



Gowrie St Primary School Foundation Information Pack 2024

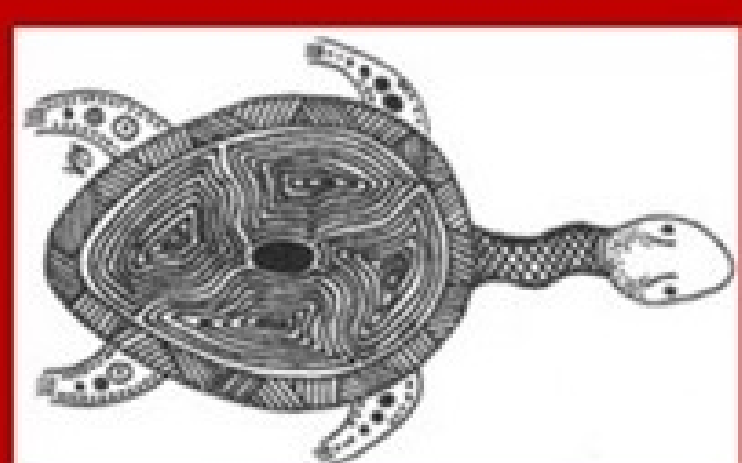
Our Vision:

*We are a community that takes strength from who we are:
our diversity, our cultures and our histories.*

*We will empower our students to seize life's opportunities
and to overcome its challenges.*



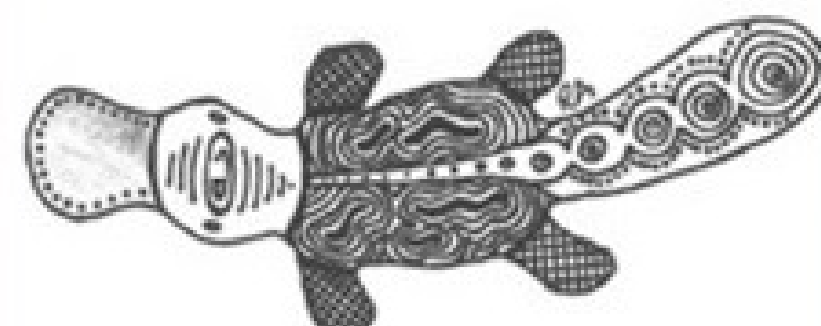
EMPATHY



DETERMINATION



PRIDE



EXCELLENCE



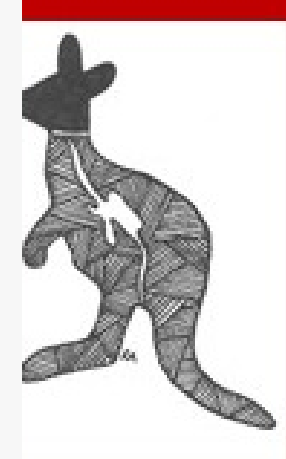
TERM DATES 2024

Term 1: Tuesday 30th January to
Friday 28th March

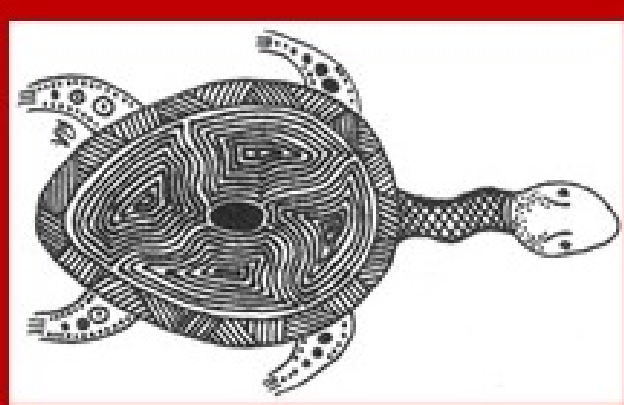
Term 2: Monday 15th April to
Friday 28th June

