

Yarrowarrah Public School Extra-curricular Policy
Updated June 2025

Department of Education's Relevant Policies and Guidelines:

Extra-curricular activities are those that are not a part of the normal school curriculum, including organised activities such as chess club, drama groups, or student representative council.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is linked to positive academic outcomes, such as students' grades and educational aspirations, improved attendance, pro-social behaviours and more positive development generally. Participation in extracurricular activities at school can increase students' social support networks and is linked to more outcomes later in life, including educational attainment and a reduction in delinquent and risky behaviour.

Below are the extra-curricular activities that are offered at Yarrowarrah Public School, dependent on staff availability and student interest.

Dance and Drama:

Dance at Yarrowarrah Public School is run through an outside provider 'DNE Studios' over two mornings a week before school. A Community User Agreement and WWCC are filled out. There are 4 groups across the different stages K-6. Each group has a 30 minute lesson once a week. Parents give permission for their child to attend and sign a payment agreement. DNE Studios are responsible for all payment details. All dance groups require a teacher to be onsite, however groups during school hours e.g. 8:50am - 9:20am require the teacher to be supervising. Communications regarding payments, costumes, and performances are sent home from DNE and the school. The students have multiple performance opportunities throughout the year including in-school performances and performances outside the school at dance festivals. The school also offers students the opportunity to be part of Wakakirri - a dance and drama program. Students audition for Wakakirri and this requires extra payments. Wakakirri is run during lunch times in the hall.

Choir:

Choir at Yarrowarrah Public School is organised and run by volunteer teachers and is held at lunch time every week. It is open to students from Year 1-6. Parents give permission for their students to attend and sign a payment agreement for bus and rehearsal costs for any choir performances throughout the year. The Sutherland Shire Schools Music Festival (SSSMF) supplies the songs and students from all schools involved learn the same songs to perform at the SSSMF later in the year. This is a fantastic performance opportunity for all choir students. Students also have the opportunity to perform at many in-school events.

Public Speaking/Debating:

Public Speaking

All students are required to participate in public speaking opportunities in NSW public schools as part of the curriculum. Yarrowarrah Public School offers students the opportunity to participate in Public Speaking competitions. Students are able to write a speech and present it within their class as part of the school-based competition. Students who achieve at class and stage levels then have the opportunity to present their speech at competition levels throughout the Sutherland area. There is also an additional opportunity of entering the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition, which is offered as an optional, extension opportunity for students with a talent for public speaking. Students research, write and learn their speeches at home. They have many different occasions to present their speech in front of an audience before participating in the competition. Students are selected to represent their stage by the class teacher, using the school judging rubric. Students are then selected to represent their school by a panel of judges, using the school judging rubric.

Debating

In 2025, debating is being explicitly taught in preparation for the Sydney Primary School Debating Competition (SPSDC). This will involve students from Year 5 and 6. Debating is organised and run by volunteer teachers at Yarrowarrah Public School. Students who are interested attend 30 minute sessions at lunch, three times a term where they learn and develop debating skills. In 2025, the teams will participate in school and inter-school challenges where they have the opportunity to debate against students from local public schools and possibly go on to be a part of the state championships. Students are selected by the debating teacher based on their debating skills and teamwork, and parents will be required to give permission and payment. Debating is offered to Years 4, 5, and 6. Parents give permission for their child to attend any public speaking or debating events and sign a payment agreement for bus and any other associated costs for events throughout the year.

Run Club:

Run Club at Yarrowarra Public School is open to all students, however it is capped at 40 students due to teacher/student ratios. There are currently 40 students who participate in Run Club every week, and there is a waitlist. An expression of interest is opened up on Monday at 9:00am on the last week of each term, and parents can sign their child up. The first 40 students who register are signed up. If students do not attend on a regular basis, or do not follow the school behaviour code, they may be asked to leave Run Club and that position will be filled by the next person on the waitlist. Run Club meets every Tuesday morning at 8:20am for a 30 minute session aimed at boosting endurance and fostering a love for running. Parental permission is essential for participation, ensuring the safety and well-being of the students. There are additional opportunities for the students including participation in the Beach Side Dash at Brighton Le Sands in September, where students complete a 2km run alongside their families and teachers. Additionally, events like the Sutherland to Surf and school cross-country races are offered to students.

Chess Club:

Chess Club at Yarrowarra Public School is organised and run by volunteer teachers and is held before school every week, on Tuesdays from 8:50am - 9:20am. It is open to students from year 2-6. The numbers vary from 20 students at a time to around 40. Parental permission is not required for students to come along to Chess Club and there is no cost required. Parental permission and payment is only required if students are chosen to go to the Interschool Chess Challenge which is held during the year. If there are too many students who wish to attend the Chess Challenge, the Chess Club teacher will select students based on their chess playing ability.

Art Club:

Our Art Club is run every week on Thursday at lunchtime. It is run by volunteer teachers and it is open to all students K-6. It provides students with enriching opportunities to explore and develop their artistic talents beyond the standard curriculum. This year, our Art Club has been buzzing with creativity as students work together to design and create props for our upcoming Wakakirri performance. Using a variety of materials—paint, cardboard, fabric, and recycled items—students have helped bring our storytelling vision to life. From bold backdrops to detailed handheld pieces, the Art Club has played a vital role in shaping the visual magic of our performance. Their teamwork, imagination, and dedication have made a huge contribution to the success of our show.

Green Thumbs:

Our Green Thumbs gardening club is run every week on Wednesday at lunchtime. It is run by volunteer teachers and it is open to all students K-6. They learn how to grow plants and vegetables, look after the schools 'Bush Tucker' garden and help with watering and weeding the gardens. There is no parental permission needed and no costs involved.

While attending and engaging in Yarrowarra Public School extra-curricular activities, all students are expected to demonstrate our school expectations of respect, safety and active learning. Students who do not uphold these behaviours will be removed from the extra-curricular activity. These extra-curricular activities are not mandatory and students are not required to attend.