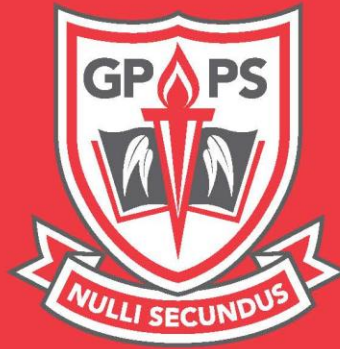


GRAYS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL



INFORMATION BOOKLET

OUR SCHOOL IN THE PARK IS
SECOND TO NONE

GRAYS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL

ADDRESS: 109 ANGLE ROAD, GRAYS POINT 2232

PHONE NUMBER: 9524 3096

FAX NUMBER: 9540 4812

EMAIL: grayspoint-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

WEBSITE: www.grayspoint-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/GraysPointPublicSchool

GRAYS POINT P&C UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is run by the P&C and Volunteers

Hours opened Wednesdays only 2:30pm – 3:30pm or online www.gpps.org.au

GRAYS POINT
PUBLIC SCHOOL



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SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

At Grays Point Public School we are committed to working together to create a dynamic, learning culture; where inspiring teachers facilitate meaningful and challenging learning experiences for all students. Our goal is for every student to grow as confident, creative, engaged citizens and leaders with the personal attributes for future success and wellbeing.

OUR SCHOOL RULES

1. BE RESPECTFUL
2. BE RESPONSIBLE
3. BE RESILIENT

GRAYS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL SONG - The Future's In Our Eyes

*Starting on a journey that will lead
All of us to find our hopes and dreams.
We know that we're going further every day;
Building our own future, we will lead the way.*

*Learning to run, learning to fly. (We can fly!)
Knowing we can face the world with pride;
(Full of pride!)
Feet on the ground, reaching for the skies;
(for the skies!)
Grays Point School, the future's in our eyes.*

*Learning to run, learning to fly. (We can fly!)
Knowing we can face the world with pride;
(Full of pride!)
Feet on the ground, reaching for the skies;
(for the skies!)
Grays Point School, the future's in our eyes.
Grays Point School, the future's in our eyes.*

Written by Peter and Robyn Mapleson

OUR SCHOOL PLEDGE

In our hands lies the future of this great land.
If we all work together doing our best for the common good,
there is no limit to what we can achieve.

NATIONAL ANTHEM -School version

Verse 1

*Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free.
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia Fair,
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.*

Verse 3

*Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share,
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In Joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.*

DHARAWAL - National Anthem - 2nd verse

*Aboriginal language
local to Southern
Sydney*

nyini Australiagal budjari garibara
nyini budjari buriga
budjari bamul yararaga mari walaba
bamulga mari walanmirang
bamul merongmari kaban walaba
badjajarang waratah
yanamuru Australiagal
yanamuru Australiagal
yana budjari Australiagal
nyini bayala gawuwi bayala gawuwi
yana budjari Australiaigal

ACCIDENTS AND ILLNESS

In the case of illness, students should not be sent to school if sick. If they are sick at school they will be sent to the office and we will then contact parents/caregivers to make necessary arrangements to pick the student up.

Please note: If your child has special health needs a specific Health Care Plan must be developed in conjunction with your consulting doctor and the school.

ASSEMBLIES

School assemblies to present student awards are held Week 5 and 10 each term on Wednesday afternoon from 1.50pm to 2.30pm (K-2yrs) and 2.30pm to 3.05pm (3-6yrs).

ATTENDANCE

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

- Ensure that their child attends school on every school day.
- Provide a satisfactory explanation for all absences.
- Submit a Planned Absence through the School Bytes parent portal **on the day of any absence.**
- In the case of any planned absences (5 days or more) complete an Application for Extended Leave Form found in the School Bytes Parent portal (under Forms tab) or on the Grays Point Public School website.

Student Responsibilities

- Students must attend school every school day. They must be on time and have all necessary equipment.
- Never leave school during school hours without permission from parents/carers or the school and without signing out at the office.
- Report to the school office if arriving at school after 9.17am.

School Responsibilities

- Regularly inform students, staff and parent/carers regarding the attendance policy and procedures and making this publicly available through newsletters and enrolment packages.
- Monitor student attendance daily through roll marking procedures.
- Notify parents/carers of any unexplained absences via an SMS on the day of the absence, requesting a satisfactory explanation for their child's absence. If no explanation is given an email will be sent the next day requesting an explanation.
- Notify the Principal when concerned that the explanation for student absence is unsatisfactory.
- Offer help to parents and students when school attendance has become a problem.
- Provide students with school work when they are absent for legitimate extended periods of time.
- Notify the relevant authorities if non-attendance persists.

View the NSW DOE Attendance Policy at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library>

BAND

The school has a Band which meet each week. The band is open to students in Years 3 - 6. All band participants pay a fee which covers payment for the Band Master, instrument hire and music. The Bands perform at various events throughout the year. The Band program is operated by Bandemonium.

Band training is held every Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.

BEFORE SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

A Before and After School Activity Centre, Grays Point Activity Centre (GPAC) operates five days a week from 7:00am to 8:50am in the morning and from 3.15pm to 6.00pm in the afternoon. It is also open for vacation care during the school holidays and staff developments days from 7.30am to 6pm. The cost of this service includes breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. If you would like to find out more about the centre, please telephone the coordinator directly on 9540 2020 Please see the school website for further information.

BELL TIMES

1st BELL	8:50am (students can arrive from this bell)
2 nd BELL	9:17am
ROLLS MARKED/LESSONS BEGIN	9:20am
RECESS	11:20am – 11:40am
LUNCH	1:05pm – 1:15pm
1ST LUNCH	1:15pm – 1:26pm
2ND LUNCH	1:27pm – 1:50pm
SCHOOL ENDS	3:15pm

BEST START

At the beginning of the school year, during the first five weeks of Kindergarten, your child will have completed the Best Start Assessment. All students in NSW who enter Kindergarten do this assessment. It enables us to see what skills your child already has in literacy and numeracy. This enables teachers to know more about your child when planning learning programs. This assessment takes about 40 minutes.