Term 3: Monday 15th July to
Friday 20th September

Term 4: Monday 7th October to
Friday 20th December



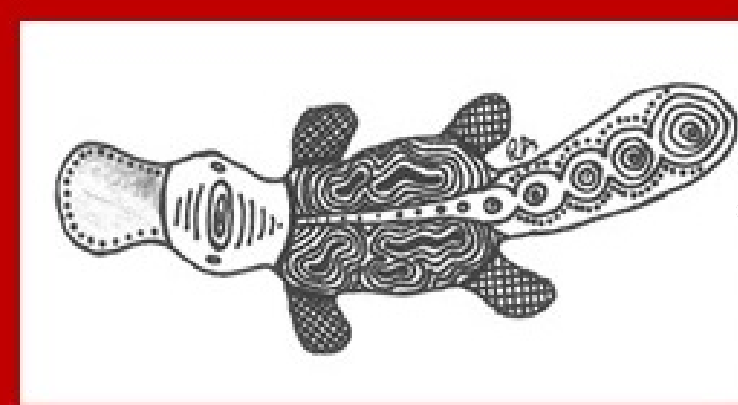
EMPATHY



DETERMINATION



PRIDE



EXCELLENCE



GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION 2024

AT SCHOOL -ON TIME -EVERY DAY!

FOUNDATION 2024 TRANSITION DATES

TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 9.00am-10.00am
Students to bring a drink bottle.

THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2.15pm-3.15pm
An afternoon to get to know specialist teachers

TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 9.00am-10.30 am
Students to bring a snack and drink bottle

THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2.15pm-3.15pm
An afternoon to get to know specialist teachers

TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER 9.00am-11.00am
Students to bring a snack and drink bottle

TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER 9.00am-11.30am
Students to bring a snack and drink bottle.

PARENT SESSION

We will be running two session to introduce parents to Gowrie St. Choose just one to come to.

We will discuss-

- Being ready for school
- What first days at school will be like
- Learning at Gowrie St PS
- Introduction to key people in the school

Tuesday 21st Novemeber at 9:00am
OR

Thursday 30th November at 2:15pm

STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school is an exciting time of change for children. There is a great deal to get used to and some children will adapt more easily than others. School days can be tiring too, for children who are used to a rest during the day. Children often have to cope with new routines, bigger buildings, and more children who are older and bigger. There are different rules to get used to and many new things they are expected to do. Children need lots of support from you when starting school. There are things you can do to prepare your child for school and to support them in the first few weeks.

IS MY CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL?

- Will have turned five by 30th April- talk with your kinder teachers and ask their opinion about your child's readiness for school. Even children who will be five may do better at school with an extra kinder year
- Can use the toilet on their own
- Can open their lunchbox and unwrap their food

THE KEY IS THAT THE MORE READY A CHILD IS FOR SCHOOL, THE MORE THEY WILL SUCCEED AND LOVE SCHOOL

SCHOOL HOURS BELL AND EATING TIMES

SCHOOL STARTS **8.45 AM**
First Recess Bell **11.30AM**
Second Recess Bell **1.50PM**
HOME TIME **3.15PM**

• **Fruit Break at 10am**
• **Lunch at 12.00pm**
• **Snack at 2.20 pm**
Foundation students usually have one other snack time during the day.
Learning is hungry work!

WELCOME TO THE FIRST YEAR AT SCHOOL

At Gowrie Street Primary School we believe that the first year of primary school is THE most important year a child will have. This is because during this year they will learn the foundations of :-

- Making and keeping friends and working with others
- How to regulate their emotions in order to be able to learn
- The vital skills that will set them up for reading and writing
- Being independent and problem solving

Because we believe this, we have built our Foundation program to support all of these things.



TERM 1

Term 1 is a big term for our Foundation students. They are learning so many new things, the day is often longer than they are used to and it is usually the hottest part of the year also. With all this in mind, the first part of the term is a bit different. At Gowrie St we want to support our youngest students to have as much success as they can so that they love school. One way we do this is to shorten the week so they can rest. We do this by letting them have a rest on Fridays for the first five weeks of the term.

First day of school 2024 is Monday 30th January. Foundation students have Friday off until Week 5. They start a full week beginning Monday 4th March

Foundation Assessments

On the Fridays students are not at school, Foundation teachers use this time to do Mathematics and English testing and to get to know students one-on-one. You will be contacted by one of our office staff to book in a time for your child to have these assessments done. It is absolutely vital that your child attend these appointments. It ensures that your child's learning is well-planned and that they are working at their point of need.



