

BATHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL

2027 KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

Believe *Belong* *Succeed*





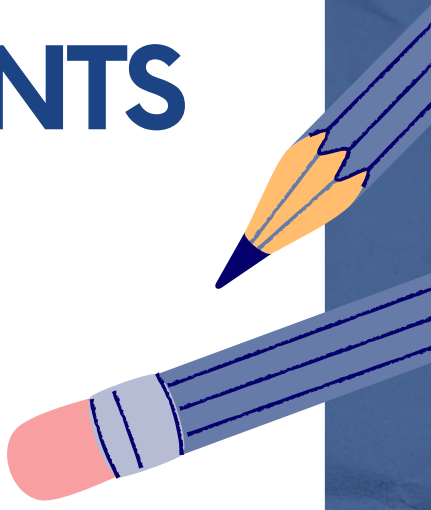
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1815 BATHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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SECTION 1: WELCOME

1.1 PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parents/Caregivers,



Welcome to Bathurst Public School.

We are delighted that you are joining us at Bathurst Public School.

This booklet contains information that will be helpful for you and your child in 2027.
Please read it carefully and keep it as a handy reference during the school year.

Your child's education is important to all staff at Bathurst Public School.
We hope you and your child will find your first year at school happy and rewarding.

Mrs Kate White

Kate White

Principal

1.2 PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Preparation is the key to a smooth, successful, and happy start to your child's school years. There are many things parents and carers can do with their children to support them in transitioning from preschool to school.

The following is a list of ideas to help prepare your child for school:

- Attend the Bathurst Public School transition program.
- Familiarise your child with procedures for travelling to and from school.
- Decide on a place to meet after school.
- Label all items.
- Print your child's name e.g., Sammy Marchant
- Read to your child every day; encourage active listening and concentration.
- Encourage a love of books and a love of learning.
- Provide play opportunities – play is a child's work. Children learn through play; play enhances a wide range of skills essential for school success.
- Help your child to be independent by encouraging them to do things for themselves, e.g., carrying their school bag, dressing, and putting things away.
- Participate in and encourage conversation with your child about various topics.
- Encourage your child to speak clearly and know their name.
- Make sure your child can open their lunch box, school bags, drink bottles, etc.

1.3 WHAT YOU NEED FOR SCHOOL

Children will need:

- A navy blue broad-brim hat (available from our Uniform Shop)
- A backpack
- School uniform – as in Section 8
- A paint shirt (this can be left at school)
- Library Bag (a sturdy bag suitable for carrying books)
- A spare pair of underpants in case of an accident
- Lunchbox and water bottle

1.4 WHAT TO PACK IN THE SCHOOL BAG

- Lunchbox
- Water bottle
- Hat
- Spare underpants in a plastic bag in case of an accident
- Jumper on days when the weather is predicted to become colder

1.5

WHAT TO PACK IN THE LUNCHBOX

How much to pack can be trial and error when you first pack a lunch box. Start with a fruit break, morning tea snack and something for lunch. Think about how much your child normally eats when they are at home with you during normal school hours. In the beginning, if you are not sure if they will be hungry, pack extra, shelf-stable things that they can always eat when they get home or reuse if they don't eat, like sultanas, a tub of fruit in natural juice, some wholegrain crackers or an extra piece of fruit.

LUNCHBOX SUGGESTIONS



Something made with wholegrain carbs like a sandwich, wrap or roll, naan, roti, pasta, rice, couscous or quinoa. Carbs give kids the energy they need to make it through the day.



Vegetables, like carrots, celery, cucumber, tomatoes and lettuce



Some protein to keep them full like cheese, chicken, tuna, tofu, chickpeas, lentils, baked beans, egg or hummus in a sandwich



Some fruit, either in-season fresh, dried or tubs in natural juice

SECTION 2: DAILY OVERVIEW

2.1 SCHOOL TIMES

Teachers start duty at 8:30 am. Kindergarten plays and puts their bags in class lines in the Kindergarten Quad.

