



DEE WHY PUBLIC SCHOOL

PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

EXCELLENCE | INNOVATION | OPPORTUNITY | HARMONY

PERSONAL BEST



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

The staff, children and parents of Dee Why Public School would like to welcome your child and your entire family to our wonderful school.

Dee Why is a very dynamic school that provides a rich learning environment in a caring and friendly atmosphere for all students. Our classrooms are exciting places in which to learn, with talented teachers and highly effective support staff.

We trust that this booklet will serve as a valuable reference during your years at this school. We have tried to include a brief explanation of many of the activities, policies, rules and routines which make up our school.

Your involvement and participation in your child's education is most important, whether you can assist with class activities such as reading groups, help in the canteen, or join our P&C Association and become involved in the decision making process of the school.

As your child settles into school life, you will have the exciting opportunity of observing his or her educational, emotional and physical development in a new setting.



If you have any concerns or questions, you are most welcome to contact me via the school office to discuss the matter.

Once again, welcome to Dee Why Public School and I wish you and your family a most happy and successful time with us.

Regards,

Mark Chaffer, Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Chaffer". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

Regular attendance at school is compulsory for students who have turned 6 years of age. If children are kept at home for any reason, an email, phone call or written note are valid forms of notification.

For longer absences such as overseas trips, a special exemption form can be completed at the school office. If you need to pick up your child early, please report to the office and complete an 'early departure slip' and present this to the child's class teacher before leaving school grounds.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details provided upon enrolment are used in case of emergency, illness, accident etc. The school should be notified immediately of any change of address, telephone number, place of employment or contact details to ensure prompt communication.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

YMCA Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) is available on site. Before School Care from 7am, After School Care to 6pm. Contact OSHC on 0407 283 964 or our school office for further details. Child Care Benefit is available.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child needs to take medication during school hours it is vital that the medication is sent to the school office in a sealed container marked with the child's name, class, medication, dosage and time taken. An indemnity form must be completed for all students requiring daily medication.

BELL TIMES

8:55am	School day commence
11:00 - 11:25am	Recess
1:00 - 1:25pm	First Half Lunch
1:25 - 1:55pm	Second Half Lunch
3:00pm	End of School

Children are encouraged to arrive no earlier than 8:30am as before this time there is no supervision, except in the case of sport training or special groups such as dance or band.

Children need to head home immediately after the 3pm bell or wait on the steps below the COLA until a responsible adult arrives to collect them.

ASSEMBLIES

Stage assemblies are held 3 times per term on a Tuesday in the school hall.

Kinder - 10.30am

Year 1 & 2 - 11.20am

Years 3 & 4 - 12.20pm

Years 5 & 6 - 2.00pm

HONOUR ASSEMBLY

Once a term, we also have an Honour Assembly to acknowledge student achievement and parents are invited to attend.



GENERAL INFORMATION

ENROLMENT PROCEDURES

Children who turn 5 before August 1 can be enrolled in Kindergarten at the beginning of that year. Each year a comprehensive Orientation Program is offered to assist students and parents settle in to school routines. The school also provides an Orientation Program for children ready to start Kindergarten in the following year. Eligible students who are not Australian Citizens are most welcome at Dee Why School and procedures are in place to help families complete all necessary documents.

BUSES

Students in K-2 are entitled to a free bus pass. Students in Years 3 -6 who live in excess of 1.6km (radially) from the school are also entitled to a free bus pass. Opal application forms are available from the school office and online. Staff supervise children waiting for buses after school.

BIKES

The DoE and NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) recommend that parents and carers actively supervise children up to ten years of age riding bicycles. It is for this reason that the school discourages children in Years K-3 from riding bikes to school. Children in Years 4-6 may ride, at the discretion of parents. Safety helmets are compulsory and bikes must not be ridden within school grounds.

LOST PROPERTY

All students' belongings should be clearly named with their current school year and class. Articles not named are stored in the LOST PROPERTY cupboard in the office area.

SCHOOL TOURS

Parents and prospective parents are most welcome to arrange a tour of our school. Please phone the office to make a time when the Principal or a member of staff can proudly share what Dee Why Public School can offer.