What Will My Child Need To Bring To School?

- ✓ Lunch box with-
A healthy lunch- see ideas below
Snacks- enough for two decent snacks
Fruit
- ✓ A drink bottle with water in it. We only have water in our drink bottles at Gowrie St
Students are not permitted to leave the room for a drink.
- ✓ A hat.
Students will not be permitted to play outside without a hat in Term 1 and Term 4

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

EXPECTATIONS

School-wide positive behaviour support (SWPBS) is a framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures. At Gowrie St, SWPBS improves social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for our students. Teachers and students focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

Students and teachers benefit from:





- increased respectful and positive behaviour
- increased time focused on instruction
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- a predictable and safe learning environment

Every class in the school has weekly SWPBS lessons based on the need of the students and where they need extra learning about understanding our school-wide expectations. The expectations in the classroom are the same school-wide and this supports students to understand the appropriate way to be at school. In Foundation the expectations are presented in a simplified form. You will see the poster that is displayed in the Foundation learning space on the next page. Each of these expectations is taught and then students practice them, one at a time. The language of these expectations is used across the school and supports our calm learning environment. Please see our school-wide expectations matrix on the next page.

REWARD SYSTEM

At Gowrie St we use a reward system to support our SWPBS. When students display the expected behaviours they are rewarded with a token, told what the behaviour is that they have shown and how that links with our school values. This helps reinforce the message- good job for doing the right thing! Students collect these tokens and every few weeks are able to use them as 'money' in our SWPBS shop to purchase things like small toys, milkshakes, free time with a friend or even a class party if they save up enough.



Respect for...	Learning Spaces	Out in the Community	Technology
<div> <div> EXCELLENCE  </div> <div>Be your best</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5L's • Be on time • Follow instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use manners • Follow laws • Be a role model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect personal information • Think before you post
<div> <div> DETERMINATION  </div> <div>Strive for success</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try your best • Welcome mistakes • Challenge yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be involved • Practice persistence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay on task
<div> <div> EMPATHY  </div> <div>Know your impact</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help others • Hands & feet to ourselves • Use kind & polite words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be friendly • Be supportive • Encourage one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? • Use your own device
<div> <div> PRIDE  </div> <div>Be proud</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend today; achieve today. • Use it, return it. • Use learning voices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put rubbish in bins • Acknowledge our diverse cultures • Wear your uniform respectfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look after your device • Charge device

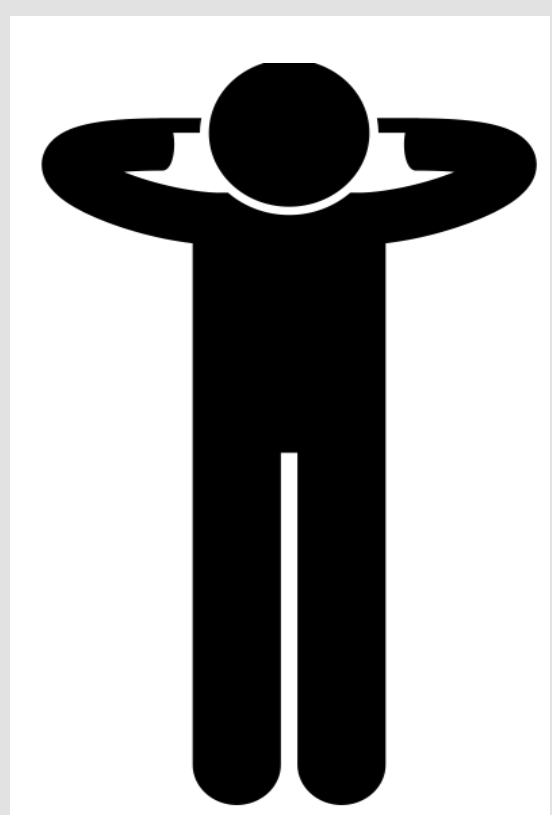
GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY FOUNDATION LEARNING MODEL

At Gowrie Street we believe that the Foundation year is the most important year of a child's schooling. It sets up the mindsets for learning for the rest of a child's life. Young children all learn at a different rate and need time and space to master their learning. Learning in Foundation focuses on-



TALKING

Talking to learn is the first deep skill we work on with Foundation students. We teach students to use talk to tell stories, to make friends, to sing songs and use rhymes. We teach how to talk about our emotions and ask for what we need.