When the bell goes, students line up in their class lines in the Kindergarten Quad.

School begins at 9.00 am and finishes at 3.00 pm.

MORNING SESSION	9:00 am - 11:00 am
EATING TIME	10:53 am - 11:00 am
BREAK 1	11:00 am - 11:30 am
MIDDLE SESSION	11:30 am - 1:20 pm
EATING TIME	1:22 pm - 1:30 pm
BREAK 2	1:30 pm - 2:00 pm
AFTERNOON SESSION	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

2.2 BREAKFAST AND LUNCH CLUBS

Breakfast and Lunch Clubs run daily and are free for all students.

- Breakfast Club: 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM, held in the Lambert Street room next to the Kindergarten Quad.
- Lunch Club: 1:20 PM – 1:30 PM, held in the Executive Office.

2.3 FRUIT BREAK

During the morning session, students will have a 'Fruit Break' to eat a snack of vegetables or fruit. This helps students refuel during the gap between breakfast and morning tea.

FRUIT BREAK SUGGESTIONS



Vegetables - carrot sticks, celery sticks, cucumber sticks, baby tomatoes



Fruit - seasonal fruit either cut up or whole (if they can eat it unassisted), dried fruit, preserved or canned fruit in natural juice.

2.4 DROP-OFF AND PICK UP

Two access gates are opened in the morning and afternoon for students and parents to enter and leave the school grounds – Lambert Street (closest to the Kindergarten Quad) and George Street (front of the school). Teachers are on duty at both gates to greet students in the morning and to hand students over to parents in the afternoon.

DROP-OFF

Parents are welcome to walk their child to the Kindergarten Quad from either gate in the morning.

The school drop-off zone at the front of the school is in effect from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Cars pull in parallel to the curb to let the children out of the car on the curbside. Parents must remain inside or within 3 metres of their vehicle. A 2-minute maximum stay is applied.

PICK UP

Parents wait outside the gates for students at the end of the day. Students remain supervised and seated on grass areas in stage groups until parents are sighted.

Most Kindergarten students are picked up from the Lambert Street gate.

2.5

BUS TRAVEL

Bus travel is free for all students in Kindergarten with a current bus pass.

It is suggested that parents of young children bring them to and from school or travel on the bus with them until they are sure of their destinations.

Parents should skill their children in bus safety before they allow them to travel. Information on this can be obtained online at transportnsw.info/school-student.

Buses drop off and pick up from the Rocket Street side of the school. In the afternoon, children are supervised and wait in lines for their buses under the COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area).



SECTION 3: WEEKLY OVERVIEW

3.1 LIBRARY

Children will visit the library for one lesson per week. Here, they will learn how to hold and look after books, who authors and illustrators are, and will be able to borrow books if they have a library bag.
Please encourage children to read at home.
Children can visit the library during breaks to read books and play games.

3.2 SPORT

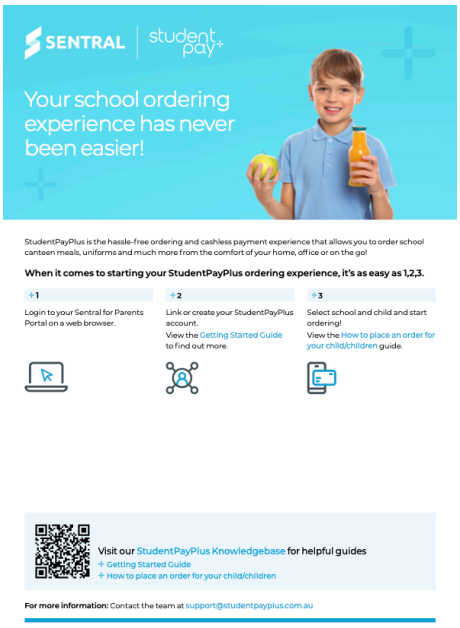
Kindergarten students explore and perform fundamental movement skills on Thursdays during sports lessons. Students also participate in fitness activities throughout the week, giving them opportunities to cooperate positively with others in a variety of play and group situations.