HOMEWORK

Homework is considered important in the development of regular work habits. It is relevant to classroom work and provides valuable reinforcement of basic skills. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's homework.

Parents are encouraged to speak with their child's class teacher if they have any questions or concerns about homework.

THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

THE SCHOOL UNIFORM

Dee Why Public School takes great pride in the appearance of our students. The wearing of school uniform by children is fully supported and endorsed by the Parents and Citizens Association of Dee Why Public School. It is policy for children to wear the school hat. The school supports a 'no hat, stay in the shade' policy.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is operated by the P&C. It is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30am-9:30am. At other times, an order form is available from the school office and online via Flexischools. The order will be filled as soon as possible.

SUMMER UNIFORM

GIRLS and BOYS

- Short sleeve red school shirt with navy collar
- Navy skort, skirt or shorts (girls). Navy shorts (boys)
- White socks
- Black school shoes
- Navy broad brimmed hat/cap

WINTER UNIFORM

GIRLS

- Long sleeve shirt
- Navy jumper with school logo
- Navy skort, skirt or long pants
- Opaque navy tights
- Black school shoes

BOYS

- Long sleeve shirt
- Navy jumper with school logo
- Navy long pants
- White socks
- Black school shoes

PSSA SPORT UNIFORM

Students participating in Friday PSSA sport will be asked to purchase a representative sport jersey.





COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

PERMISSION NOTES

At the beginning of each year and on enrolment parents are asked to complete a set of permission notes and information forms ('School Confidential'). Please take particular care to carefully complete and return all of these forms. Also, permission notes are necessary for most excursions and extra-curricular events. Without a signed permission note, your child may be disappointed at not being able to participate.

NEWSLETTER

Our Newsletter, The Dee Why Digital, is now online and can be accessed via the school website. This is a vital way of communicating with our families. All parents are encouraged to read the Newsletter and then discuss it with their children.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Dee Why Public School official Facebook page is another great source of information about the learning and key events at our school.

THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

The School Website is continually updated and it is a useful way to source permission notes and up to date information about school events.

PARENT PORTAL

The School efficiently communicates with parents via the Parent Portal. School fees and updates are issued this way.

PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent / Teacher meetings and interviews are scheduled throughout the year for general information and reporting purposes. However, parents are always welcome to arrange a meeting with teachers at a mutually convenient time. Just phone the school and make a time with your child's teacher.

EMAIL

Email is another form of communication, often providing copies of notes and reminders. Please notify the school immediately if your email address changes. Student reports and the school newsletter are sent to the nominated family email address.

SCHOOL FEES AND PAYMENTS

COLLECTION OF MONEY

Money forwarded to the school for excursions, visiting shows, purchases and donations should be sent to school in a sealed envelope to your child's teacher. The child's name, class, amount and purpose of the payment should be written on the outside. The preferred method of payment is via the school website as a POP payment using the 'Make a Payment' tab..

EXCURSIONS AND VISITING PERFORMERS

Excursions and visiting performers are a part of the school's educational program and are linked to classroom programs. Overnight excursions occur in Year 5 and 6. All students are expected to participate in excursions as they are often arranged in culmination to a unit of work. Excursion costs are closely monitored and no child is excluded from an excursion on financial grounds. Parents are encouraged to speak with the school office or Principal to make individual arrangements, if required. Written parental permission is necessary before a student can participate in an excursion.



TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAMS

Educational programs at Dee Why Public School are developed by our teachers, based on the new NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabus requirements. There are six **Key Learning Areas** across teaching and learning programs. All students are provided with learning experiences according to their stage of development.

