



White Rock State School

Learning Together

Parent Handbook





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Principal's Message

White Rock State School is recognised as a state leader in teaching and learning, student relationships and wellbeing. Our school has a safe social and physical environment that helps all our students learn and succeed. It is our commitment to create a quality learning environment that allows our students to become competent and confident learners while developing the skills to be 21st century thinkers.

Staff dedicated to quality teaching and learning are key to delivering effective teaching and the Australian Curriculum. Our staff demonstrate high expectations knowing that every child matters every day and that all children can be high achievers.

At our school we have a strong focus on the effective implementation of the Australian Curriculum through pedagogical approaches and inclusive practices that meet the needs of all learners.

Our families and visitors compliment us on the warm and orderly school atmosphere and our strong sense of community. We encourage all our students to develop high expectations about themselves, their work and their behaviour, which is an expression of our school's global rules of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner.

We are very proud of our school and continually look for ways to enhance the work we do to support all children in developing the skills needed to be life-long learners. Welcome to our wonderful and dedicated learning community.

Dan Dalziel, Principal



Welcome to White Rock State School – a Prep to Year 6 Primary School situated on the Cairns southern corridor. The school opened in 1988 after concerted community lobbying to establish a school on the eastern side of the highway. In 2013 a C & K kindergarten was established on the school campus.

Welcome!

Also passionate about the parkland setting of the new school site the community lobbied successfully to have the school buildings constructed in between the existing trees which gave the school a luxuriant green environment from its beginning. The beauty of the school grounds continues to be a source of pride for all our school community.

Our student population reflects the cultural and social diversity of the surrounding community with a large number of students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and students from a variety of ethnic backgrounds including Laotian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Samoan, Filipino, Swiss, Thai, Indian and Japanese.

At White Rock Every Student Matters Every Day In Every Way.

Our purpose is to allow every student to achieve the best educational outcomes through the provision of explicit **quality educational services** in a **safe and supportive learning environment**.

Quality Educational Services

The White Rock Approach

We believe the key drivers to quality teaching and effective curriculum delivery are:

- **High Expectations** – teacher belief that all students can achieve high academic results
- **Teacher Accountable Learning** – responsibility is accepted for each student's learning
- **Effective Pedagogical Practices** – teaching practices that meet the diverse learning and wellbeing needs of every student
- **Knowledge Retention** – moving student knowledge from short term to long term memory
- **Effective Relationships** – effective relationships built between students and teachers
- **Consistent Approaches** – clear and specific programs and policies to inform teaching

Curriculum Delivery

Curriculum content is sourced from the Australian Curriculum. In addition to engaging classroom-based learning activities, some aspects of our curriculum are delivered by specialist teachers including Health and Physical Education, Instrumental Music (strings from Year 3, brass and woodwind from Year 4), Languages Other Than English (LOTE - Japanese), Performing Arts, Visual Arts and STEM.



Quality Educational Services

(continued)

Assessment and Reporting

At White Rock State School, we teach and assess in all eight areas of the Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Languages.

Teachers use diagnostic assessments to inform their teaching focus. These assessments are not used for reporting purposes. Formative assessments are used to measure student progress throughout the unit and summative assessments are used as the primary assessing tool for our A-E report cards. Report cards are sent home in term two and term four. During the alternate terms, student progress is communicated via Parent Teacher Interviews.

Parents are encouraged to come and meet with teachers at any time throughout the year if they have concerns over their child's progress.

Information Communication Technology

All White Rock State School classrooms are equipped with the latest in interactive, information communication technology including:

- Teacher laptops
- Networked PCs
- High-speed internet connection
- Data projectors and interactive whiteboards
- iPads in Prep classrooms
- Laptop bank in Year 3 classrooms
- Laptop banks in Year 4-6 classrooms

In addition our students have access to a computer laboratory and the STEM Room with robots and other technologies.

Extra-curricular Activities

Participation in extra-curricular activities provides enrichment for many students. At White Rock these include instrumental music programs, sporting teams, Indigenous Contemporary Dancing, academic competitions, Optiminds, Reader's Cup, Premier's Reading Challenge, musical performances and Gifted Global Greens in collaboration with Holloways Beach Environmental Centre.



Religious Education

Religious Education classes are conducted by volunteers who visit our school on **Thursdays**. Classes are conducted for two groups: Roman Catholic and Combined (Anglican, Uniting Church, Baptist). Students who do not attend a Religious Education Class participate in a Social Skills program conducted by class teachers.