BOOK CLUB

The school participates in the Scholastic Book Club Scheme, which is operated by the P&C Association. Students are able to purchase books through this scheme. The ordering system is explained to the students by their class teacher or the librarian. Orders are placed in the Payments letterbox located in the school foyer. The school then receives free books for our library.

BULLYING (Anti Bullying Action Plan)

Bullying is unacceptable behaviour at all levels and is not accepted at Grays Point Public School. To counter this, we have specific anti-bullying and PDHPE programs such as Open Parachute and Cyber Safety. We also work hard in building student and group resilience through the 4Cs of Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Critical Reflection.

"Bullying is repeated oppression, psychological or physical, of a less powerful person or a group of persons".

BUSES - School only

Bus Company - U-Go Mobility Phone: 131 500 Web Site: www.u-gomobility.com

If your child requires an opal card, you must apply online at <https://www.opal.com.au/en/get-an-opal-card/>, only when your child has started school. Your application then goes through to our school for verification. Your child's Opal card will be sent to your home address.

All students must present their Opal card on entry to the bus.

If an Opal card is lost contact 131 500 or visit transportnsw.info/school-students for more information.

Afternoon bus lines assemble under the C.O.L.A. near the hall. A teacher escorts lines to the bus. There are two buses - Grays Point bus and North West Arm bus.

CANTEEN

The school canteen is run by the P&C and is staffed by a group of voluntary parents with a paid supervisor. Our canteen sells a variety of healthy food items at very reasonable prices. Lunches and many types of refreshments may be obtained from the school canteen from Monday to Friday. Any profit made from the canteen is channelled back into P&C funds. If you would like to place a lunch order for your child, all orders must be placed online at www.myschoolconnect.com.au/crunchhq. A price list for items at the canteen is available on the school website and your School Bytes Parent Portal. Our canteen complies fully with the Healthy Canteens strategy of NSW Health.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES

Occasionally students may have an accident at school and it is necessary to provide them with a change of clothing. It is sometimes difficult to keep enough clean clothing in the correct sizes at school to cater for the demand, so it is advisable, particularly for K-2 students, to have a spare pair of underpants and shorts in their bag for emergencies.

CHOIR

Students in Years 2 and 5 will participate in a junior or senior choir. They meet each week and perform at a number of events during the year. The major performance is the Sutherland Shire Schools Music Festival held in August each year.

CLOTHING POOL - The Uniform Shop

The school operates a clothing pool from Building D (*near the staff car park*). This service allows for the purchase and sale of new and used school uniforms. The Uniform Shop is opened by parent volunteers every Wednesday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Uniform order forms are available on the school website. Alternatively, uniforms can be ordered online via www.gpps.org.au and orders will be delivered to the classroom.

COLLECTING CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Before collecting any child during school hours, it is necessary to call at the office to obtain a Late to School/Early to Leave card. This procedure is essential to ensure maximum safety for all students while they are at school. The class teacher will allow your child to leave when they receive the authorisation card from the office. In general, only parents will be authorised to collect students from school. All other people will need to provide a letter/phone call from the parents authorising them to collect their child. Please keep the school informed of any custody orders that relate to your child particularly with access visits.

It is important that disruptions to teaching and learning be kept to a minimum, by trying to **make all dental and doctor's appointments outside school hours wherever possible.**

The Home School Liaison Officer will be advised if students are continually late or go home early as this has a detrimental effect on student progress and disrupts the lessons for all other students.

COMMUNICATION FROM SCHOOL/ NEWSLETTER

Newsletter

Our school publishes a comprehensive electronic newsletter every second Monday through School Bytes. This newsletter is essential reading for all families as it documents important information and dates of future school activities. Parents are encouraged to read the newsletter each fortnight to keep abreast of all educational activities.

Grays Point School Bytes App

We use School Bytes for all school communications, permission for events, payment of school fees, school calendar, absences, notifications, student reports and much more. The School Bytes parent portal enables you to view all your children in one portal and process payments for multiple siblings in one transaction, even if they attend different schools (assuming all of the schools use School Bytes!).

Please download this app **now** through the App Store or get it on Google Play. You will then be prompted to create a Parent Portal account. Please also ensure you sync the Calendar to your own calendar. **It is highly recommended that you set this up now before your child commences at our school.**

Facebook

For alerts, good news stories and to communicate with the school between 9am-5pm, 'like' the Grays Point Public School facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GraysPointPublicSchool>. This will allow you to keep up to date with events, photos and status updates. We love conversations around our posts and encourage you to contribute to access up to date information.

SMS

Our school uses SMS (short message service) and may send you urgent messages via SMS. These are also used for mass alerts if needed in emergency situations and evacuations.

C.O.L.A.

The school has an outdoor C.O.L.A. (*Covered Outdoor Learning Area*) located in the rear of our school grounds. This area is used for assemblies, playtime, lunchtime, performances and some major events.

DISCIPLINE

The Student Discipline in Government School Policy is implemented at Grays Point and is integral to student wellbeing. The policy outlines the school awards for those students who maintain a high standard of behaviour and procedures to support those students who are working to improve their behaviour. The Rights and Responsibilities of all who learn and work at Grays Point and our school rules are found in this booklet. For this plan to be a success, we need your support in encouraging your child to abide by the code of Rights and Responsibilities. On enrolment, parents are asked to identify behaviours that may cause risks to self or others as part of the risk analysis. Failure to do so may have an impact upon that enrolment.