These Key Learning Areas are:

English

- Oral Language and Communication
- Vocabulary
- Phonological Awareness
- Print Conventions
- Phonic Knowledge
- Reading Fluency
- Reading Comprehension
- Creating Written Texts
- Spelling
- Handwriting
- Understanding and Responding to Literature

Mathematics

- Representing Whole Numbers
- Combining and Separating Quantities
- Forming Groups
- Geometric Measure
- Two-Dimensional Spatial Awareness
- Three-Dimensional Spatial Structure
- Non-Spatial Measure
- Data

Science and Technology

- Working Scientifically
- Design and Production
- Physical World
- Earth and Space
- Living World
- Material World
- Digital Technologies

Human Society and its Environment

- History
- Geography

Creative Arts

- Visual Arts
- Music
- Dance
- Drama

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

- Drug Education
- Life Education
- Child Protection
- Peer Support
- Safe Living
- Sports and Games

Key
Learning
Areas

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

The assessment of student progress is a continuous process throughout each year and across K-6. Student work samples are kept as part of the assessment process. These provide evidence of children's learning in each subject area and give children the responsibility for their achievements.

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 sit the statewide National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests during the month of March. Results are provided to parents late Term 2 to early Term 3.

STUDENT REPORTS

The school provides two written student reports each year. These reports go home via email at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2. The Semester 1 report is accompanied by a parent teacher interview and we encourage all parents to make a time to speak with their child's class teacher.



RESPONSIBILITY

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

THE ARTS

Band

Membership of a Dee Why Public School band is highly sought after and is open to students from Years 3-6. Practices and tutorials are held each week. All students are invited to join the school band and learn a musical instrument.

Instrument compatibility (dexterity and blow tests) occur in Year 2 with a written offer to join the Training Band and the recommended instrument. It is not expected that your child undertake music tuition before joining the band. Our band program is inclusive and a place in the Training Band is offered to all applicants.

There is an annual band camp and musical which all members of the band are expected to attend. The band programs is a user-pays initiative and is strongly supported by our parents who are encouraged to be involved in band committee organisation and administration.

Choir

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to join the Primary Choir which aims to develop choral skills through a varied singing program. The Years 3-6 choir also encompasses a Primary Proms Choir who perform at the Sydney Town Hall. Each year our choir auditions for School Spectacular, an arena spectacular featuring over 370 schools.

Strings

Year 1 students are privileged to learn violin under the instruction of our specialist music teachers. This program is funded by the school and tuition is incorporated into class music lessons.

Recorder

We have a talented school recorder group who perform at the Sydney Opera House each year.

Dance

The school has a number of dance groups which aim to develop skills and enjoyment across a varied program. As well as enhancing students' performance skills, the ideals of commitment and responsibility are also developed through this extra curricular activity.

Year 5 and Year 6 students participate in the DanceSport competition at Homebush and lessons are taught by an expert teacher throughout Term 3.

Every two years, in the lead up to Carnivale, a professional dance team visits the school to instruct students from K-6 in various dance items.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

All students at Dee Why Public School are given the opportunity to develop leadership skills. These opportunities occur formally and informally and are integrated as a meaningful part of the school curriculum. Students in Year 5 or 6 who show academic potential are invited to attend Cromer Campus Extension Studies Centre for one Semester.

A Year 6 boy and girl school captain and vice captain are nominated by Year 5 students and elected by the whole school at the end of each year. The student leadership team serve to represent the student body, ably supported by all of our Year 6 leaders.

Each class in Years 2 to 6 elects two students for the Student Representative Council (SRC) which meets to raise issues and discuss matters put forward by other students. The councillors canvass student opinion on proposed changes to policy or routine and participate in school decision making. The SRC also organise fundraising activities for charity.

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Students in Years 3-6 are invited to become part of the student newspaper editing team. This enrichment program aims to extend students literacy and information technology skills through the Microsoft Sway online publishing platform.

MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC SPEAKING

All children K-6 participate in the school's public speaking program. This includes assemblies led by students, class activities, grade activities and whole school activities. Students prepare for the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition throughout Term 2 and finalists represent our school at the state level competition.

PREMIER'S SPELLING BEE

Participation in the Premier's Spelling Bee is optional and finalists represent our school at the inter-schools competition.

UNIVERSITY COMPETITIONS

Students at Dee Why Public School are given the opportunity to enter various competitions throughout the school year. The ICAS assessments series is designed to assess each student's ability to apply classroom learning in new contexts using problem solving and higher order thinking skills.