Parents wishing to change the class their child attends must make this request in writing.

Homework

At White Rock State School we believe that homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning and involve family members in their schooling. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and community and cultural pursuits. The following is our recommended time allocations for each year level:

- *Prep – 10 minutes per day*
- *Year 1 – 15 minutes per day*
- *Year 2 – 20 minutes per day*
- *Year 3 & 4 – 25 minutes per day*
- *Year 5 & 6 – 30 minutes per day*

Homework Centre is available for students and operates in the Library Classroom from 7:45am – 8:45am every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. See the office team to register.



Safe and Supportive Environment

Attendance – Every Day Counts

At White Rock State School we believe that regular school attendance is critical for student wellbeing, academic achievement and creating a foundation for future success. There is a shared commitment and expectation between the school and families that students attend school every day. The school has in place many initiatives to support students and families to attend school. Every Day Counts!

Behaviour Management

The White Rock State School Student Code of Conduct is based on three core expectations: **Be Safe, Be Respectful** and **Be a Learner**. We use a whole school approach to support appropriate behaviours to achieve these expectations. White Rock State School has implemented the Whole School Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework as a means to revise and develop strategies and procedures to promote a safe, supportive and disciplined school environment. Our PBL Committee includes representatives from administration, teaching, guidance, behaviour support, parent groups and community organisations.

Important guiding principles of our PBL framework include:

- Appropriate behaviour needs to be explicitly taught
- For some students extra support and intervention will be required in both teaching and reinforcing such behaviour
- Acknowledging students who meet our expectations is a crucial factor in reinforcing their use of positive behaviours. Such acknowledgements include:

Attendance

The Class with the best attendance is presented with the Attendance Trophy at the weekly parade. Individual students with 100% attendance participate in a weekly draw for a Tuckshop Voucher at parade.

Class of the Week

Each week a class in both the Lower and Upper school is presented with the Trophy recognising overall behaviour and participation in specialist lessons.

Tidy Classroom Award

Each week a class in both the Lower and Upper school is presented with the Trophy recognising the cleanest classrooms.

Rock Star Awards

Awarded by teachers on Playground Duty to students seen acting responsibly and positively in the playground.

Student of the Week

Students are awarded Certificates by their Classroom Teachers and Specialist Teachers which are presented on parade and acknowledge positive behaviour or effort in class.

Levels of Excellence

Students accumulate points during Years 3-6 for displaying effort and achievement in classwork, extra-curricular activities, citizenship and community activities in order to attain bronze, silver and gold levels for which they receive a Trophy on parade.

Our Code of Behaviour, PBL framework and interventions are detailed in our Student Code of Conduct and endorsed by our P&C Association.

Learning Support

Intervention programs have been developed throughout the school to address the academic needs of students with identified learning difficulties. These programs include Numeracy and Literacy support for students identified in NAPLAN and school based assessment and monitoring tools. The Student Support Committee, in collaboration with the classroom teacher and the Learning Support Teachers, carries out the coordination and monitoring of these programs.

Library Resource Centre

The school has a well-stocked Library and Resource Centre which coordinates the storage and use of all the school's learning materials. The Library is open daily from 8.30am to 3.30pm for students, parents and teachers to borrow resources. All classes visit the library weekly to exchange books. Students in Prep - Year 3 must have a Library Bag (preferably waterproof) when borrowing. Students are encouraged to look after any borrowed book as a charge will be imposed for any lost or damaged library books.

Inclusive Education Program

Specialist teachers and teacher aides support classroom teachers make reasonable adjustments and differentiate teaching for students with disability. Working in close partnership with families, staff work to ensure all students access and participate in education on the same basis as their peers.

Guidance Officer

Our Guidance Officer visits the school from Wednesday to Friday each week and supports all members of the school community to enable students to reach their potential. The Guidance Officer's office is located in the Library Resource Centre.

Reading Club / Homework Centre

Students arriving at school early can join the Reading Club and Homework Centre in the Library Classroom from 8.00am to 8.30am where students are supported in completing homework or practising reading.

Other Support Services

Other key support services provided at White Rock State School include: Speech Language Pathologist, Counselling Services and other Specialist Consultant teachers when required, Parenting Programs and a Breakfast Program.





Family & Community Involvement

Parents and families are an important part of our school community. White Rock State School encourages families to become involved in their broad education experience with us – by keeping in regular communication with teachers; volunteering in class, at working bees and/or in the tuckshop and/or joining our P&C Association.