If you have any questions about the policy, your child's teacher will be able to help you. A playground behaviour monitoring system is in place to record and follow up unacceptable behaviour and parents are notified of behaviour causing concern. Students can be suspended for unacceptable behaviour along with other sanctions.

EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS (activities and events held in school)

Educational excursions and overnight trips are an important and exciting part of the learning at our school. Excursions are arranged by each grade or stage. Teachers are able to bring to life the work that they are studying with the class by taking the students to such places as the National Park, museums, historical buildings etc. Teachers will always try to keep costs for excursions to a minimum so that all students are able to participate. If at any time you experience changes to your financial situation, please contact the Principal for assistance. Details are confidential.

Risk assessments are prepared for each excursion. Incursions may include visits from educators such as the Royal National Park Environmental Education Centre (EEC) education team.

All excursions/incursions are published online and a link is emailed to parents for permission and payment.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

An online change of details form is available on the School Bytes Parent Portal if any important information has changed i.e. mobile, work, home, emergency contact phone numbers and change of address. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY it is most important that this information is kept up to date.

EXTENSION AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Accurate and regular assessments enable teachers to develop differentiated learning programs for the students. These may include the following:

- Differentiating the curriculum occurs in all classes
- Class and Stage groups based on interest / ability in a variety of academic and creative areas.
- Premier's Reading Challenge and Debating competitions.
- Public Speaking program K-6.
- Dance and drama groups.
- Chess tutoring and competitions.
- PSSA sport, tennis, hockey, rugby, gymnastics, athletics and AFL.
- Writing competitions.
- Science and history fairs.
- NJAB - Not Just A Brush Art Exhibition at Hazelhurst Gallery.
- STEM excursions.
- Field of Mars.
- Subject and grade acceleration is also available when appropriate.

HALL

Our school hall (Building I) is used for class work, assemblies, sport, performances and training.

Afternoon bus lines are formed here:

- Grays Point/Peninsular bus
- North West Arm Kirrawee bus

The teacher on duty ensures all students, including kindergarten students, board the bus safely. Students must have their Student Opal card.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

Students who have special health needs must have a plan developed by parents, school and medical health professionals. These plans are uploaded on students profiles in School Bytes and alerts are displayed in the canteen, office, staffroom, classrooms etc to assist with safety. These should be updated each year to make sure that the diagnosis and care are relevant.

HEAD LICE (Pediculosis)

Pediculosis, head lice or nits is a recurring problem in all schools. Very few students escape having head lice at some time during their years at school and nits are not particular about which head they invade!

Please help the school to keep this problem under control by following a few simple routines:

- Check your child's head regularly for lice.
- If you do find lice, ask the chemist for the correct shampoo with which to treat them. You will need to treat any other children in the family as well, just as a precaution.
- Once the hair has been treated correctly, the lice will be dead and the lice and eggs can be removed with a fine-toothed comb available from the chemist.
- Emphasise to your children the importance of not sharing hats or hairbrushes with anyone else.
- Ensure that girls with long hair keep it tied back.
- If appropriate notify the class teacher.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Certain common illnesses and conditions spread rapidly among students. It is necessary to exclude students from school from time to time, to avoid the spread of symptoms to other students in the school.

Refer to South Eastern Sydney Health Department Website: www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au

If you are in any doubt about whether your child can attend school when ill, please talk to your local doctor.

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT

KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL IS OUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

Most students who attend our school enrol in the local Government High School when they have completed Year 6, provided they live in the designated feeder High School area.

Students who would like to apply for a Selective High School need to sit an external examination set by the Board of Studies. All students wishing to sit the test need to apply beforehand, usually while they are in Year 5. Students who sit the Selective High School test may also be eligible for entry to a Selective High School placement, however placement is limited to the top performers only.

Local high school enrolments are arranged by the high school. Parents are required to complete the forms online and will be notified by the school when to do the same. The local high school conducts induction/orientation days for new Year 7 students during their final year in Year 6. Our school supports their transition by running comprehensive programs to assist our students in moving from one school to the next.

HOMEWORK

Homework should be seen as a purposeful learning experience and one which consolidates, extends and enriches the student's learning.

Homework has the potential to further the home-school partnership in the education of the child. It is not intended that homework should become frustrating, valueless or an unnecessary intrusion into the home. It is the school's aim to encourage the development of the child's interests, knowledge and skills through homework activities. Students from Kindergarten - Year 6 will be given homework tasks.

Class teachers will send home information on the type of homework to expect for each child in that class at the start of the year and will be happy to provide information on how you can help your child at home. If you, or your child, are having any problems with the homework that is being set, please do not hesitate to talk over these problems with your child's teacher.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Teachers are keen to further the home/school partnership and to provide the best education for each child. In order to achieve this, it is important to maintain good communication between the home and the school. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you feel you need to. During the year there may be times when you wish to discuss some of the following areas:

- Achievement and progress at school
- Behaviour at home and/or at school
- Emotional needs or upsets
- Peer group relationships
- Changing circumstances at home
- Anything that is likely to assist the teacher to cater for the individual needs of your child

Please email the school to arrange an appropriate appointment time. Trying to talk to your child's teacher at the start of class time is discouraged so the teacher can settle the class and maintain good morning routines.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

In early Term 1 we have a "meet the teacher night" when your teacher will discuss whole class processes and programs. Towards the end of Term 1 we have '3-way interviews' where you and your child will be invited to discuss their individual learning goals and progress. You will be notified of parent/teacher meeting times where you can meet with your child's teacher. These are arranged in late Term 1. Formal written reports are issued at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.