LISTENING

Listening to stories read to them improves students' vocabulary- a predictor of reading success. Listening to stories helps students understand how stories work and help them tell their own stories- predictors for writing success. Listening helps students hear the sounds in words which supports reading and spelling words for writing. Listening to others helps us make and keep friends and build empathy.



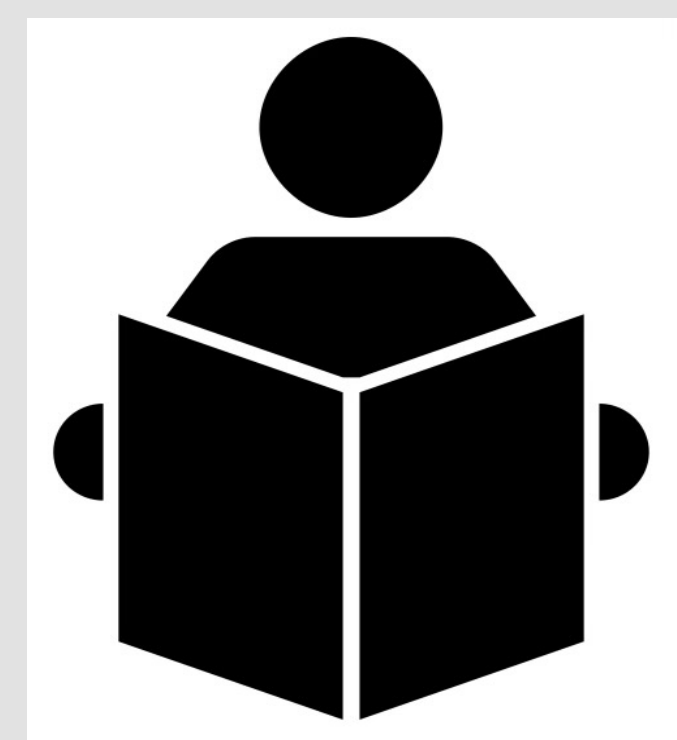
PLAYING

Play is the work of children. Children learn about and understand the world through play. At Gowrie St much of the learning our Foundations students do at the beginning of the year is through play. They learn important social skills, vocabulary, problem-solving and concentration through our 'play' centres. Play encourages curiosity and this is a key to learning success.



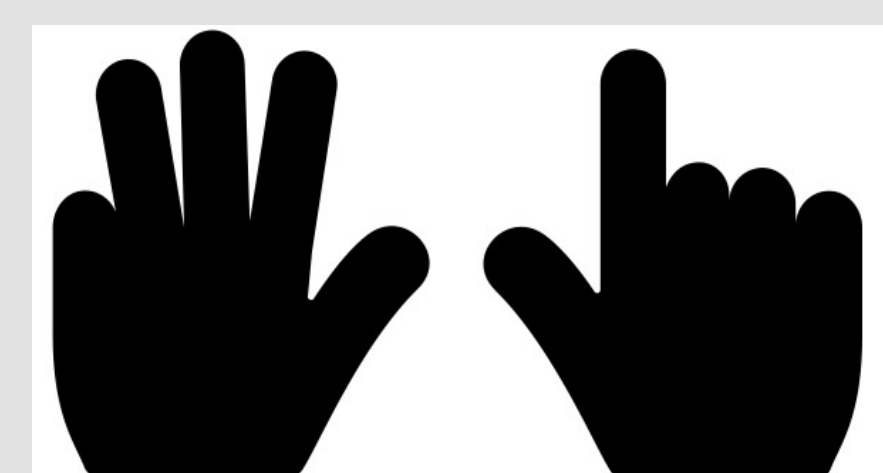
EMOTION REGULATION

Being able to know their emotions and how to manage them helps children concentrate on the hard work of learning. At Gowrie St we teach students how to do this using the Zones Of Regulation curriculum that helps children understand their emotions and teaches them strategies to help themselves regulate.