Communication

From the School

To ensure that you always know what is happening in our school, we provide important information through the following:

- School Newsletter – distributed by email and is available on the school's website
- School Noticeboard – front of school on Progress Road
- School Website – www.whiterockss.eq.edu.au
- Parent Information Nights & special events
- Facebook page – www.facebook.com/WhiteRockStateSchool
- P & C Meetings – Every 2nd Monday of the month
- School parade – Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm

Let's stay
in touch!

From your Family

We encourage you to share any news, concerns or questions with our school. Family events such as illness, babies and changes in family circumstances can impact on your child. Please let your classroom teacher know of any such events. Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries with your classroom teacher – especially with regard to your child's progress, the school or the class program. Teachers will be happy to make appointments for longer discussions.

Contacting Staff

You may contact your child's teacher through the School Administration Office. Teachers may also use email to communicate with families. We encourage you to speak directly with your child's teacher to negotiate the best way of staying in regular contact.

Daily Routines

Daily routines can help children understand what they need to do, when to do it each day and why it is important. To help prepare your child for school, get them into a routine which includes going to bed early, waking up at a certain time, having a healthy breakfast, preparing and eating lunch and making time for physical activities. Ensure your child arrives at school **everyday, on time** and ready to learn.

Lunchbox Tips

When preparing your child's lunch, please consider:

- Size of the lunchbox – we have only limited room in our fridges, therefore, it is preferable that lunchboxes are not put in cooler bags
- We encourage no peanuts or products containing nuts
- Children are **not** allowed to share lunches

Please advise us if your child has special dietary needs. In particular, let the office know if your child has any food allergies.

Family & Community Involvement (continued)

Supporting Learning at Home

White Rock State School promotes parents and staff working together in partnership to support each child's learning. We encourage families to regularly visit their child's classroom for a brief chat, to take part in daily activities or special events. We also encourage parents to help their child to become increasingly independent – including taking responsibility for their own belongings.

P & C Association

The P & C Association works in partnership with the school engaging in the planning process and maintaining and developing our school facilities. We encourage parents to become actively involved in the school. Meetings occur every second Monday of the month at 3.30pm in the hall.

FaFT

Families as First Teachers (FaFT) supports children and their families to make successful transitions from home to early childhood education. Come along to our sessions every Thursday morning from 9 - 11am on the verandah outside the school hall.

Coffee Club

Come and join us on Tuesday afternoons from 2 - 3pm at the school hall for a cuppa as you wait to collect your child. This is a great way to get connected!

Playgroup

White Rock State School Play and Grow Playgroup, run in conjunction with The Benevolent Society, provides free supported activities for preschool children and their families that promote learning and interaction. Join in on Tuesdays, during the school term, 9 - 11am on the verandah outside the school hall.

Playgroup Queensland invites you to come along for a free and fun morning of playgroup every Monday in the hall from 8.30 - 10.30am. It is a great opportunity to meet new families and other children, enjoy a free morning tea, and participate in many activities that promote play and learning.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 7.45 – 8.30am in weeks 2 to 9 of term. Woolworths Mt Sheridan, Second Bite, Coles Mt Sheridan, Mission Australia, Hambledon House and the school sees the provision of hundreds of free student breakfasts to ensure an optimum start to the learning day for White Rock State School students.





White Rock State School

Important Information

Phone Numbers

School Administration Office:
07 4036 8888

Absence Line (24hr):
07 4036 8866

Facsimile:
07 4036 8800

Other Contact Details

Physical Address:
114 Progress Road, White Rock Q 4868

Postal Address:
PO Box 14009, Mt Sheridan Q 4868

Email:
admin@whiterockss.eq.edu.au

Website:
www.whiterockss.eq.edu.au

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WhiteRockStateSchool

Important Dates for 2023

Term 1 (10 weeks)
Monday 23 January - Friday 31 March

Term 2 (10 weeks)
Monday 17 April - Friday 23 June

Term 3 (10 weeks)
Monday 10 July - Friday 15 September

Term 4 (10 weeks)
Tuesday 3 October - Friday 8 December

2023 Public Holidays

Australia Day - Thursday 26 January

Easter - Friday 7 April - Monday 10 April

ANZAC Day - Tuesday 25 April

Labour Day - Monday 1 May

Cairns Show Day - Friday 21 July

King's Birthday - Monday 2 October

Daily Routine

8.55am-11am Morning Session

11.00am-11.45am Lunch

11.45am-1.30pm Middle Session

1.30pm-2.00pm Afternoon Tea

2.00pm-3.00pm Afternoon Session

Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner