

ASHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

– A LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR THE FUTURE

Ashfield Public School has a population of approximately 230 children. The children's academic needs and social development are catered for in a happy and nurturing environment.

Children coming to Ashfield will quickly make new friends and take advantage of the excellent facilities that we offer. Our experienced and dedicated teachers ensure that your child will receive a rigorous education in a caring school.

The school has an underpinning philosophy of valuing the whole child, through teaching the skills of inquiry, reasoning, problem solving, and learning how to learn, in an atmosphere of respect, fairness and resilience.

Task to us about the needs of your child'.

SCHOOL STAFF

Principal:	Mrs Robyn Hutchinson
Assistant Principals:	Ms. Kirsty Atkin Mr. P. O' Brien
School Counsellor:	Mr David Payne
School Administrative Staff:	Mrs Janine Cartwright Mrs Maureen Pye

Staffing at Ashfield Public school

- Class Homebase Teachers,
- Support Class teachers (I.O. Unit)
- English as a Second Language teachers,
- Support Teacher Learning,
- Reading Recovery Teacher,
- Teacher-Librarian,
- Community Language Teacher (Chinese)
- Release from face-to-face Teachers: Specialized programs: Music, Environment and Science, sport
- Student Support Coordinator (Pastoral Care)
- New Horizons Community Coordinator

TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL

TELEPHONE: 9798 4400

FAX: 9716 7250 EMAIL: ashfield-p.school@det.nsw.ed.au

Postal: P.O. Box 70 ASHFIELD 1800

Location: Corner Liverpool Road and Murrell Street, Ashfield

Website: www.ashfield-p.schools.edu.au

SCHOOL TIMES:

9.00 am	School commences
11.00 am – 11.25 am	Recess
1.00 pm – 1.50 pm	Lunch
2.45 pm	Bus departs for Support Unit students
3.00 pm	Final bell

LEARNING FOR EXCELLENCE AT ASHFIELD

We believe that everyone has the right and responsibility to learn.

We aim to: -

- Develop in each child a sense of enjoyment and responsibility in learning, with the aim of achieving the highest possible academic standard appropriate for him/her with a particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy, and technology, as applied to everyday life situations.
- Encourage children to develop towards his/her full potential in their academic programme, social development, physical and artistic pursuits. Particular attention is paid to integrating cross-cultural and Indigenous respect and understanding.
- Encourage awareness and respect for the needs of others. The school utilises restorative practices to assist children in managing their behaviour, and learn and grow.

❖ **THE LEARNING PROGRAM**

Ashfield children follow the NSW Department of School Education syllabus. The comprehensive program involves the key learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science & Technology
- Human Society and Its Environment
- Physical Education, Health and Personal development
- The Creative and Performing Arts.

Across the curriculum is the understanding that developing skills of inquiry, problem solving, reasoning and logical thinking are skills of the highest importance. Particular attention is given to encourage children to collaborate, research, discuss and problem solve together in all aspects of the curriculum.

Complementing the core curriculum, the students receive tuition in Chinese language and culture, cross-cultural understanding and Indigenous culture. Computer technology, Drama, Music and Physical Education are incorporated into the class program as well as being taught by specialist teachers. The teaching of Science and care for the Environment is a strong feature of the school. The Talent Enrichment Program, comprising the above elements is embedded in all learning programs. Special Programs such as debating, public speaking, chess, Premiers Reading Challenge, are all part of the Talent Enrichment Program.

As part of the teaching/ learning cycle, parents receive a written report at the end of each semester showing their child's progress. An interview accompanies the mid-year report. These reports are based on continuous assessments throughout the semester. Parents are invited to speak with their child's teacher, at any mutually arranged time.

English is a major importance to all our families and English competence is our first priority. There is a strong commitment to developing the basic skills of reading, writing and listening. For children who have recently arrived in Australia, our ESL Teachers develop English communication, but highly valuing the mother tongue. Families are encouraged to maintain the native language as far as possible.

Students with special learning needs are supported through special programs. **Reading Recovery** is offered to Year 1 students and Learning support is offered to children in Years 1 – 6, who are experiencing difficulties in Reading.

Mathematics is an integral part of our curriculum. Students experience a program that has a strong practical component with emphasis on numeracy and problem solving strategies.

All classes have formal lessons for basic skills. This is reflected in our outstanding results with a high percentage of candidates achieving selective high school placement.