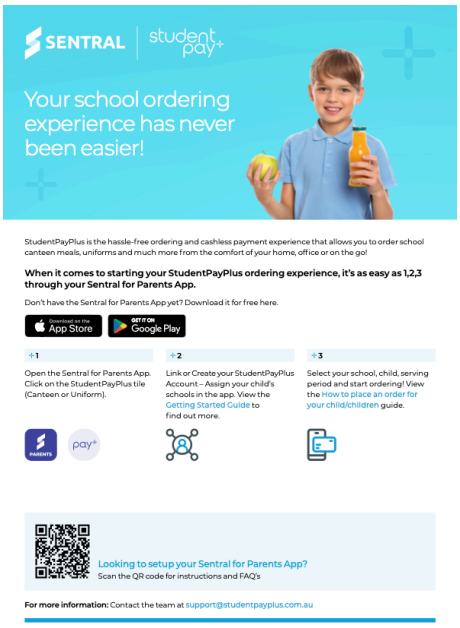
3.3 SCRIPTURE AND ETHICS

Christian and Islamic scripture takes place from 12:00 - 12:30 on Wednesdays.
Non-Scripture students participate in alternate activities during this time. Ethics lessons are offered as an alternative for non-scripture students, dependent on teacher availability.

3.4 CANTEEN

Our school-operated canteen is open every Friday. Orders can be placed through the Sentral Parent Portal or by placing money and your order in an envelope and dropping it at the canteen before 9:00 a.m. each Friday. The canteen menu is available on the school's website, in the weekly newsletter, and on the school's Facebook page.





3.5 HOMEWORK

Students receive homework each Monday and are asked to return it on Friday. Homework will take 10 minutes per day and will include a decodable reader and sound cards for students to practice their sounds and reading for parents.

SECTION 4: TERM OVERVIEW

4.1 KINDERGARTEN CALENDER

TERM 1	**First Day of School for Students – Wednesday, 3rd February 2027** Best Start Testing Captains Induction Ceremony School Photos Harmony Day Open Classrooms Green Award Luncheon Easter Hat Parade **Last Day of Term 1 for Students – Friday, 9th April 2027**
TERM 2	**First Day of Term 2 for Students – Wednesday, 28th April 2027** National Sorry Day Reconciliation Week Open Classrooms Daffodil Delights Morning Tea Semester 1 Reports Home Green Award Luncheon **Last Day of Term 2 for Students – Friday, 2nd July 2027**
TERM 3	**First Day of Term 3 for Students – Tuesday, 20th July 2027** Education Week School Concert Bathurst Eisteddfod Book Week Parade and Book Fair NAIDOC Week Open Classrooms Green Award Luncheon **Last Day of Term 3 for Students – Friday, 24th September 2027**
TERM 4	**First Day of Term 4 for Students – Tuesday, 12th October 2027** Grandparents Day NAIDOC Week Open Classrooms Year 6 Mini Fete Swimming Program Semester 2 Reports Home Presentation Day Green Award Luncheon Class Parties Year 6 Graduation Ceremony **Last Day of Kindergarten for Students – Monday, 20th December 2027**

4.2 ASSEMBLIES

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 classes come together fortnightly. Parents are invited to join in this celebration of learning in McMullen Hall.

Students receiving awards are named and acknowledged via our Facebook Page. If you choose for your child not to have media permission, the classroom teacher will personally notify you when your child is going to receive an award.

4.3 P&C MEETINGS

The Parents and Citizens Group meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the school staffroom.

The P&C assists with fundraising and organises special events throughout the year, such as the Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts.

These meetings are a great opportunity to meet other parents as well as learn about school policies and what is happening around the school.

