nsw.edu.au/support-materials/parents-guide>

English

The acquisition of literacy skills is vital for success at school and for life-long learning. At Yarrawarra Public School, literacy skills are taught in great detail. We believe that the first years of schooling are crucial and have developed literacy programs based on current research and best practice.

Learning to read, write, listen and speak requires a multi-faceted teaching approach; taking into consideration individual differences and needs. Morning routine, literacy groups, guided reading, phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling and other teaching practices form the basis of our program. The school has many resources, including digital technologies and a library, to complement this program. Students are also exposed to the writing of many different authors.

The children are encouraged to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge each year. Learning and support programs are run for children in need of additional support in literacy.

Mathematics

Mathematics is a skill required in everyday life, in many different situations. The content strands in the Mathematics K-6 Syllabus are *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Geometry* and *Statistics and Probability*. *Working Mathematically* is a process strand that is integrated into all content strands.

Students in Years K-6 are assessed each year and complete activities appropriate to their level of ability. Activities are varied and may involve the use of a range of concrete materials to support learning.

Other Learning Areas

The other five LAs are taught in all classes, as set out in the department syllabus documents. There are high quality resources and teaching programs for each area. There is an interactive board (Commbox) in every classroom to enhance learning experiences.

Teachers use a range of resources to provide engaging learning experiences in each area.

Library

Library is a part of the school curriculum. Students are encouraged to borrow books each fortnight from the school library. Each child will need a library bag if they want to borrow a library book from our school library. Books should be returned in their library lesson.

The library is open three days per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with the Teacher Librarian. Teachers can also take their class to the library for research on Monday or Friday.

Learning Support

At Yarrawarrah Public School, the Learning Support Team consists of the Principal, the Assistant Principal from each Stage, the Learning Support Coordinator, the Attendance and Wellbeing Officer, a Student Learning Support Officer (SLSO), and the school counsellor. This team meets regularly to discuss student progress, develop support plans, and respond collaboratively to individual student needs. We work in partnership with parents and carers to assist students who have additional learning needs.

A key feature of Yarrawarrah's learning and support procedures is the close monitoring of each student's academic progress and wellbeing to determine whether additional supports for learning are required. Some students may require assistance in their learning programs, perhaps because they are experiencing learning difficulties, or because they may exhibit a particular talent that could be developed. Students with English as an additional language or dialect are also supported by the learning support team. Our school uses evidence-based learning and intervention programs, and liaises closely with specialised staff, where needed. Some students with identified needs (physical, intellectual or psychological) may have the support of an SLSO. This additional support, funded by the department, varies from student to student, according to the specific need.

The School Counsellor

Our School Counsellor, Ms Alison Rowe, provides valuable assistance to the students through a variety of strategies including individual psychological assessments, developing individual educational and behavioural programs in consultation with the teachers and parents, and through liaison with external professionals. Parents are able to request their child to see Ms Rowe by first contacting their child's class teacher.

Chess

We have a chess club where interested students participate in weekly practice sessions. During the year a group of students compete in a local competition against teams from other schools.

Night of Notables

Students in Years 5-6 are given the opportunity to participate in our exciting extension program. Students work individually and collaboratively to research, design, solve problems using logic and reasoning, and learn public speaking and presentation skills. The program culminates in an evening presentation of a notable person to our community.

Transition Programs

To assist students to move to new educational settings at key transition points, we have established links with local Pre-Schools and High Schools. Transition programs at Yarrawarrah include a

Kindergarten orientation program, high school orientation program, Year 7 for a day and a thorough hand over process to your child's incoming teacher.

High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE)

At Yarrawarra Public School, the High Potential and Gifted Education Policy promotes engagement and challenge for every student, regardless of background, across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains. It supports every student to achieve their educational potential, through talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices, to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met. The identification process for HPGE students is outlined in our YPS HPGE Policy and is available on our website. Yarrawarra offers a number of programs for Gifted and Talented students:

- Differentiated learning experiences are a regular component of daily classroom programs
- A variety of extra-curricular activities
- Academic competitions, such as ICAS through the University of NSW
- Dance performances at an elite level including the Sutherland Shire Music Festival, Schools Spectacular, Kurranulla Festival and the Sydney Eisteddfod
- Choral performances at various festivals
- Public Speaking and debating through interschool competitions
- Special opportunities for participation in external Gifted and Talented programs
- Competitive sport opportunities in Basketball, Netball, Rugby League, Futsal, Touch Football, Soccer, Athletics, Cross-country and Swimming.