All Ashfield children have computers in their classrooms. Problem solving, word processing and writing development are enhanced by the use of the computer. The school's library has a bank of computers, which the children are encouraged to use at lunchtime. The **Internet** is accessible throughout the school. Check out the school's new website.

Ashfield School has three **Support Classes** for students with a moderate intellectual disability. Integration with mainstream students is a key element in the successful functioning of the Support Unit within the school. Our students participate together in all school activities. Social Skills support programs and individualised integration programs ensure that all students benefit from the opportunity to work and play together.

❖ **HELPING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING**

All staff provides homework for their students. The school operates an innovative **Homework Grid Program**, which allows families maximum flexibility with the completing a wide range of homework activities, which incorporates many of the activities a child might do at home anyway. Homework varies greatly depending on the age and needs of the child. For example, older students are directed to independent research; private revision to consolidate the day's work; and importantly daily reading for enjoyment. Younger children benefit from extensive reading together at home. A homework club operates on Wednesday afternoon in the school library from 3.00 to 4.30 for students from Years 3-6.

❖ **EXCURSIONS, CARNIVALS AND AT-SCHOOL EVENTS**

There is a program of educational excursions and visiting groups that enhance studies in Science, Human Society and Its Environment. These experiences are an important part of the school programme.

A few weeks prior to the day of the excursion or event (longer if an overnight excursion) a note is sent home listing details such as time, place, what to wear and bring, transport arrangements and the cost. Parents or carers are asked to complete and sign the permission note and return it to school with the correct money in an envelope by the due date. Payment can be made in cash or cheque, placed in an envelope on Tuesday or Thursday, to the child's teacher. If there is a financial problem, parents are asked to contact the principal to seek assistance to ensure that their child doesn't miss out on an important part of his/her learning.

INFORMATION TO HELP YOUR CHILD

❖ **SCHOOL UNIFORMS.**

Uniforms help to promote a sense of pride and identity in belonging to Ashfield School. Parents and teachers voted that children should wear uniforms at all times. All children must wear hats during summer to protect against the sun. Uniforms should be clean and in good repair and shoes polished. Uniforms can be ordered at the Community Room every Tuesday morning between 8.30am – 9.00am. Uniform samples are on display in the school foyer.

Please label all clothes with you child's name.

Winter: Royal blue tracksuit with school crest.

Long sleeved royal blue polo shirt.

Summer: Royal blue crested polo shirt and royal blue polo shorts.

Regulation checked blue tunic (girls).

Plain black school shoes with navy, royal blue or white socks.

Regulation school hat.

Hair: Hair longer than collar length needs to be plaited or tied back with royal blue or white ribbons or scrunchies.

Long hair that is left loose impedes work.

❖ **NEWSLETTER**

A fortnightly Newsletter is sent home to keep parents fully informed of school events. Community information, student and school news, as well as student work are all features of the school Newsletter.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

❖ **RESTORATIVE PRACTICE: Positive Behaviour Management**

The school operates out of an understanding of Restorative Practice, which means, that children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour. It means that resolution of issues takes place through discussion with the child or children and parents as needed. Consequences, rather than punishment are negotiated with all concerned.

❖ **MEDICATION**

Children should not have medicines or first aid materials with them at school. If your child needs medication, please contact the school, as there are departmental procedures to be followed when medication needs to be administered.

If your child is an asthmatic, or is allergic to substances such as penicillin or bee stings, ensure the school has been informed so that appropriate action can be taken. In the event of an accident or illness we will contact you. In the case of an emergency, we will call 000 for Emergency Care, and upon their advice your child will be taken to hospital if required. This school has ambulance insurance cover.

Parents are asked to contact the school if children contract any of the common childhood illnesses e.g. Chicken Pox, Measles, German Measles or Mumps.

❖ **SCHOOL COUNSELLOR**

The School Counsellor is available each week, for appointments. These can be referrals or parents can make a direct appointment.

❖ **COMMUNITY LIAISON COORDINATOR (Chaplain)**

This is a 2 day a week role in the school. Your children will participate in varying activities to support their well-being and learning.

❖ **School Therapists**

Ashfield has the services of the Inner West School Therapy Team offering Speech and Occupational therapy support to the students of the Special Unit.

❖ **Central Sydney Area Health Service**

For student Dental Services, phone 9787 6349 for an appointment at their clinic.

❖ **Burwood Child, Adolescent and Family Health Centre**

32 Burwood Road, Burwood, 2134

Child Health Nurses visit the school to provide health checks to all kindergarten and new students to the school.