READING AND WRITING

We teach phonics (learning that letters have sounds and blend together to make words) in a systematic and sequential way. Along with this, we run 'intensive' activities where students work at short, sharp 'intense' literacy tasks in order to make accelerated progress



UNDERSTANDING NUMBERS

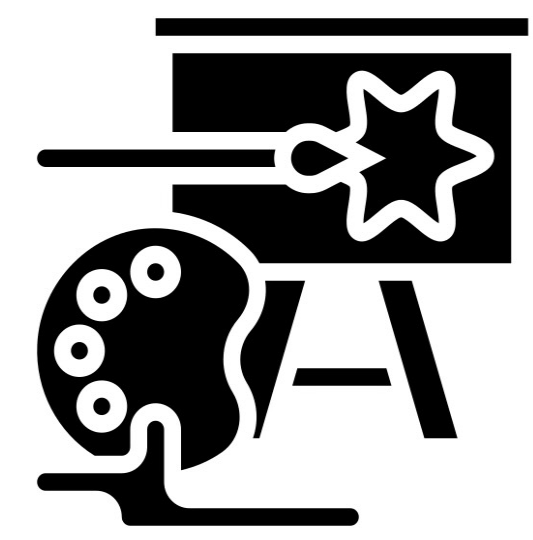
At Gowrie St our Foundation students spend a lot of time using materials, their bodies and active learning to gain a deep understanding of numbers and how numbers work. Our students have a very positive mindset when it comes to maths!

GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY FOUNDATION LEARNING MODEL



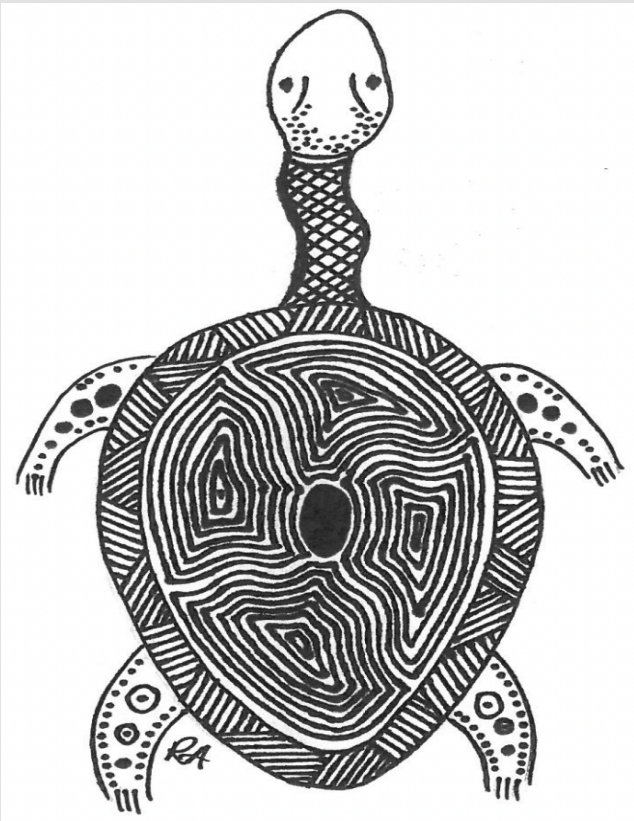
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Active, healthy kids are what we strive for at Gowrie St. Our students have PE lessons once a week, active teacher-led breaks throughout the day and are encouraged to run and play at recess times. We have fantastic grounds at Gowrie St that supports physical activity.



THE ARTS

Creative learning is vital for young students. It encourages them to participate, share and develops thinking skills and curiosity. Our Foundation students have weekly visual arts, music and many opportunities to engage in craft across the week.



YORTA YORTA LANGUAGE

We are very lucky to be able to offer Yorta Yorta language and culture. Our students are so lucky that they have a chance to learn the local language and spend time learning about the culture and traditions of the Yorta Yorta people.



PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

At Gowrie St we believe that one of the best ways for children to learn is from other children.