TECHNOLOGY

*At Dee Why Public School we learn
locally and think globally*

21ST CENTURY LEARNERS

Dee Why Public School is committed to the integration of technology across all aspects of education, for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

As 21st century learners, students are given opportunities to use technology to redefine the way that learning takes place. Students are encouraged to collaborate, discover and create so that the classroom is only one of many learning environments.

CONNECTED CLASSROOM

The school has a dedicated computer lab, providing PC platforms, a fully automated library and a connected classroom enabling video conferencing between classrooms and schools.

Our 'Tech Hub' features digital technologies purchased to equip student with the skills, knowledge and understandings required of 21st century learners.

INTERACTIVITY

Interactive panels, laptops and iPads are now integral part of all classrooms, the library and specialist learning spaces.

Access to the Internet is available from all sites in the school and each student has a Department of Education email account. An active technology committee ensures strategic planning and oversees the purchasing of appropriate resources.

SPECIALIST TEACHING: STEM

STEM is an approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We are fortunate to have a specialist STEM teacher who co-teaches robotics and coding lessons with each primary class using state of the art devices sourced specifically for our 'Tech Hub'.



PERSONAL BEST

Sport is an important part of the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum. Teachers deliver a comprehensive fitness and sport program for all children K-6 which caters for all levels of ability and interest.

SCHOOL SPORT PROGRAMS

HOME SPORT

One component of Physical Education program is Home Sport for students in Years 3-6. Home Sport operates throughout the year utilising a variety of school based activities. In order to provide quality instruction, additional staff with expertise in particular sports are employed. Students rotate between sports, ensuring exposure to a broad range of skills throughout their schooling.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

Inter-school sport is organised through the Manly Warringah Zone PSSA and is played against other schools in the zone extending from Manly to Cromer.

PSSA sport at Dee Why Public School is regarded as part of the Gifted & Talented program. It is primarily offered to students who demonstrate proficiency in each sport.

ANNUAL SPORT CARNIVALS

Students 8 years of age and above are encouraged to participate in annual school carnivals for cross country, athletics and swimming. Following each of these events, a school team is selected to represent at the Manly Warringah Zone PSSA Carnival.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 who have not yet turned 8 years will rotate through a range of activities in a school based athletics carnival.

SPORT HOUSES

The school has 4 sport houses (illustrated below) and each child is allocated to one of these. A sport house competition occurs each year whereby points are accrued at each carnival. Students are allocated a sport colour house on enrolment.

Cook	Flinders
Phillip	Bass



EXCURSIONS & INCURSIONS



EXCURSIONS

Excursions and cultural visits are a part of the school's educational program and are linked to classroom programs. Overnight excursions occur in Year 5 and 6. All students are expected to participate in excursions as they are a part of the normal school program. Excursion costs are closely monitored and no child is excluded from an excursion on financial grounds. Written parental permission is necessary before a student can participate in an excursion.

INCURSIONS

An incursion is an activity organised by the school whereby an outside body is employed to come into the school to run an educational activity for the students. Each year, visiting performers provide students at Dee Why Public School with a culturally diverse range of learning experiences aligned to the Australian Curriculum.



STUDENT SUPPORT

STUDENT HEALTH

Parents are reminded that students with infectious diseases should not return to school until the required number of days has elapsed or a medical certificate is provided.

The link below, supplied by NSW Health, provides information on childhood illnesses, but does not replace a visit to the doctor.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/practical-help-for-parents-and-carers/family-wellbeing/health/too-sick-to-go-to-school>

IMMUNISATION

The Department of Education supports the immunisation of children before they enter Kindergarten in NSW public schools. When enrolling a child, parents are asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement.

In the event of a vaccine preventable disease in a school, non-immunised children will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak, as directed by the NSW Public Health Unit.

STUDENT WELLBEING OFFICER (SCHOOL CHAPLAIN)

The Student Wellbeing Officer is responsible for supporting the spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of all students, regardless of their faith or beliefs.