Student Wellbeing



The YPS Way

Yarrawarra Public School places student wellbeing as the highest priority. The YPS Way informs our wellbeing programs with our school's expectations;

Be Safe;

Be Respectful;

Be an Active Learner,

and is promoted through our mascot: Yarraburra.

Core Values

Yarrawarra Public School teaches the values of Responsibility, Excellence, Acceptance, Cooperation and Honesty (R-E-A-C-H). These values underpin all aspects of our school expectations.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing Programs

Various evidence-based programs are incorporated to assist with our students' social and emotional wellbeing such as Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), Got It!, Be You and Zones of Regulation. YPS Wellbeing initiatives include Mentor Teachers, Yarn Up and Care Groups.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Positive Behaviour for Learning is a whole-school framework that promotes positive behaviour across the school and helps schools develop safe and supportive learning environments.

At Yarrawarrah Public School, all students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours, and clear and consistent boundaries are established. Staff take a proactive, preventative approach to ensure all students receive the appropriate level of support to help them to be successful at school.

Restorative Practice

Yarrawarrah Public School uses restorative practices such as correcting behaviour calmly and in a manner that demonstrates that the student is safe and supported at school, viewing inappropriate behaviour as an instructional opportunity and using consequences that promote student self-reflection. Our staff are skilled in using restorative practices when incidents occur.

Care Groups

At Yarrawarrah Public School, social and emotional development of students is seen as essential in ensuring that students are ready to learn. To teach and build social skills and emotional health, every student belongs to a CARE (Caring [for] And Respecting Everyone) Group. Each group is facilitated by an adult and meets regularly throughout the year. The groups focus on skills such as resilience, mindfulness, self-awareness, and creates opportunities for students from different grades to build friendships and support networks.

K/6 Buddies

As part of our Kindergarten Orientation program, children are assigned a senior student to be their buddy. The senior students will meet and get to know their buddy when they commence Kindergarten. They are a good support for Kindergarten students throughout the year.

Fitness and Sports

Students are involved in fitness and sports sessions during the week. These activities develop aerobic capacity, coordination and fundamental motor skills. All students are involved in Friday sport programs, which develop gross motor, games and team skills. Many students are selected to represent the school in the Engadine Zone PSSA competitions. These sports include softball, T-ball, cricket, oztag, soccer, basketball and netball. The school holds three major sporting carnivals each year – swimming, cross-country and athletics, from which a team is chosen to represent the school at Engadine Zone Carnivals. Pathways to State and National events exist for talented students. Students are to wear their sports uniform on a Friday.

Creative and Performing Arts

Our school has developed a reputation for excellence in the performing arts in music, dance, drama and creative arts.

Visual Arts

Students enjoy regular visual arts activities at our school. All classes complete various visual arts lessons, generally on the topics they are studying. Students also use a variety of materials to

complete their art works. Some teachers have received intensive additional training in visual arts, which they have passed on to their colleagues. Over the years some of our talented students have had pieces of art submitted and displayed in regional exhibitions and murals including the Community of Schools mural on display in Engadine.

Choir

Yarrawarra Public School has a choir group consisting of students from Year 2 to Year 6. The choir is a great way for students to experience what it is like to be part of a school choir and also a combined choir at the Sutherland Shire Schools Music Festival.

Public Speaking and Debating

Public speaking and debating have become an integral part of our classroom programs at Yarrawarra Public School. It gives every student from Kindergarten to Year 6 the opportunity to develop their confidence and skills in public speaking.

Class competition winners compete at a grade level which in turn leads to a 'Yarrawarra Speak Off'. The successful students at this level proceed to the Zone and District Competitions.

Dance

All students at Yarrawarra Public school have the opportunity to participate in a dance program. The program is independently conducted by a dance tutor who visits the school to teach the students. The program runs in all four terms.