In 2020 we introduced what is known as our Peer Support Program. This program has gone through a few changes but how it work is that one lesson a week our Peer Support Leaders (Grade 5-6 students) take a group of mixed grade children and they do some learning about making friends,



managing conflict and dealing with our emotions. This is done through stories and fun activities. In built is a chance for the big kids to teach the little kids something they are interested in or special skill. This program has really seen some terrific benefits and connects our students- especially our young students feel like they have 'big brothers and sisters' to go to if they need a helping hand.



To connect with the Wellbeing Team please contact the office

WELLBEING TEAM

Our wellbeing team is there for everyone in our school community. We are there for students and provide them with help in time of challenge or if they need space and someone to talk to. We are also there for families and with the combined expertise of the team can support families with many of the challenges that we all can face at different times. At Gowrie Street our wrap around approach includes-

- Pediatric clinic on site
- Wellbeing Leader connecting families with services and supports
- Koorie Family Liason officers offering culturally safe support
- Breakfast Program for all students- every day
- Family liason officers to support school attendance

ESSENTIAL GOWRIE ST KNOWLEDGE

HEALTH

During the first year at school, childhood infections are common. Infections spread quickly at school. If your child is sick or has been experiencing vomiting/diarrhea hours prior to school, they should be kept at home for at least 24 hours since the last episode.

Your child must be kept home if they are suffering from one of the infectious diseases identified by the Education Department. A separate listing of the relevant diseases is available at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/infectiousdiseases.aspx>.

Please call the office if you are unsure.

HEAD LICE

Head Lice are common to all schools and do not indicate that the child's head is dirty. If you find any eggs or lice in your child's hair, please treat the lice immediately and let your class teacher know so we can inform other class members to be extra vigilant about checking.

ASTHMA, ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

If your child suffers from an allergy, anaphylaxis or asthma; please see the office for the required medical form to complete or check the website. An Action Plan **MUST** be filled out by your GP and given to the school along with any necessary medication from day one. The school must have direct access to any medicine your child needs.

IMMUNISATION DETAILS

It is mandatory for all enrolled students to provide the office with a record of their immunisation status certificate. Parents or guardians must provide an immunisation status certificate to the school regardless of whether the child is or is not immunised. The best place to find this is via the MyGov website or app

FIRST AID

Qualified first aid staff look after children injured at school and all accidents are recorded. If need be, you will be notified by phone of any first aid treatment. Please ensure that the school has up-to-date emergency contact telephone numbers at all times, especially after moving house, changing jobs or mobile phones.



ESSENTIAL GOWRIE ST KNOWLEDGE

GOWRIE STREET NEWSLETTER

Our school newsletter is emailed, on the school's website and posted on our Facebook page. Please read it as often as possible as it contains important notices, dates, reports, articles and issues of interest.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Additional information is available on our school's website. The website contains policies, general curriculum information and our school newsletter

ONLINE COMMUNICATION - COMPASS

Compass is an online system of communication that we use at Gowrie St. The website and app is used for the distribution of information and permission forms for excursions, incursions and other events. Each parent has an individual username and password to access Compass. Notification of new information or permission forms is sent via email or mobile notification. Student achievement reports are accessed through Compass via the 'View Academic Reports' link next to your child's profile photo. You will be provided your Compass login at the beginning of the year.

HOME READING

The Prep class teachers will explain the Home Reading Program in detail at the Parent Information Session. Readers will be sent home in the first few weeks of school along with sounds and words children are learning. Parents are encouraged to read every night to/with their child at first until students can read these independently. It is important to talk about the book before and after to encourage emergent comprehension skills.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Gowrie St has a strong belief in the partnership between the students, parents and teachers in the success of a child's educational outcomes. Parents can be involved in our school community in many ways. To work as a volunteer at Gowrie St School, all parents require a valid Working with Children Check (see the office for more information).

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Children like to bring toys and other personal property to school for special occasions. Sometimes these things can give very young children a feeling of security and although we don't wish to discourage children bringing things to school, we expect that parents will keep a close eye on very precious things and perhaps not allow children to bring them to school. The Department of Education & Training has asked schools to advise parents that the school is not responsible for the loss of property brought to school by students and property is not insured.

LOST PROPERTY

If something belonging to your child is missing, please check in the classroom, their personal tub. Things may go missing for a few days, but if they are named clearly, they will likely return.