SECTION 5: COMMUNICATION

5.1 SENTRAL FOR PARENTS APP

Bathurst Public School uses the Sentral for Parents app to provide parents with targeted news and information relevant to their children. This app gives parents access to:



- News feeds
- Term calendars
- Absences that need explaining
- Interview bookings
- Newsletters
- Semesterly reports
- Communication with class teachers
- Canteen menu and ordering
- Notifying the school of changes in contact details and medical information
- Granting permission for excursions and activities
- Making payments
- Purchasing uniforms

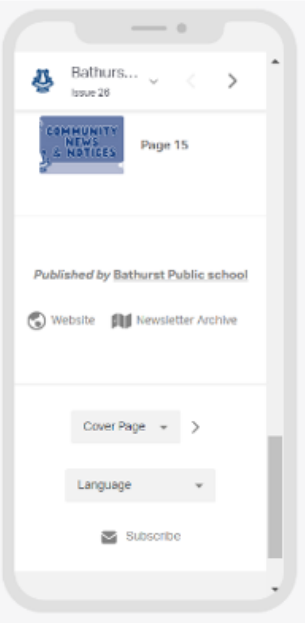
SETTING UP THE SENTRAL FOR PARENTS APP

You will be emailed an Access Key in your child's first week of school.

1. Download the Sentral for Parents app for your phone.
2. Open the app.
3. Search Bathurst Public School.
4. Tap **REGISTER HERE** to create an account using your email address.
5. Create your own password.
6. Add your **Access Key**.
7. Allow **Push Notifications**.

5.2 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter is available online every Thursday.
The newsletter contains information about what is happening at the school, in each classroom, and about upcoming events.



The newsletter can be translated to any language by scrolling to the bottom of the screen and clicking on the Language box.

You can find the link in the Parents app, the school's website, and the Bathurst Public School Facebook page.
Website: www.bathurst-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/BathurstPublicSchool

5.3 PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS AND REPORTS

Parent/Teacher meetings take place in Term 1 and Term 3 in the McMullen Hall. The meetings provide an opportunity to build positive partnerships between home and school. Parents can book an appointment through the **Sentral for Parents** app when the booking period is open.
Interpreting services can be organised for any families requiring language support. This can be done by contacting our front office.
Student reports are written by teachers in Term 2 and Term 4 to communicate how students have progressed during the semester. These are published to the Sentral for Parents app and printed and sent home with the students for parents to open.

5.4 FACEBOOK

We have a whole school Bathurst Public School Facebook page. This page celebrates the wonderful things happening at school through photos.
Like our page to keep up with all the fun.



5.5 PAYMENTS FOR EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

If asked to pay for excursions or activities throughout the year, we offer an online payment system through the **Sentral for Parents** app. Alternatively, parents can pay at the front office using eftpos, or students can bring cash in an envelope marked with their name, class, what the money is for.

5.6 CONTACTING TEACHERS

We appreciate that parents and caregivers may have questions about their child's learning and well-being. Your child's teacher will always be happy to discuss any concerns you may have. You can organise a time to talk to the teacher by messaging them through the **Sentral for Parents** app or contacting the front office by phone or email.

SECTION 6: ATTENDANCE

Children must attend school every day. Research shows a clear correlation between student attendance and the achievement of quality outcomes. This research tells us that students with an attendance rate below 90% are educationally at risk. The Department of Education's expected student attendance rate is now above 95%, which equates to no more than two days absent a term.

6.1 GENERAL ATTENDANCE

School begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and finishes at 3:00 p.m. If your child arrives late, they must enter via the front office to get a late note. This note is then given to the classroom teacher when the student gets to class.

If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, a phone call to the office or written note is needed for the student to be collected before 3:00 p.m.



6.2

ABSENCE

If your child is sick, it is appropriate to keep them at home. However, you need to inform the school of the reason for the absence within seven days. This can be done through the Sentral for Parent app, a phone call to the school office, or by sending a note of explanation to the class teacher the next day your child attends school.

If your child is sick for three or more days, we require a medical certificate to explain the absence.

If you do not explain an absence, a note may be sent home for you to complete and return to the front office.