The Student Wellbeing Officer is instrumental in transitioning new families to the school and contributes to weekly Learning and Wellbeing Team meetings.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

The School Counsellor provides students, staff and parents with learning and wellbeing support. The school counsellor is part of the school Learning and Wellbeing Team and consults with external health care professionals around matters pertaining to support class placement. An appointment to speak with the school counsellor can be made at the school office.



STUDENT SUPPORT

LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHERS

The Learning Support teacher provides direct and timely specialist assistance to students in regular classes with additional needs. Programs are developed in consultation with the class teacher and parents. The Learning Support teacher supports students within the classroom and through individual literacy and numeracy withdrawal programs, otherwise known as 'booster sessions'.

The Learning Support teacher assists in developing Personalised Learning and Support Plans (PLSP) for students with special needs and ensures all students can access the curriculum.

EARLY READING PROGRAM

At Dee Why Public School, we believe that early intervention is vital to successful learning outcomes for each student. Staff work collaboratively to provide meaningful teaching and learning programs which are differentiated to meet the needs of all students.

Students identified as having a learning delay in Year 1 are given targeted interventions in phonic knowledge and word recognition. The Early Reading Program provides daily exposure to fundamental comprehension, vocabulary, spelling and phonics concepts.

SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY CENTRES

Dee Why is proud to host the local Schools as Community Centres (SaCC) program. This program provides a range of support services for families with young children from birth to 8 years of age. The focus is on ensuring a smooth transition to the first year of school for all children.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Dee Why Public School provides a comprehensive English language program for students from language backgrounds other than English, or for whom English is their second language. English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) teachers support students within the classroom to meet the curriculum requirements, encouraging confidence in the speaking, reading and writing of English.

LEARNING & WELLBEING TEAM

The Learning and Wellbeing Team supports teachers in identifying and responding to the additional learning needs of students. It coordinates and facilitates a whole school approach to improving the learning outcomes of all students. The Learning and Wellbeing Team comprises the Principal, School Counsellor, Assistant Principal Learning and Wellbeing, Learning Support Teacher, Student Wellbeing Officer and EALD teacher.

Teachers can make a student referral to the Learning and Wellbeing Team who will then determine the most appropriate course of action and assist the classroom teacher with strategies for support. Additional resources are directed to students and classes as determined by the school Learning and Wellbeing Team.

SCHOOL LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER (SLSO)

School Learning Support Officers (SLSO) work under the direction of the Learning and Wellbeing Team. They provide assistance to students with disability and additional learning support needs enrolled in mainstream classes.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)

PBL CORE VALUES

All students in NSW public schools are expected to abide by a set of core values. The Dee Why Public School expectations of *Respect*, *Responsibility* and *Personal Best*, developed by staff, students and parents, support these core values.

The Positive Behaviour for Learning, or PBL, program is implemented school wide to reinforce the positive behaviour expected of all students in all learning, classroom and playground contexts.

Students displaying appropriate, positive behaviour may be given a Dee Why Star. Dee Why Stars are free and frequent tickets used to reinforce our core values. Each week, Dee Why Stars are drawn from a barrel and recipients are issued with a voucher to spend at the school canteen. Twice a term, six students are drawn out of the barrels to have Morning Tea with the Principal.

AWARDS

A cumulative merit awards system is in place to reinforce positive behaviour and acknowledge achievement throughout each student's K-6 learning journey. The Dee Why Public School merit system increases in increments of 10 merit awards and students are presented with a certificate, banner or medal at a school assembly.

REFLECTION

All students at Dee Why Public School are expected to uphold our expectations for positive behaviour. In order to support students acceptance of responsibility for their actions, a very clear set of guidelines has been established.

Minor incidents are often treated with a warning and students are met with a conversation about making better choices. Major incidents refer to behaviours that breach our school's expectation for positive behaviour and are considered to be of a serious nature.

When a student has reached a given number of warnings, a reflection ticket will be issued.

During reflection, a student is withdrawn from the playground and restorative conferencing is coordinated by a member of the school leadership team. Parents are notified and a letter is sent home with details of the incident.

For more information about our school's minor and major incidents, please refer to the Dee Why Public School Student Discipline in Public Schools Implementation Plan.

**RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY &
PERSONAL BEST**

STUDENT WELFARE

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Dee Why Public School maintains a safe school environment by protecting the wellbeing of students and promoting positive relationships between students. The school is committed to providing a safe and happy learning environment, promoting positive self esteem for all students.

We encourage students to advise their class teacher or school Principal of any incidents that may reflect bullying behaviour and have clear guidelines in place to prevent bullying within and outside of the school context.

LIFE SKILLS

Life skills programs at Dee Why Public School combine fundamental movement and games with mindfulness for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Life skills lessons focus on physical, social and emotional self regulating strategies to promote resilience, life long learning and wellbeing. Students will attend Life skills lessons for one Semester each year.

CHILD PROTECTION

Strict safety checks are in place to protect students, including criminal record checks of all permanent and casual teachers. All staff complete annual mandatory child protection and emergency care training.

Child protection is taught as part of the Personal Development and Physical Education curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 6.

DRUG EDUCATION

Drug education and understanding responsibility and relationships is taught as part of the Personal Development and Physical Education curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 6.

INTERNET SAFETY

Web filtering technology prevents students from accessing inappropriate material on the internet and email. Teachers will ensure students understand what responsible use of technology looks and sounds like in their class. This includes research and planning, completing schoolwork, sharing information and recording text, video and images. Each student is asked to sign a Responsible Use of Devices contract at the start of the school year and the school reserves the right to withdraw access to technology if there is a breach of these conditions.

RACISM

Anti-racism education is taught in our classrooms and we make every effort to ensure our school is free from discrimination. Our anti-racism contact officer can assist any member of the school community who wishes to raise a complaint or concern.



COMMUNITY

PARENTS & CITIZENS (P&C)

P&C meetings are held in the school library on the first Wednesday of each month. Parents are encouraged to become active members of our parents and citizens association in order to support the school.

Parents are provided with an opportunity to discuss school issues and matters of common interest. Sub committees operate under the umbrella of the P&C and submit a report each meeting. Fundraising and social events are a main focus of the P&C team.

CANTEEN

The school canteen is currently operated by the school P&C and volunteers are instrumental in supporting its daily running. The menu is comprehensive, nutritious and seasonal. A canteen manager is employed by the P&C and assisted by parent volunteers. Orders can be made using the **Flexischools** online app and all meals subscribe to the Healthy School Canteen Strategy..