ESSENTIAL GOWRIE ST KNOWLEDGE

SAFETY

The school makes a practice of teaching habits which ensure the safety and welfare of your child. We feel children are safer if their parents have taught them the following:

- To use crossings where appropriate. To look both ways before crossing streets and to understand traffic lights and school crossings
- If riding scooters or bikes, children **MUST** wear a helmet. This is law in Victoria. If children do ride to school without a helmet, we will keep the bike here at school until a parent can collect it or a helmet is brought to the school
- Not to accept rides from, or talk to strangers. If you wish another parent to pick him/her up from school, you must let your child, and us know who this is
 - Not to leave the school ground without permission or an adult
- Toys and articles that cause or mimic injury must not be brought to school - guns, arrows, slings, fireworks etc.
- Reinforce that sticks, stones, sand and tan bark must not be thrown (even though it may be fun!).

SUN SMART

Gowrie St is a SunSmart school. All children must have a broad-brimmed hat during Term 1 and Term 4 or they will need to stay in the shaded areas of the school.

As this is not much fun for the kids or staff, please make sure your child has an approved hat- these are available through the office. The best place to keep the hat is in their classroom tub so that it does not get left at home. From September, Victoria's UV levels are on the rise, so it's time to dust off the sun protection gear and Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide whenever you are outside.

Check the daily sun protection times – you can find them on the free SunSmart app, online (sunsmart.com.au), in the weather section of newspapers, or as a free SunSmart widget. If you can't check the sun protection times each day, make sure you use sun protection every day from **September to the end of April in Victoria.** Don't just wait for hot, sunny days.



Uniform Policy Summary



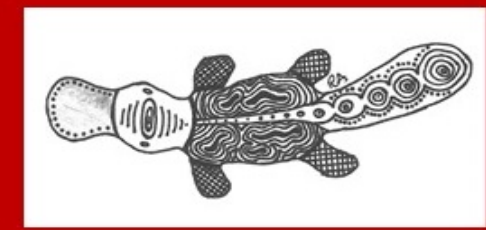
EMPATHY



DETERMINATION



PRIDE



EXCELLENCE



We take pride in how we come to school each day

At Gowrie Street Primary School, we believe our uniform policy is a way to show pride in who we are as a community and that coming to school dressed in our uniform will:

- Help students feel connected to each other and their school
- Ensure that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities.
- Help identify our students and promote our school in the wider community

KEY POINTS

- Students are expected to come to school each day in full school uniform
- Where students are not in school uniform they will be lent uniform for the day, returning it at the end of the day to the office
- The school is able to support families to purchase uniforms in a range of ways
- Exemptions to wearing school uniform must be directed in writing to the principal
- All parts of our school uniform are inclusive and may be worn by all children

OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM



- Gowrie Street T-Shirt/long sleeve
- Gowrie St Jumper
- Black pants/shorts/skorts/leggings
- Gowrie St School Dress
- Red broad brimmed hat Terms 1 and 4
- Grade 6 T-shirt (optional)
- Runners or school shoes
- Rain coats etc can be worn to and from school in wet weather



- Opened toed shoes
- No hat, no play during Term 1 and 4
- Long, false nails are a safety issue and make it very hard write
- No hats to be worn inside



Morning
Bell
8.45 am



ON TIME FOR SCHOOL AND READY TO LEARN



Being Late Is Lost Learning Time

If Your Child Misses....	That equals.....	Which Is.....
10 minutes each day	One lesson a week	40 lessons per year
20 minutes each day	Two lessons a week	80 lessons per year
1 hour each day	Five Lessons a week	200 lessons a year

Missing even small amounts of school means:

- Children feel disrupted in their learning and find it hard to know what they need to do and where they need to be
- Feel nervous about being the centre of attention when their lateness draws attention to them as they walk in
- **Children fall behind in their learning and that time is hard to get back**