KEY LEARNING AREAS (KLAS)

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has developed six key learning areas for schools which form the curriculum to be taught from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The NSW Education Standards Authority has included the NSW Primary KLA's Curriculum Foundation Statements. These statements are clear descriptions of what must be taught in all schools. These are available on the NSW Education Standards Authority:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home>

The six KLAS are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science & Technology
- History & Geography
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

The school begins to organise Kindergarten enrolments around June each year through various forms of advertisement. We also ask parents to let neighbours and friends, who have school-age students, know that they need to enrol their students.

Kindergarten Transition occurs over 3 days in November. During these sessions we are able to:

- Give parents information on school resources and programs, school routines, enrolment process, student welfare, discipline, awards and parent involvement.
- Provide prospective Kindergarten students with opportunities to interact with their buddies while engaged in interesting activities.
- Students have a chance to become familiar with the school environment and meet their Buddy. Teachers have an opportunity to get to know the students and become familiar with any particular learning needs they may have. Parents will learn about our literacy and numeracy programs and see what, and how, their child/ren will be learning in Kindergarten at the information sessions throughout the year.

YOUR CHILD'S PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

Starting school is a big change for students. Anything you can do now will help to make your child's first entry into school a happy and enjoyable experience. Here are some practical ways to prepare your child.

Over the next few months try to get your child used to:

- Using the toilet independently.
- Using a handkerchief or tissue.
- Putting on and doing up shoes.
- Eating and drinking independently.
- Washing hands after going to the toilet and before eating.
- Getting changed independently.
- Asking clearly for things that they need.
- Saying their name, address and telephone number.
- Putting away toys and books after playing.
- Opening and closing their school bag and lunchbox.
- Being without you for several hours.

- Recognising their name among other names and if possible, to print it in lower case letters.
- Playing with other students, especially with groups of students of about the same age.
- Helping with small jobs around the house and following simple instructions such as, "Take off your shoes and put them in the cupboard."

Please provide:

- 1) A school bag with your child's name on the outside and perhaps a familiar sticker or key rings so that your child will recognise it quickly.
- 2) A lunch box labelled with your child's name. Your child will need fruit break, recess and lunch packed separately inside.
- 3) A drink bottle (with your child's name) or a carton of juice, NO glass bottles or cans please.
- 4) A spray jacket, a rain hat and a cardigan or jumper **ALL CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**
- 5) A spare pair of underpants and shorts in a plastic bag.
- 6) A handkerchief or tissues.
- 7) A painting smock (a large, old t/shirt will do).
- 8) A library bag (provided) and excursion bag clearly marked with your child's name.

FIRST DAY PROCEDURE

ARRIVAL: On the first day, please bring your child to the C.O.L.A. where they will meet the Kindergarten teaching team.

If your child is upset and hesitant to leave you, try not to worry, this usually ceases 5 to 10 minutes after you leave. Rest assured, your child is in good hands.

FRUIT BREAK: At around 10:00am each day, the children will have a fruit break where a piece of fruit or slices of vegetables can be eaten. This helps them to stay focused for the day. They will also be encouraged to bring their water bottle into the classroom.

RECESS: From 11:20am until 11:45am each day the students have a short break. During this time they eat their recess, have a drink, go to the toilet and then play. Students usually have a yoghurt, muffin or crackers and cheese, or healthy snack. Please give your child a small amount of food for recess and please wrap it separately.

LUNCH: The students eat their lunches between 1:05pm and 1:15pm with a teacher supervising them. A sandwich with filling or wrap, salad and vegetable lunch box are usually sufficient. If a child cannot eat all the lunch provided, the teachers encourage them to take it home. Don't worry about this. Kindergarten students are frequently too excited to eat much food during the first few weeks of school.

HOME TIME: Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:15pm every day, however for the first week of Term One, Kindergarten students finish school early. The date and time will be communicated to parents at kindergarten orientation. It is essential that you collect your child promptly at this

time. Students become anxious if they are kept waiting. If your child cannot be collected early they will stay with the class teacher.

The teacher should be informed as to the normal afternoon arrangements who will collect the child, walk home, catch the bus or Activity Centre etc. Teachers should be informed **IN WRITING** of any changes to these arrangements, and you should also tell your child if they are to be collected by someone different.

WHAT STUDENTS DO IN KINDERGARTEN

Your child will have many new experiences and learn many new skills. Many students tell their parents:

"We did nothing all day," or "We just played."

In fact, students do many different things which may be called 'play' but which are an important part of their learning. Students 'work' or 'play' at the following things:

ART, CRAFT AND MUSIC

Drawing and making patterns, painting with fingers and brushes, making models, cooking, water play, sand play, singing, dancing, listening to and making music.

READING AND WRITING

Your child will be encouraged to listen, talk, read and write. Many of the art, craft and music activities get students ready for reading and writing. They help students to control their hand and eye movements and to look and listen carefully. Other language work includes listening to stories and poems, acting out stories and telling a story which the teacher will write down.

MATHEMATICS

Counting, recognising and writing numbers, weighing and measuring, recognising and comparing shapes and sizes, grouping and labelling, pattern and problem solving.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Students talk about their families, about the world around them and may go on excursions to reinforce the topics they have been studying.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Some of the topics they may cover include: care of pets, plants, looking at plants and animals around the school, day and night, weather, the seasons and using technology.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE HEALTH AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Running, skipping, throwing, catching, dancing and team games. Learning about safety, health and good manners, nutrition, exercise, body growth and change.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Once your child starts school, your help at school and at home is very, very important. Some of the things that will help a great deal include:

- Looking in your child's school bag each day for notes to you from the school, pieces of work etc. Folders are provided for easy communication between home and school.
- Having a special place for your child to pin up the work that has been done at school.
- Having a special place to put all the merit certificates and awards that your child will bring home, their own photograph album is a good idea.
- Showing that you are interested in what your child has done in school.

- Becoming involved, if you can, at the school through the Parents' and Citizens' Association, or helping in the classroom or the canteen etc.
- Letting your child's teacher know if there is a problem, before that problem becomes too great.