If your child is absent regularly, they may be placed on a Individual Attendance Plan (IAP) or referred to the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO).



SECTION 7: ILLNESS

7.1 SICK BAY

If your child becomes ill or injured at school, they will be supervised in sickbay. Minor ailments will be attended to, and your child will return to class. You will be contacted if your child has a head injury, is unwell, or has a more serious ailment. If you are unreachable, we will contact your emergency contact.



7.2 INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A list of infectious diseases and the time a child is away from school is below, as required by the NSW Department of Health guidelines. Please consult your local doctor or health centre for any queries about the following medical problems.
Children must stay away from school while they have these highly contagious diseases.

DISEASE	STAY AT HOME
Chicken Pox	Exclude for 7 days after the first spots appear or until they are fully recovered
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased
COVID-19	Until they are symptom-free
Flu	Remain at home if you have any flu-like symptoms
Head Lice	Exclude until hair is completely cleaned, and all lice are gone
Impetigo - School Sores	Exclude until sores have healed
Measles	Exclude for 5 days from the appearance of the rash
Mumps	Exclude for 10 days from the onset of swelling
Ringworm	Exclude until all evidence of the disease has disappeared

7.3 MEDICATION

If a child needs medication at school, please inform the office.
If the school is required to administer medication, a "Request for Administering Prescribed Medication" form will need to be completed by the parent/carer. Long-term medication must be provided to the school in a blister pack.
Alternatively, parents/care providers can bring medication to the school office and administer it as required.

SECTION 8: UNIFORM

8.1 PURCHASE

Uniforms are available for purchase through the Bathurst Public School Uniform Shop, located on site. Families also have the option to order online via the Sentral Parent Portal, with items sent home with students for convenience.

JUMPERS & JACKETS

- School Spray Jacket with Embroidered Logo **$36.00**
- Unisex Navy Sloppy Joe with Screen Print Logo **$47.95-$52.95**

POLO SHIRTS

- Unisex White Polo Shirt with Embroidered Logo **$43.95**
- Unisex Navy Polo Shirt with Embroidered Logo **$31** (Sizes 4-14) and **$34** (Sizes S-L)

PANTS & SHORTS

- Rugby Short **$17.80**
- Trackpants (fleecy) **$23.50**
- Trackpants (lined) **$29.50**

TUNICS

- Summer Tunic **$48**
- Winter Tunic **$69.95**

HATS, BAGS & ACCESSORIES

- Bathurst Public School Bag- Medium **$55** & Large **$65**
- Navy Broad-Brim Hat **$10**
- Navy Tights **$15.70**
- Football Socks **$15**

8.2 SEASONAL UNIFORM TABLE

SUMMER UNIFORM

ALL STUDENTS

- White socks
- Black shoes/joggers
- Navy broad-brimmed hat
- Navy or white traditional headwear (if required)

OPTION A	OPTION B
• Navy and white polo shirt with school emblem • Mid-length navy shorts **FORMAL OCCASIONS:** Tailored mid-length navy shorts	• Summer tunic





WINTER UNIFORM

ALL STUDENTS

- Navy school jumper
- Navy jacket
- White socks
- Black shoes/joggers
- Navy broad-brimmed hat
- Navy scarf, gloves and beanie (if required)
- Navy or white traditional headwear (if required)

OPTION A

- Navy and white polo shirt with school emblem
- Navy pants/track pants

FORMAL OCCASIONS: Tailored navy pants



OPTION B

- Winter pinafore
- White polo shirt or skivvy
- Navy opaque stockings



SPORTS UNIFORM

ALL STUDENTS

- Navy school jumper
- Navy jacket
- White socks
- Joggers
- Navy broad-brimmed hat
- Navy or white traditional headwear (if required)

OPTION A

- Navy and white polo shirt with school emblem
- Navy track pants



OPTION B

- Navy and white polo shirt with school emblem
- Mid-length navy shorts



Please ensure all jumpers, jackets and hats are clearly labelled with your child's name.