STRATEGIES TO GET TO SCHOOL ON TIME

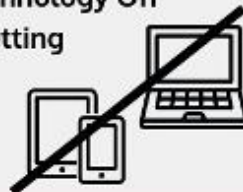
Set Regular Bed Time



Make The Morning Calm



Keep Technology Off
When Getting
Ready



Pack Bags and
organise
things
the night
before



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Attendance Policy Summary



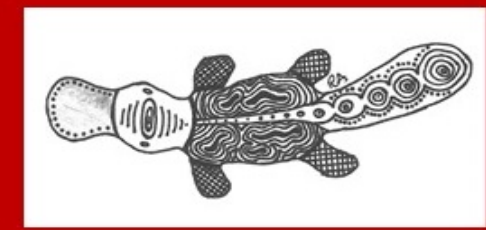
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Showing Pride at school and out in the community At Gowrie Street Primary School, :

- Live happy and healthy lives
- Be connected to each other and their community
- Achieve their best and experience success every day
- Realise their dreams
- Seize the opportunities that come their way
- Contribute to their community in a positive, active way

KEY POINTS

- Students aged 6-17 **MUST** be at school every day unless they have been exempt
- Schools **MUST** record student attendance twice daily
- Parents **MUST** let school know why a student is away
- School will contact you if you have not let us know why your student is away
- If your child is **AWAY** for **5 DAYS** without a reasonable excuse, the school will contact you to have a **MEETING** to make a **PLAN** for how we can help your child be at school
- If the school **can't contact you** to have a meeting about attendance challenges, the school will refer the case to the **Department of Education Attendance Officer** and they will contact you.

WHY WE NEED TO BE -AT SCHOOL -ON TIME -EVERYDAY

- Students who come to school **EVERY DAY** make and **KEEP** friends
- Students who come to school **EVERY DAY** make **PROGRESS** in their **LEARNING**
- Students who are **AWAY** from school a lot make low or **NO** progress
- Any time **AWAY** from school means young students **STRUGGLE** to **LEARN TO READ**
- Students who fail to learn how to read effectively by **GRADE THREE** are at a **MAJOR RISK** of **NEVER** being able to catch up
- Students who are absent become **DISCONNECTED** from their peers and are at greater **RISK** of suffering **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**
- At Gowrie St, teachers plan each day to build on the day before. Students that miss even a day are always a step **BEHIND**

OK REASONS TO BE AWAY



**Illness/
Medical
Appointments
unable to be
made other
times**



**Funeral,
Sorry
Business,
Cultural
Events**

NOT OK REASONS TO BE AWAY

- **Sleeping in**
- **Shopping**
- **Birthdays**
- **Outings**
- **Sibling not at school**

If you are having challenges with getting your kids to school please give us a call or come in- we are here to help! We have lots of ways we can support your children to be at school, on time, every day!

Phone the office on (03)5821300

POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS



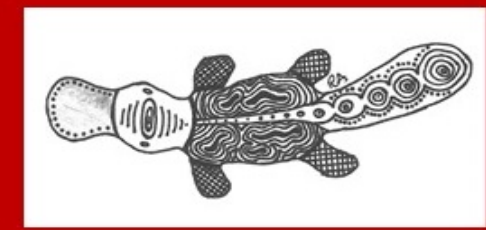
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“We are a community that takes strength from who we are: our cultures, our histories, our diversity. We will empower our students to seize life's opportunities and overcome its challenges”.

At Gowrie Street Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

KEY POINTS

1. Gowrie Street Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

We strive for positive relationships at all times. When relationships are built on respect and trust, students learn better and feel like they belong in the school. The foundation of a good collaborative relationship is based on:

- open and honest communication
- trust and respect
- working together
- fair and reasonable expectations by all.

2. Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- Being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- Speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- Sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- Discriminatory or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN

CLASSROOM CONCERN

CONTACT TEACHER TO MAKE A TIME FOR A PROBLEM SOLVING CONVERSATION

RESOLVED

NOT RESOLVED

SCHOOL-WIDE CONCERN

CONTACT PRINCIPAL TO MAKE A TIME FOR A PROBLEM SOLVING CONVERSATION

RESOLVED

NOT RESOLVED

CONTACT THE REGION



SCAN TO SEE FULL
POLICIES FOR MORE
INFORMATION

GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL VALUES



EXCELLENCE

bukut

EMPATHY

gowola, anganya / gurtji, mamana banga



DETERMINATION

golimdja

PRIDE

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