Volunteer, if possible, for individual student's reading or group activities with the teacher.

LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM

A Learning Support Team made up of staff at the school meets regularly to review programs that assist in meeting the needs of our students. Parents are fully advised and involved in any decision making. Some students in the school may require specialist help in their learning programs, because they are experiencing learning difficulties or they may be from a non-English speaking background or require extension. All class teachers cater for these students in their normal lessons, but in addition there are specialist support staff within the school who have the expertise to assist. A Learning Support Team exists and includes:

- The Principal
- School Counsellor
- Learning and Support Teacher
- Individual Teachers
- Specialists
- This team meets weekly

A Learning and Support Teacher is employed from Departmental funding to coordinate provisions for students with additional needs.

LIBRARY

Our school is very well resourced. All students are encouraged to become enthusiastic borrowers and all classes visit the library each week to borrow books or to work on research. Establishing good behaviours relating to books is proven to assist with literacy. Our library is open Monday to Thursday and during lunch (second half) from Monday to Wednesday.

To borrow books, each child must have a library bag or a strong plastic bag with their name and class clearly marked on it. Our library has Internet capabilities linking it to the Administration Block and Computer Lab and to support the networked classroom computers.

LOST PROPERTY

It is important that all the clothes, including shoes that your child brings or wears to school are clearly and securely labelled with their name. It is much easier for the school to return lost items to their owners if they are clearly labelled.

Students or parents can check the lost property box, which is located on the verandah near the Canteen (E Block).

At the end of each school term, all items of lost property are displayed and any items that remain are given to the uniform committee or donated to charities such as Stewart House.

MERIT AWARDS

The school has a levelled system of merit awards which is used to recognise and reward students for being respectful, responsible, resilient learners.

Merit awards are presented weekly and families must keep awards and send them into the Assistant Principals once three merit awards have been presented.

Gold awards are presented every five weeks and these accumulate towards Principal Awards.

3 Merit awards = 1 Gold award
3 Gold awards = 1 Principal award
4 Principal awards = 1 Principal medallion

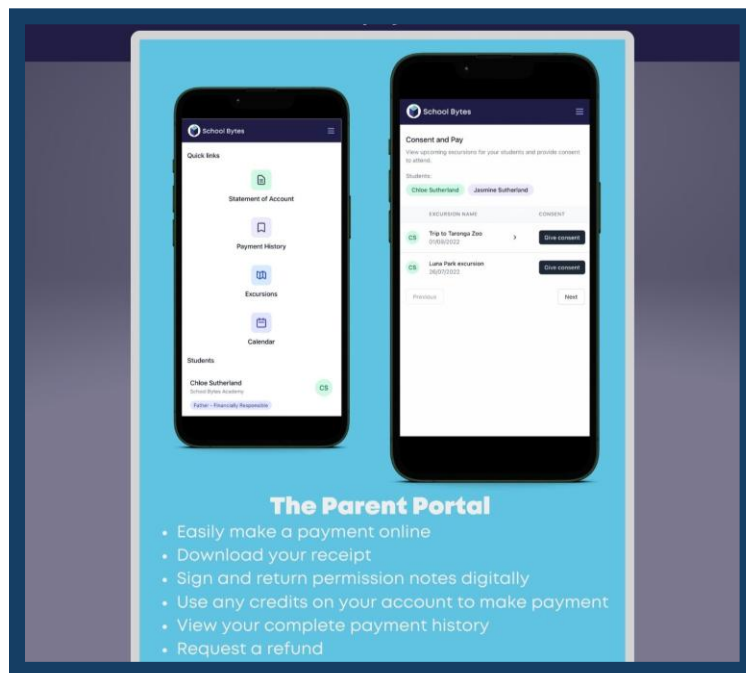
MOBILE PHONES/SMART WATCHES

Senior Students who bring mobile phones and/or smart watches to school must have them turned off and kept in their school bags. If there is a need to contact families, office staff will phone. Students are not permitted to use personal devices to contact families during school hours.

MONEY - Payment of Term Costs/Excursions

Grays Point Public School use a finance system called School Bytes. A parent portal enables you to view all of your children in one portal and process payments for multiple siblings in one transaction. You also have the option of allocating fees in advance to make payment and can see a history of what you have already paid for and what is outstanding. Term costs will be emailed to parents each term and payment can be made via the link in the email or through the parent portal.

Our preferred method of payment is online through School Bytes or alternatively payment can be made with cash or cheque at the school office.



**School
Bytes**

NUT ALLERGY - ANAPHYLAXIS

In the interests of providing a safe learning environment, many NSW schools have reviewed their management strategies for allergy students. Due to the increasing number of students with severe and sudden allergic reactions (Anaphylaxis) The Department of Education and Communities have collaborated with the Health Department to produce a policy statement in this area.

While we acknowledge that it may be difficult to comprehend the daily precautions that people who are highly allergic to such things as insect stings, medications and foods have to take to maintain their health, and in some cases, protect their lives, it is incumbent upon us to alert the community to the need to make arrangements in support of the safety of students.

At any one time Grays Point Public School has several students who are allergic to nuts, seafood etc. Some of these experience a severe Anaphylactic Reaction. Such a reaction is potentially life threatening and must be treated immediately following exposure by using an 'Epi Pen' (a device for injecting adrenalin). Arrangements have been made for an 'Epi Pen' to be provided by parents and kept at the school and staff have been trained in its use.

What can we do to help these students?

THE CANTEEN

While it may be impossible to remove all food from the canteen that contain allergens, in the case of nuts it is particularly difficult, as nuts are a common ingredient in many foods. Nuts, peanut butter and nutella are particularly dangerous for peanut allergy sufferers, as they are very concentrated, and in some cases even the smell can cause a reaction. Also, because of the stickiness of peanut butter and nutella even minute amounts smeared on desks, walls, toys, sports equipment, bubblers or clothing can pose an invisible, but dangerous threat to sufferers.

PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Many school communities with students suffering severe peanut related allergies have elected to withdraw peanut butter and nutella as a family food on school days. They don't even have it for breakfast as it can be transported to school on hands or clothing. This is the approach that we would like to take at Grays Point Public School.

We would also like to encourage students not to share food, due to the possibility of the transmission of diseases. This is something we would appreciate you discussing further with your children.

We need your assistance if we are to continue to try to achieve a nut free school by requesting that you not send these products on sandwiches or, in the case of nutella, in sachet form.

This Risk Management Policy has been formulated by the School Council and staff in conjunction with Departmental personnel. It covers the role of the school, staff, allergy students' parents and the community.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C)

Our Parents and Citizens Association meet on Monday at 7pm of Week 3 and 8 each term. It is an important and integral part of the school. The P&C is a group of interested Parents and Citizens who meet and discuss the school's progress, educational developments and ways of assisting the education of our students. We hope that as many parents as possible will take advantage of these meetings and become more aware of what is happening in our school.

The P&C makes a valuable contribution to the success of many academic, cultural, sporting programs and special events at the school. Meetings are generally notified in the school newsletter. The Annual General Meeting is usually the March meeting each year and office bearers are elected annually at this meeting. Each executive committee position may only be held for a maximum of two consecutive years.

You are all encouraged and welcomed to become involved, as this is a major support for the school financially and socially. We hope as many parents as possible will take advantage of these meetings and become aware of what is happening in our school. A small fee (\$1:00 presently) enables you to become a financial member and vote on issues.

A committee exists and is involved in Fundraising, Canteen, Book Club, and Uniform purchasing.

P&C meetings - the monthly P&C meeting follows an Agenda from which we are updated on committees and what they are up to. The Principal is present and informs us all what is going on in the school, and it is always positive and informative. Some meetings have guest speakers on informative subjects.

P&C Fundraising - the P&C supports school programs through fundraising activities. Funds are spent on this such as Home Reading Books, sporting equipment, technology, maintenance of playground equipment and landscaping and major school projects.

P&C Canteen - students can access the canteen daily, which operates on the guidelines set out for the state government for a healthy canteen. The students can also look forward to special days throughout the term. Canteen is non-profit but relies heavily on parent helpers.

P&C Uniform Shop - a wonderful service providing uniforms at a special price on a regular basis.

Our P&C is very active and works hand in hand with the enthusiastic staff at Grays Point School. This friendly active community involvement enables this school to be supportive for our students and provides a wonderful environment for learning.

OTHER PARENT PARTICIPATION

Students get a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from seeing their parents and grandparents as well as local Senior Citizens and Community Members in the school. Your interest, enthusiasm and involvement carry over to promote positive attitudes in your child. Parents can share their time and talents in many activities connected with the school's learning programs and by helping to look after the resources. Parents assist in sport programs, as reading helpers, on committees, with computers, science programs, gardening, in the library and in many other ways. Please ask your child's teacher how you can become involved.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Parent Sessions are held during the school year, which enable parents to learn more about what happens in the school and how the students are taught. These sessions might take the form of a visiting guest speaker or they may be run by the teachers themselves.

PARKING AT SCHOOL

At times it is difficult to park cars when visiting the school, however, the safety of the students is our primary concern at all times. Parents are asked to remember the following so that the safety of our students can be maintained:

- Do not park across the school gates or in designated 'No Standing' areas when collecting or dropping off students.
- Do not double park outside the school, especially in wet weather.
- **DO NOT USE THE STAFF CARPARK**
- The staff car park is for the use of staff and delivery vehicles only and not for use by parents between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm.
- Students are to leave via Gate 2 near the office when walking home or via Gate 3 nearest the hall or the lower Gate 5 near GPAC
- Parents parking near soccer oval please park with **rear to fence**.
- DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE BINS.
- Bus students will exit near the hall.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The school arranges to have class photographs of all the students taken each year. The dates for school photographs are notified in the Newsletter. There is no obligation to purchase the photographs.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

The school playground is supervised by a teacher on duty each morning in the designated playground from 8:50am until school begins at 9:20am. Students who arrive before 8:50am must sit on the seats around the active side playground until the bell. They are not permitted to enter classrooms during this time. It is important that **NO STUDENTS BE SENT TO SCHOOL BEFORE 8:50AM** as this is a time when accidents can happen as there is no one rostered on to supervise them.

At recess and lunchtime the playground is supervised by teachers. A bell/music system will sound to notify of times.

At 3:15pm when the students are dismissed from class they should leave the playground promptly to return home or line up in bus lines which are supervised. Whilst we encourage afternoon playdates and friendships, the playground equipment is unsupervised after school. For Workplace, Health and Safety reasons, the playground equipment is not available for after school play. Parents and carers are asked to meet students at their preferred gate.

RELEASE FROM FACE TO FACE TEACHING

Each week, classroom teachers are entitled to two hours release time, when another teacher takes their class. This time is used by teachers to prepare class work or teaching aids, complete evaluation records, visit other classes, mark books, undertake professional development and carry out many other tasks that must be completed to ensure the best possible education for the students. The teachers negotiate what will be taught during these two hours, so that the students will gain the most benefit from this time.

REPORTING TO PARENTS (See Assessment and Reporting)

Reporting student achievement to parents is an important task to ensure quality learning. Parents are invited early each year to find out about class and stage programs, expectations and special events. During late Term 1 we hold our Parent Teacher interviews.