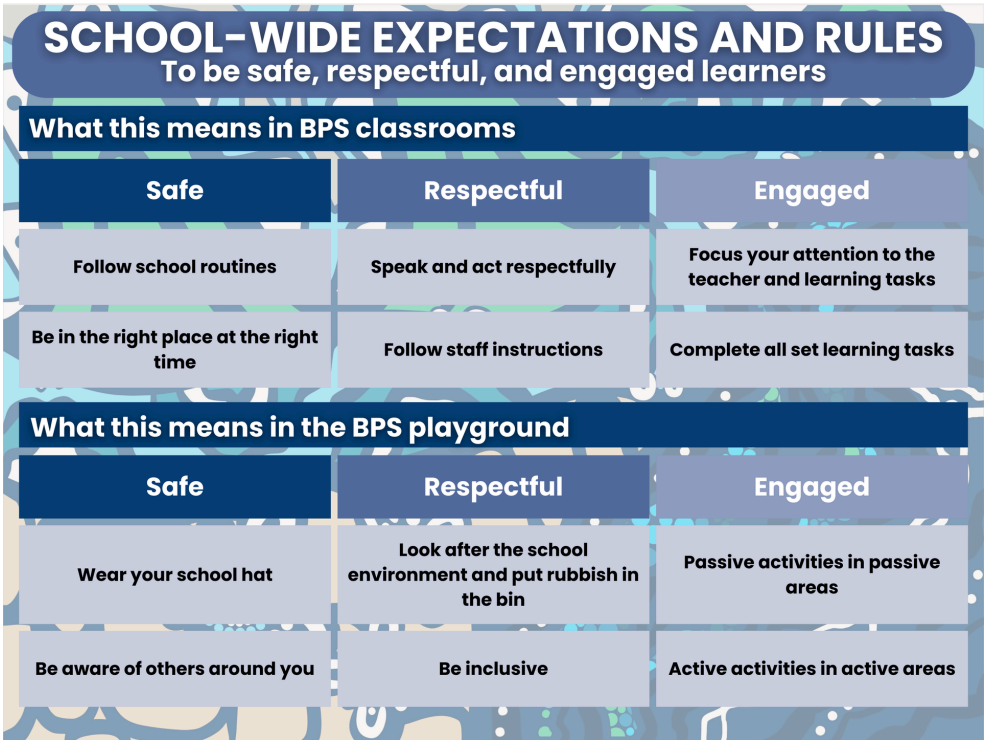
SECTION 9: WELLBEING

9.1 STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Bathurst Public School is committed to providing everyone with a safe, supportive and responsive environment. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

Our Student Behaviour Procedures aim to have a fair and consistent way of establishing a safe, orderly, positive environment where teachers can teach and students can learn, thrive and succeed.

Student Welfare is enhanced when all members of the school community participate in the learning programs and life of the school.



9.2 SUN SAFETY

The school has a 'no hat, no play in the sun' policy.
All children must wear a navy blue broad-brim hat each day. Broad brim hats are available from the front office for $10.00.
Sunscreen is available in each classroom for students to use before going outside for break times and physical activity.

9.3 LEARNING AND SUPPORT TEAM

Our Learning and Support team meet once a week to discuss the learning and support needs and well-being of students across the school. The primary function of the team is to ensure the needs of all students are being met using a three-tiered model of support for students and teachers.
Our Learning and Support Team facilitates collaborative planning and support between teachers, specialist staff and external agencies.

9.4 SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

All students in NSW Government schools have access to a school counsellor. School counsellors assist students experiencing emotional, psychological, social, and learning problems. In supporting students, when appropriate, school counsellors will provide advice to parents and teachers. If a parent wishes to speak with the school counsellor, an appointment can be made by telephoning the school. Alternatively, parents can request their child see the school counsellor by contacting the school and signing a referral form.

Bathurst Public School currently has a school counsellor for three days per week.