All students in the dance program are given the opportunity to perform at a variety of events including in-school events, The Sutherland Shire Schools Music Festival and other events throughout the year. This program is a great way for all students to participate in a fun and active experience.

Technology

Technology is integrated into all learning areas. All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 have access to computer-based and mobile technologies to support learning across the curriculum. This includes a CommbOX in every classroom, Chromebooks, iPads, and other STEM equipment such as 3D printers and robotics.

Mobile Phones

Students in Years 5 & 6 are able to carry a phone, provided that it is switched off while they are on school grounds. The phone should not be used or visible at any time during the school day. All messages need to go through the school office. Students seen with phones will have them put in the office for a parent to collect. Parents will be notified if their child has their phone taken off them throughout the day. Students bringing their mobile phone to school do so at their own risk. The school will not be held responsible for any damages or theft.

Smart Watch

Students K-6 are able to wear a SmartWatch, provided it is on flight mode between 8:50am and 3:20pm. All messages to students need to go through the school office. Students seen with active SmartWatches will have them put in the office for a parent to collect. Parents will be notified if their

child has their SmartWatch taken off them throughout the day. Students wear SmartWatches at their own risk. The school will not be held responsible for any damages or theft.

Aboriginal Education

At Yarrawarra Public School we are proud of our Aboriginal education and culture programs. Our school is proud of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which has been endorsed and published by Narragunnawali.

<https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/raps/18471/yarrawarra-public-school>

Students also have the option of participating in a “Yarn Up” group as a non-scripture option. Our working relationship with our local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) is greatly valued. Our school provides students a variety of opportunities within the school and externally. For further information about our cultural programs, please contact the school.

Student Leadership and Citizenship

There are opportunities for students to practice citizenship and leadership through the student leadership team, the Student Representative Council (SRC), house captains, library monitors, tech team, eco warriors and supporting charity events.

Release from Face-to-Face (RFF) Programs

All full-time teachers are entitled to 2 hours per week RFF time. During this time, another qualified teacher takes the class to allow the class teacher to plan for and evaluate class programs, conduct interviews with parents and meet with other staff for school planning. At Yarrawarra our RFF program is run on a fortnightly basis so that students benefit from having a consistent teacher for 4 hours each fortnight.

Camps and Excursions

Students from K-6 travel away from school at least once per year on a planned excursion. These excursions vary from year to year depending on class themes and units of work. In previous years, K-2 children visited Symbio and Calmsley Hill City Farm. Stage 2 and 3 attend annual outdoor education camps.

Before and After School Care

The Before-and-After School Care Centre operated by Camp Australia offers a much-needed service to working parents. The centre is open between 6.30am and 8.50am and between 3.20pm and 6.00pm. The centre coordinator and her assistants provide a caring, nurturing environment for the students who attend. The premises are clean and bright, with a covered pergola area and open space

for supervised outdoor play. Students enjoy the afternoon tea treats and engage in fun craft activities and games each day. Camp Australia can be contacted on 1300 105 343.

Parent Support

The school is supported by an active parent group, who ensure a strong link between home and the school. The P&C meet twice per term (Monday in Week 3 and Week 8 at 7pm) to discuss school programs, new policies and financial support for the school. Many parents assist in class programs. This support is welcomed by the staff as it greatly enhances the learning of students, as well as providing an up-to-date reference for parents in what is being taught/learnt.

Administrative Support

The teachers and students are supported by two full time administration personnel.

Miss Kathleen Holder is the School Administrative Manager (SAM). Miss Holder is responsible for the preparation of the school budget, processing fees and invoices, the ordering and stocktaking of resources and equipment, the preparation of school accounts and the management of community users who hire the school's facilities.

Mrs Polly Speechley is the full time School Administrative Officer (SAO). Her tasks include regular reception duty, processing student payments and banking, student health plans, first aid for students, input of attendance data and assisting Miss Holder on occasions with financial and other administration duties.

Mrs Michelle Lentholt works on a Wednesday as a SAO, she supports the office staff and Principal with administration duties.

Mr Brian is the General Assistant. He is on duty each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. His tasks include the general minor maintenance of classrooms, buildings and grounds.