Parents will receive two student academic reports each year in Term 2 and Term 4 which form an integral part of our reporting to parents' program. These reports will be accessible through the School Bytes Parent Portal. Teachers continually assess the progress of the students in a variety of ways throughout the year, including:

Pre and Post Assessments	Diagnostic Tests
Writing assessment Years K - 6	Standardised tests including the NAPLAN Test in Year 3 and Year 5
Maths assessments (Year 1 - Year 6)	Teacher set assessment
Quizzes and revisions	Observation etc
Class and grade 'Stage' assessments	Student self-evaluation and goal setting
Standardised reading, spelling and maths tests	Project work

If at any time you are concerned about the progress of your child, please make an appointment to see your child's teacher who will discuss the results of their evaluations with you.

SAFETY ON THE STREET

Be sure that your child knows the safety rules for our busy streets:

- to use a marked crossing if there is one nearby (like our wombat crossing)
- to look right, left and then right again before attempting to cross a road
- to walk quickly across the road, but not to run
- to take special care when getting on and off a bus
- not to step out from behind parked cars
- to play games in a safe place, away from the street
- to go straight home from school when dismissed
- to cross where there are traffic lights (if available)
- to use your ears and eyes when crossing roads

SCHOOL GROUNDS

At all times the Principal has the right to terminate school visits under the 'Inclosed Land Act'. Skate boarding, scooters and the riding of bikes are not allowed. The exercising of dogs or bringing them onto the school grounds is not allowed unless agreed to by the Principal. School grounds are protected by School Security and the Police. Any breach of the school as noticed by parents on weekends should be reported to School Security on 1300 880 021.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR/PSYCHOLOGIST

The School Counsellor/Psychologist is a part-time member of our staff, who supports students experiencing difficulties and/or behavioural or emotional problems as well as supporting families and being an integral member of the School Learning Support Team.

When teachers are concerned about a student, they are able to refer that child to the Learning and Support Team, who will then contact the parents to discuss these concerns. The Counsellor may then conduct interviews and/or assessments to help determine the most suitable strategies to support teachers and students. Some students and/or parents may be referred to agencies outside the school for further specialist assistance.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

School Development Days occur during the year when staff meet without the students to plan programs and develop their skills. Teachers are able to engage in professional learning and mandatory training, to finalise classes and prepare for the new school year. These days are important as they allow all teachers to meet together to write policies, develop curricula or engage in professional development activities without the need to supervise students. Parents must make alternative arrangements for the supervision of their children on these days. The dates of pupil-free days are published in the school calendar.

SCHOOL SPORT HOUSES

All students in the school are placed into one of four houses for sport. Each house is represented by a different colour as follows:

<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>
Eucalyptus	Green
Wattle	Yellow
Bottlebrush	Red
Banksia	Blue

On Fridays some Year 3-6 students play sports against schools in the Primary Schools Sports Association (P.S.S.A). Our school offers the following:

Term 2

- Netball
- Girls Soccer
- Mixed soccer
- Tennis (not P.S.S.A)

Term 3

- Ultimate Frisby
- Girls AFL
- Boys AFL
- Tennis (not P.S.S.A)
- Touch Football

Term 4

- Cricket
- Tee Ball
- Basketball
- Tennis (not P.S.S.A)

The students who are not selected in these teams are catered for in other sporting activities. As well as this, the school may be involved in gala days for other sport competitions during the year.

A swimming program is held in Term 4 on Friday mornings for Year 2.

SCRIPTURE AND ETHICS

Scripture teachers from a number of religious denominations and Ethics visit the school once a week on Wednesday afternoons (Years 3-6 from 2:00pm to 2:30pm and Years K-2 from 2:30pm to 3.05pm).

Students attend classes according to the parent's request in the enrolment form. If at any time you would like to change the Scripture class you have nominated for your child, please complete an online Request to Change Special Religious Education GPPS form in School Bytes. Scripture and Ethics classes are updated each semester.

Students whose parents request no religious instruction are supervised by staff for the length of the lesson time.

SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS

Throughout the year the school celebrates special days or special events when the students and the community are invited to participate in a variety of activities.

These events may include:

- ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services
- Sunsafe and environmental fun-days
- Education Week including open classrooms
- Book Week
- Easter
- Performing Arts Festivals
- Swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals
- Sports Days and Walk-a-thons
- Environment Days
- Curriculum Fun Days
- Mufti Days - fundraising
- Values Celebrations

Special days are always advertised well before the date in the school newsletter and parents are most welcome to help us celebrate these events.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sport and Physical Education are integral components of our school curriculum and all students are expected to participate fully in this aspect of their education.

All students K - 6 are encouraged to wear their sports uniform, and a red hat/cap is compulsory.

Primary students are involved in inter-school sport, (P.S.S.A.) or House Sport each Friday. All intending participants are selected after trials held at school. If students are selected in a P.S.S.A. Sport team, they play against other schools and this is often at a sporting field away from the school to which they travel by bus. Full sports uniform is to be worn if not otherwise notified.

Dance is included in the Physical Education program for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and we have extra curricular dance groups from Year 1 to Year 6.

STAGE GROUPING

ES1 = Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

S1 = Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

S2 = Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

S3 = Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)

Stage based outcomes linked to the syllabus form the basis of the above stages.

STUDENT WELFARE

At our school, we place a great deal of importance on the development of student's confidence and self-esteem as well as on developing their leadership capabilities and their social skills. A number of programs have been implemented in the school to cater for the students' development in these areas, among them being:

- Drug Education
- Child Protection
- Personal Development
- Student Representative Council
- Anti Bullying Programs
- Year 5 Leadership
- High Potential and Gifted Education
- Learning and Support Team
- Open Parachute
- 4C Transformative Learning
- Buddies Program
- Values Program
- Got-It Program

SUN SENSE POLICY

Grays Point Public School has adopted a Sun Sense Policy which is in force throughout the year. This means that students are required to wear a broad brimmed school hat at all times when they are in the playground. Students who do not have a hat should not play in the sun and may be sent to the C.O.L.A. A broad brimmed school hat is also mandatory for out of school events.

