

Starting School at Pooraka Primary School –

Reception to Year 6

Information for parents and families



Welcome to Pooraka Primary School

Our school values are Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Caring and Trust

Pooraka School is a Reception to Year 6 School with approximately 220 students. Our students mainly come from Pooraka itself or the surrounding suburbs including Ingle Farm, Montague Farm and Mawson Lakes. At Pooraka we celebrate the wonderful diversity of our students and community population - over half of our students are from backgrounds where English is the second language. We embrace our diversity and the celebrations and cultures of all of our students and their families - it helps us build tolerance and understanding across the school.

Starting school at Pooraka for the first time

- School begins at 8:50am (children can be in the yard from 8:30) and finishes at 3pm.
- Corridors and classroom spaces become very busy at the beginning and end of the day - parents are asked to wait outside before and after school until the bell goes. All children also wait outside before school on the hard play area.
- We have 8 classes in our school. Some are what we call straight year levels eg Year 1 by themselves and some are composite eg 2/3. These structures are determined by the numbers of students we have in each year level. Staff work together at the end of each year to decide this. Mostly our classes are up to about 23 in R-2 and 27 in Years 3-6.
- Students should bring food and drink for recess and lunch. Most classes also have a break for a fruit snack at 10am so students should have a piece of fruit to eat in their bags. Low fat and sugar content foods are best except for occasional treats.
- Name all containers, jumpers, personal belongings, no toys except on special sharing days
- We use Rorys online school lunches for lunch orders on Thursdays.
Accessed through the QKR app.
- OSHC is open before, after school, holiday time and pupil free days
- Excursions and in school activities may be planned during the year. These are often planned with classes working together.
- We always dismiss at 2pm on the last day of each term.

How do I know what is going on at school/in my child's classroom?

- Talk to the teacher
- Look at what is around the room/in corridors etc
- Do volunteer training to become a regular helper with reading etc
- Newsletter – school uses the seesaw app
- Website
- Class newsletters notes
- All classes use Seesaw as an online communication with families.
- Email the school directly with questions
- Diary/communication book
- Ring to speak to class teacher, other teachers, support staff, leadership

Useful ways to support your child in their start at Pooraka

- Read, read, read, - every day
- Talk, talk, talk, everyday – build your child's language skills
- Count, point our words and numbers
- Reduce screen time – encourage outdoors time
- Make sure they attend everyday unless they are sick – if they are sick – ring the front office, write or talk to the teacher if more details are required
- Social learning is a focus particularly in early years
- Build confidence- independence – let your child carry their own bag and organise what they need in class at the start of each day
- Support with their homework. In the Early years – reading every night, eventually spelling words. Upper year levels have homework set by class teacher

What will my child be doing at School?

We teach using the Australian Curriculum which clearly states what it is that students need to be taught at every year level and what they should be able to achieve in all areas of study. In the Early years we have a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, hands on activities and learning through play.

Our Priorities

Every Department of Education school is required to have a plan of their priorities that they work on during the year. In 2019 our priorities will be:

- Reading – a focus on comprehension strategies and the Big Six of Reading
- Maths – with a focus on basic numeracy skills and problem solving and the Big Six of Maths

Other focus areas and Programs

- Supporting students with special learning needs
- Science, P.E, Performing Arts and Italian are areas of the curriculum taught by specialist teachers.
- Resource based learning
- Sports – for years 4-7 at a district and state level. We have a particular focus on rugby
- Instrumental music – piano, drums, guitar and some brass and woodwind lessons are available for private sessions
- Student Voice focusses on building leadership skills. Each class elects a representative to work on the committee for part of the year.
- Cultural awareness/celebrations

How will I know how my child is doing at school?

- Ask your child taking care not to focus too much on any negatives. Contact your child's teacher if you or your child has concerns.
- Informal 'quick' chats with class teachers. The beginning and end of day can be busy times. Contact or write a note for the teacher to request a time to chat.
- Acquaintance gathering will be held early in term 1. Parent teacher interviews are held at the end of term 1 and written reports are sent home at the end of terms 2 & 4.
- Always ask the class teacher first if there is a question, or concern

How can I get involved?

Volunteer training information can be collected from the front office staff. Volunteers often assist through:

- Classroom help
- Excursions/special events
- Working bees, barbecues
- School committees & Governing Council – Governing Council notice board

Working together to solve problems – who can I speak to?

- Always speak to your child's class teacher first with any problems
- Contact a member of the school's leadership team
- A support staff member who works with your child may be a good person to talk to as well after speaking to the classroom teacher.

Our Expectations of Parents/Caregivers

As a school we expect our parents and caregivers to:

- Always act respectfully to all staff and other members of the school community
- Respectfully raise any concerns with the appropriate staff and not with other parents or school community members
- Talk about the school in positive ways within the wider community