CARNIVALE

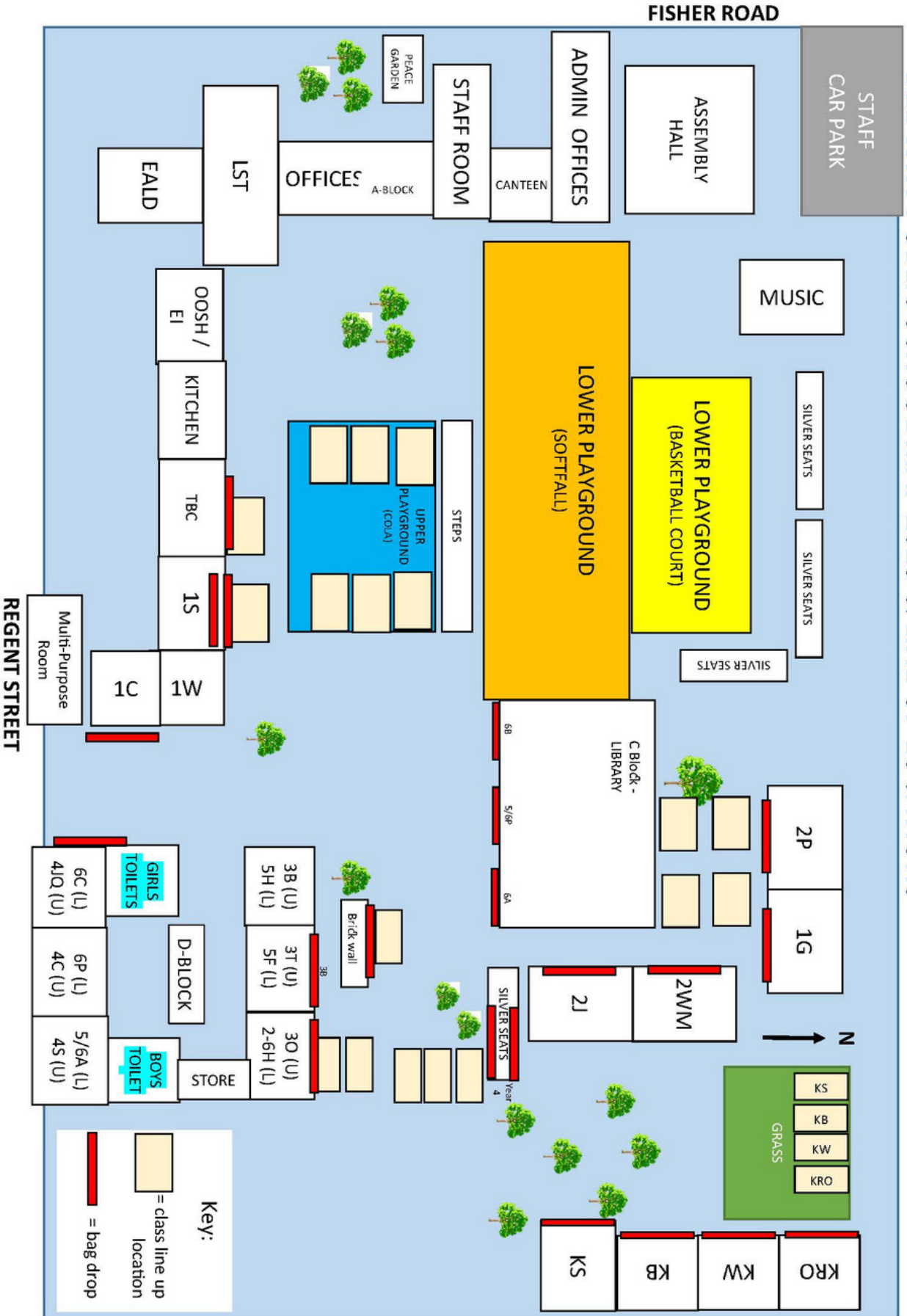
Every second year, Dee Why Public School celebrates its rich multicultural heritage with Carnivale; a festival of music, dance and food. Our students play a significant part in bringing Carnivale alive and families contribute to a multicultural food tasting lunch.

Guests are invited to witness a parade of nations and share cultural performances from around the world. Students wear traditional dress and carry the flag of their homeland.

Welcome to Dee Why Public School!

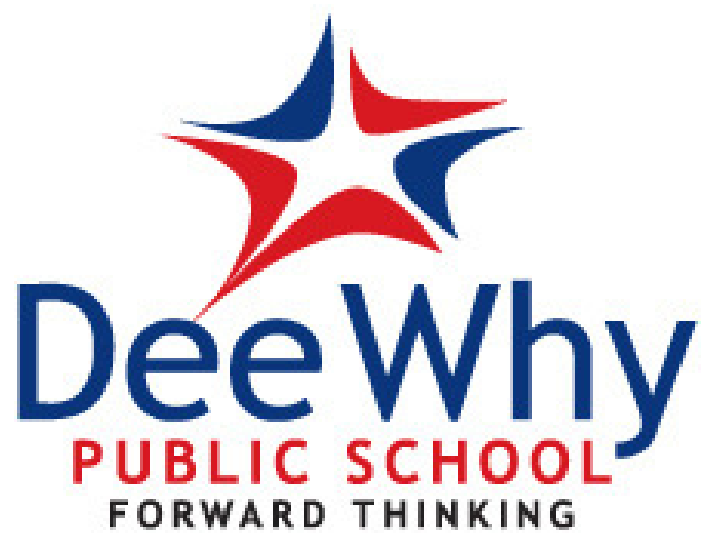


DEE WHY PUBLIC SCHOOL MAP 2023 & LINE UP LOCATIONS





WELCOME
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Dee Why Public School

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