Hats are available through the school canteen at a cost.

TOILET DURING CLASS TIME

During class time, students may use the toilets with the class teacher's permission. Liquid soap has been placed in each toilet and is contained in soap dispensers.

TOYS AND EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT AT SCHOOL

Students are discouraged from bringing their own toys or expensive equipment to school. If students do bring toys from home for any reason the school cannot accept any responsibility if they are lost, stolen or damaged in any way.

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

If you are moving away from the area and your child/children will be attending a new government school, please advise the school in writing of these changes. Your child/children's records will be forwarded to the new school.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected and encouraged to wear the school uniform with pride and to be neat and well-groomed at all times.

We are committed to our Sun Safe Policy of no hat, play in the shade. Please ensure all articles of uniform are clearly labelled with the student's name.

UNIFORM ORDERING

Parents at Grays Point Public School have the opportunity to purchase school uniform items directly from the school. All profits are used to benefit the school and students.

It works like this:

- Parents/Carers are able to order uniforms via the P&C online store: www.gpps.org.au or by attending the Uniform Shop or by downloading an order form from our website.
- RETURNS – we can offer exchange for items purchased in error, but we do have a full return policy for faulty items. If you have a sizing query, we do have samples of the uniform at school for you to try before you buy.
- UNIFORM SHOP – Open on Wednesdays from 2:30pm to 3:30pm by parent volunteers (*located in Block D*). Clothing is priced accordingly including secondhand clothing and is a fantastic resource for spare uniform items. Clothing with no name or are unclaimed from the lost property end up here. Donated items are much appreciated. Please ensure your donations are washed first and in reasonable condition and your child's name crossed out.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

SUMMER GIRLS	SUMMER BOYS
Red broad brimmed school hat	Red broad brimmed school hat
White polo shirt	White polo shirt
School check tunic/shorts	Grey shorts
Plain white socks	Plain white socks
Black shoes	Black shoes
Red school bag	Red school bag
FRIDAY - SPORTS DAY	FRIDAY SPORTS DAY
Red broad brimmed school hat	Red broad brimmed school hat
School sports polo shirt	School sports polo shirt
Red skirt/shorts	Red shorts
Plain white socks	Plain white socks
Joggers/sport shoes	Joggers/sport shoes
WINTER GIRLS	WINTER BOYS
Red broad brimmed school hat	Red broad brimmed school hat
White polo shirt (Long sleeve)	White polo shirt (Long sleeve)
Red school jacket	Red school jacket
Grey tunic (Grey tights optional) / Skort	Grey long trouser
Grey long pants	Plain white socks
Red School Track Pants/Top	Red School Track Pants/Top
Red School Track Top Front Zip	Red School Track Top Front Zip
School Sports Jacket/Pants	School Sports Jacket/Pants
Plain white socks	Plain white socks
Black shoes	Black shoes
Red school bag	Red school bag

Some uniform items are also available from Claudine Schoolwear at 23 President Ave, Caringbah.

Students should not:

- wear excessive jewellery (including dangling earrings)
- 'colour' their hair
- wear nail polish to school
- wear makeup to school
- wear inappropriate clothing on mufti-days
- wear thongs (flip flops) on their feet as they may injure themselves.

VACCINATIONS

Students should be immunised before coming to school. Immunisation is available from your family doctor or the local council. On completion of vaccination you will receive an Immunisation Certificate from your family doctor. The original is to be sighted by the office. You can also obtain a certificate from a Medicare Branch.

Booster Immunisation - Students starting school who have not already had booster immunisation should have one booster injection against diphtheria and tetanus (C.D.T.) and one booster dose of polio vaccine by mouth (Sabine).

Measles - Your child can be immunised against measles. Seek your family doctor's advice as measles can cause serious long-term disabilities to your child.

Mumps - Students can also be immunised against mumps. Seek your doctor's advice on this.

General - If your child/children contract any of the communicable diseases and you are unsure of how long they should remain away from school, you should contact your family doctor for advice.

NOTES

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NOTES

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased by 1.2 billion, from 1.1 billion in 1980 to 2.3 billion in 1999. The number of people aged 15 years and over has increased by 1.1 billion, from 1.1 billion in 1980 to 2.2 billion in 1999. The number of people aged 65 years and over has increased by 0.2 billion, from 0.2 billion in 1980 to 0.4 billion in 1999.

These changes in the world population have led to a significant increase in the number of people who are under 15 years of age, from 1.1 billion in 1980 to 2.3 billion in 1999. This increase has been driven by a combination of factors, including a decline in the death rate, a decline in the birth rate, and a decline in the life expectancy at birth. The decline in the death rate has been the most significant factor, with the death rate falling from 10.5 per 1,000 in 1980 to 6.5 per 1,000 in 1999.

The decline in the birth rate has also been a significant factor, with the birth rate falling from 2.5 per 1,000 in 1980 to 1.5 per 1,000 in 1999. This decline has been driven by a combination of factors, including a decline in the fertility rate, a decline in the age at first birth, and a decline in the number of children per woman. The decline in the fertility rate has been the most significant factor, with the fertility rate falling from 2.5 per woman in 1980 to 1.5 per woman in 1999.

The decline in the life expectancy at birth has also been a significant factor, with the life expectancy at birth falling from 72 years in 1980 to 68 years in 1999. This decline has been driven by a combination of factors, including a decline in the infant mortality rate, a decline in the mortality rate at older ages, and a decline in the number of years lived in poor health. The decline in the infant mortality rate has been the most significant factor, with the infant mortality rate falling from 100 per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 60 per 1,000 live births in 1999.

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