Class and Staff Organisation

Class/staff organisation changes from year to year.

All teachers at our school are experienced and committed to providing the best education possible for all students. Teachers regularly attend professional learning to keep up-to-date with current educational programs and latest research.

Teachers are available to discuss individual student progress with parents. Parents are invited to negotiate a suitable appointment time with the teacher. We value the partnership between home and school and encourage parents to become positively involved in the school programs and school culture.

Multi-Age or Composite Classes

At Yarrawarrah Public School we often form composite classes. Composite classes have many benefits in terms of programming promoting consistency across the school and establishing collaborative teaching teams. All classes containing children of similar age and grade levels are composite classes, because teachers group children according to the specific needs and abilities of individual children.

When composite classes are formed, children receive individual and group instruction targeted at their level of achievement as they would in a grade class.

At Yarrawarra Public School, teachers cater for individual needs regardless of the class structure.

Communication

School Bytes Parent Portal/App

Parents/carers *are required* to download the School Bytes Parent App to their phone and register using your email address and/or phone number that is connected to the school. Yarrawarra Public School uses this app to:

1. Send messages/ push notifications to parents/carers.
2. Advise parents/carers of upcoming school happenings and events via the calendar.
3. Send and Receive absence notifications to/from parents/carers.
4. Upload digital copies of semester reports.
5. Book Parent/Teacher interviews.
6. Sick Bay attendance notifications.
7. Newsletter publishing (fortnightly)
8. Family statement of account
9. Fee reminders
10. Weekly What's On/ Calendar
11. Permission Notes
12. Reflection attendance notifications
13. Payments
14. All other communication to parents/carers
15. P&C events

Email

Email is the preferred means of communication between Parents/Carers to Yarrawarra Public School. Parents and carers are asked to use email to contact the school regarding their child at yarrawarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au so that the message can be forwarded to the appropriate staff member. An acknowledgement email will be returned to notify acceptance of the email and staff are required to respond within 2 working days. If parents and carers have any queries or concerns their child's classroom teacher is the first contact. This is important to develop and maintain positive partnerships. If the matter is of a serious nature, the leadership team, which includes the Principal and relevant Assistant Principal(s) will be informed.

Student Absences

School Bytes is the only way for parents to inform the school of absences. Parents must reply to the text message that is sent out at 10am each day. Absences need to be reported on the day. Any absences not explained will be followed up by the Attendance Welfare Officer.

Phone Calls

Staff at Yarrawarrah Public School may call families to provide immediate communication about their child. This may occur when a student is in sick bay and requires immediate parent action or emergency services.

Parent Information Sessions

Parent Information Sessions are held in Term 1 each year. Teachers provide information about the class, organisation, events and the teaching and learning that will be taking place throughout the year. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to 'get to know' one another and build positive partnerships.

School Reports

School reports are sent home digitally via the School Bytes Portal at the end of each semester and address each student's development intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. These reports are written by the classroom teacher and include information regarding the student's strengths and areas for development, achievement and attendance, as well as social development and commitment to learning.

School Interviews

School interviews are booked through School Bytes in Term 1 and Term 3. These interviews are with the classroom teacher and discuss the student's transition to the new class and grade, any concerns, areas of strength, areas of development and student goals.

School Website

The school website is used to provide information about the Annual School Report, Strategic Improvement Plan and School Policies. Specific school information about teaching and learning, supporting our students, staff, P&C and uniforms is also available.

School Newsletter

The school newsletter is used to provide information regarding various events, notices, and activities within the school. It is available through School Bytes, Facebook and the school website. Each class has a showcase piece published in the newsletter once per year (or more on special occasions).

Assemblies

School Assemblies are held fortnightly (Odd Weeks) on Friday from 2:30pm - 3:15pm. Each assembly, a school value is highlighted (REACH) and student achievement is celebrated.

Facebook

Yarrawarra Public School has a Facebook page that is used to share upcoming events, RSVP attendance numbers for events, showcase promotions, advertise the newsletter, provide real-time information, inform the community of the Weekly What's On, push out Reminder posts for excursions and showcase school events and students' achievements. facebook.com/YarrawarraPublicSchool.

YPS Parent Communication - Cheat Sheet



S I C K O R A B S E N T	My child is sick.	Advise or reply to the text message via School Bytes Parent Portal/App
	My child will be absent (eg: appointment or short holiday).	Advise in advance via the School Bytes Parent Portal/App or reply to the SMS message sent each day.
	My child will be on leave for 5 days or more.	Complete Application for Extended Leave form available on the School Bytes Parent Portal.
	My child is late or is leaving early.	They should present directly to the school office for late or early slip.
	I have been notified my child is sick at school.	For minor incidents (ie: the child can stay at school), you will receive a push notification from the School Bytes Parent Portal/App. If your child needs to go home or have medical assistance you will receive a direct phone call.
	Pick up arrangements for my child have changed for that day.	Phone the school office directly, allowing reasonable time before pick up.
T E A C H E R C O N T A C T	I need to contact a teacher. 1. Class teacher 2. Assistant Principal 3. Principal	Email the school Att: the teacher's name, and the office will forward your email to them.
	I would like to meet with a teacher. 1. Class teacher 2. Assistant Principal 3. Principal	Email the school Att: the teacher's name, and the office will forward your email to them.
	My child needs support (e.g.: classroom or playground issue). 1. Class teacher 2. Assistant Principal 3. Learning and Support Teacher 4. School Counsellor 5. Principal	Email the school Att: the teacher's name, and the office will forward your email to them.
	I would like to make a complaint or give positive feedback.	Email the school and the office will forward your email to the relevant person.

O F F I C E I N F O R M A T I O N	My child has forgotten something important (e.g.: their lunch).	Phone the school office directly or bring the item to the office.
	My child has awards to hand in.	Place the awards in an envelope with their name and put it into the letterbox outside the office window. The deadline for awards to be received is Wednesday before each assembly.
	I would like to volunteer at school	Complete the Working with Children - Volunteer Declaration form available on the School Bytes Parent Portal.
	I need to pay for something.	Use the School Bytes Parent Portal/App to make a payment.
	I have credit on my child's account.	Email the office to discuss. Credit can also be applied via the School Bytes Parent Portal.
	I need further information about an upcoming event, or school policy.	Refer to the School Bytes Parent Portal/App or school website for information.
	I need to ask if an event is cancelled (e.g.: PSSA when it's raining).	Check push notifications School Bytes Parent Portal/App or the school Facebook page.
	I need an update of the arrival time when my child is on an excursion.	Check push notifications in School Bytes Parent Portal/App or the YPS Facebook page.
	I need regular updates on what is happening at school.	Click on the school newsletter link every fortnight that has been sent out via School Bytes. Check the School Bytes calendar.
P & C	I need a school uniform.	Orders can be placed through School24 or email the P&C Uniform Coordinator.
	My child would like a lunch order.	Orders can be placed through School24, when there are volunteers (note: check P&C Facebook page for dates when the canteen is open).
	I need to contact the P&C.	Email the P&C directly or check the P&C Facebook page.
	I would like to attend a P&C meeting.	Check the P&C Facebook page for details. Meetings are held Monday nights 7pm in Weeks 3 and 8.

YPS Contact Information

School Email:

yarrowarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone:

(02) 9520 0277

Website:

<https://yarrowarra-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

School Bytes:

<https://portal.schoolbytes.education/>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
YarrowarraPublicSchool](https://www.facebook.com/YarrowarraPublicSchool)

P&C Email:

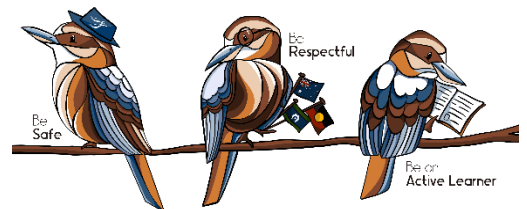
yarrowarahpandc@gmail.com

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
YarrowarraPandC/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/YarrowarraPandC/)

School 24:

<http://www.school24.com.au/login>
School registration ID 25231963





opportunity
success
nurture

43 Old Bush Road,
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p: 9520 0277

f: 9548 1187

e: yarrowarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

<https://yarrowarra-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>