Children are seen with parental consent. The health assessment involves checking vision, hearing, speech and language development and any other problem that may affect the child's health and development or school progress.

Parents may also make referrals.

The Centre also provides the following services: speech pathology, medical, family counseling.

BEING SAFE AT SCHOOL

❖ **ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

Attendance everyday is important for children's progress. However, if your child is ill, school is not the correct place for him/her.

When a child is LATE: Send a note with the child explaining why the child is late. The child will take the slip to the class teacher. All late arrivals are recorded.

When a child is ABSENT: Telephone the school on the day and send a note of explanation with the child when he/she returns to school. If a

child is frequently late or absent the Department of School Education's Home School Liaison Officer may contact the home.

When a child needs to LEAVE EARLY: Send a note in the morning. Collect an early leave pass and sign the early departure book in the office. Take the pass to the child's teacher. Only persons authorized by parents can collect children early. No teacher will permit children to leave without an early pass and a known adult.

❖ **TRAVEL PASSES**

If your child is eligible, please apply at the front office. To be eligible, Years 3 – 6 children must live more than 1.6 kilometres from the school. All years K – 2 children can obtain a travel pass without a distance requirement.

❖ **PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION**

The main Astroturf school playground is supervised in the mornings from 8.45am. Children should not be in the playground prior to this time. The school has an Indigenous garden playground, the Wangal Playground, where children are encouraged in quieter play. Playgrounds are supervised during regular lesson breaks.

Playgrounds are not supervised after school, as all children go directly home at 3.00pm. Due care is taken to ensure that all children are dismissed on time and that no child is left unattended. Please be sure to collect your child promptly at 3 pm. If there is any delay in collecting your child, please advise the school by phone. Before and after school care operates at Ashfield School to assist families who need out of hours child care. Contact 9798 5611 for details.

Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds for any reason, without an adult.

❖ **SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS**

These funds are used to purchase items such as duplicating paper, art paper, exercise books, craft materials, mathematics, computer materials, science and reading materials plus other items which can help your child's teacher to provide learning experiences for him/her.

Fees are \$50 per year per child or it can be paid by the term. Contributions can be paid in cash or by cheque.

❖ **PARENTS MEETINGS**

We encourage all parents to take the opportunity to participate in the life of the school. Days and times of these meetings can be found in the Newsletter. We vary the times in the hope that all parents are able to attend. There is currently no canteen operating at the school.

❖ **CONTACTING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER**

All teachers are most happy to speak with you about your child's progress. Questions regarding your child's education, well-being at school or any other areas of concern that you may have, are all most welcome.

All teachers will organize to make a convenient time with you however, as they are teaching during the day it is advisable for you to ring the school and make an appointment.

❖ **CONTACTING THE PRINCIPAL**

The Principal, like the teachers, is available to talk with you in matters relating to your children and the school. Call in or telephone for a mutually convenient appointment time. The Principal looks forward to meeting you.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

PARENT WORKSHOP PROGRAM

An extensive program of workshops for parents is run jointly by DET, Ashfield Council and local agencies and the school. Many of these are held at the school. A Parent Calendar is published each term outlining the workshops.

GOOD BEGINNINGS 'Play and Learn Program'

The good Beginnings Play and Learn Program for 0 – 5 year olds and their carers, held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 9.30 – 11.30, is acclaimed throughout the area. This is part of an extensive Transition to School Program held at the school.

The STAP PROGRAM

The STAP program, run by Canterbury Migrant Resource Centre, is a homework support program for kids and their parents, and it runs every Thursday afternoon straight after school.

TAFE ENGLISH CLASSES

TAFE English classes every week. Check the school office for details.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

A number of Community Language classes operate out of the school. Check the school office for details. Other Community groups operate a range of classes out of school hours.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL AND VACATION CARE.

The Weldon Centre AKOOSH provides an out of school hours service. **Ashfield After School Care** for 5 – 8 year olds.

Times: 7:00am – 9.00am Monday to Friday
 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Where: Ashfield After School Care. Classroom in the courtyard
(5 – 8yrs)

Phone: 9798 5611

"ABC KIDS" EARLY LEARNING CENTRE.

Providing Long Day Care and Pre – school Education.

The early learning center operates from 6:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. Catering from babies to 5 year olds. Enter through Murrell Street. For further enquiries call the Centre Director, on **9799 2059**.

