

## **Drouin West Primary School** 2023/2024 Family Handbook

'Be a Learner, Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Respectful.'



535 Main Neerim Road, Drouin West , 3818
PO Box 176, Drouin, VIC 3818
Ph: (03) 5625 1971

E: drouin.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au
School Principal: Kelly Halliday
www.drouinwest.vic.edu.au

ABN: 81 960 156 844



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## **Child Safe Standards**

Drouin West Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

Drouin West Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Every person involved in Drouin West Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In its planning, decision-making and operations, Drouin West Primary School will:

- Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety.
- Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives.
- Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children.
- Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount
- Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children
- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development
- Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues
- Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk
- Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers



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## Principal's Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to consider Drouin West Primary School.

The students who come to Drouin West Primary School are lucky to enjoy excellent facilities and outstanding teachers, and while they are here we will work with all stakeholders to develop self-esteem, confidence and resilience.

"Our strong values underpin everything we do -

Values of: Be a Learner, Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Respectful."

We are a cheerful community where students, staff and parents work hand in hand to create a positive learning environment. With a long history stretching from 1874 to present day, Drouin West Primary School has grown to a population of over 250 students and 21 staff. We are an attractive, welcoming school with beautiful rural grounds, a multipurpose room and areas for the visual arts and science programs. The outdoor environment is well maintained with plenty of space for everyone to enjoy active play in our well established gardens and extensive spacious playground areas.

Drouin West Primary School offers students a safe and caring learning environment filled with opportunities and challenges that will inspire and fulfil them today and into the future.

There is a special atmosphere here; one that can be sensed as soon as you enter the school grounds. Our students are happy, friendly, polite and focused on learning.

We look forward to meeting you when you visit our School, you will be made very welcome.

Kelly Halliday Principal

Andrew Holden Assistant Principal



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## **Term Dates 2024**

Term One 30<sup>th</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> March

Term Two 15<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> June

Term Three 15<sup>th</sup> July – 20<sup>th</sup> September

Term Four 7<sup>th</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup> December

## **School Assembly**

The whole school assembles each Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm. Parent/Carers are welcome to come along to the assemblies to support and encourage our students.

## **School House Colours**

Our school houses recognise three of West Gippsland's natural landmarks.

Tarago - Red

**Baw Baw - Yellow** 

Strzelecki - Blue

## **Supervision**

Our hours of supervision are 8:45am - 3:30pm



ST. 1874

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## **School Facilities**

Our school features an excellent Library full of resources for our students and staff.

Our classrooms are spacious and filled with natural light. All rooms are heated and air-conditioned.

We have a dedicated science room and a multi-purpose room.

Our extensive grounds incorporate an undercover area, basketball court, soccer and football ovals, a junior and senior playground.





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## **Specialist Programs**

## **Physical Education**

The Primary years are crucial in laying the foundations of physical competency and positive attitudes to physical activity. Children will experience a wide variety of activities which develop skills through increasingly challenging situations. Fun, enjoyment and achievement will pervade all activities. Students will be allowed time to develop confidence, both as individuals and members of a group.

### **AUSLAN**

Auslan broadens students' understanding that each language is an integrated, evolving system for the framing and communication of meaning; and encourages understanding of the role of language as an expression of cultural and personal identity and a shaper of perspectives.

It contributes to the overall curriculum intent by providing distinctive real-life and intellectual opportunities for students to expand their engagement with the wider world and to reflect on the cultural and social assumptions that underpin their own world view and language use. Such awareness of different perspectives is an integral part of effective communication.

Auslan also contributes to the development of critical thinking and the ability to adapt to change and equips students with learning strategies and study habits that are the foundation, not only for lifelong learning, but also for any subsequent language learning.

## **STEM**

The science program incorporates the four main areas of science: biology, chemistry, physics and earth science. We are fortunate to have a building which specifically caters for exciting experiments and exploration of all four areas.

We also use our grounds to explore our natural environment and conduct hands on experience within the world around us.

Science is the magic that is real.



**Parent Portal** 



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Our online communication service for families is called 'Compass'. This is the primary means of communication between the school and home. Parents are able to login to Compass via the link <a href="https://drouinwest-vic.compass.education">https://drouinwest-vic.compass.education</a>.

You can access Compass on any web enabled device: laptop, iPhone, iPad, tablet or android phone.

Each family has a unique login for Compass and can be used straight away. Families should access Compass on a regular basis for news and information.

Compass provides the school community with a range of functions which streamlines the school's communication processes and provides enhanced access to information.

- 1. Email addresses and mobile phone numbers are able to be updated through the portal. The details listed will be used to send emails and SMS alerts.
- 2. News Feed The school will post news to parents to remind you about events and activities at the school. Your news feed will be customised, showing only the information relevant to you and your child.
- 3. Attendance view your child's attendance online, approve absences, and indicate future absences.
- 4. Reports view your child's report as an electronic PDF file.
- 5. Newsletters All newsletters are published on Compass.
- 6. Teacher's email link email your child's teachers directly.
- 7. Excursions Receive notifications about camps, excursions, and other events. You are also able to provide permission and payment for events electronically.
- 8. Parent Teacher Interviews appointments are made online through Compass.

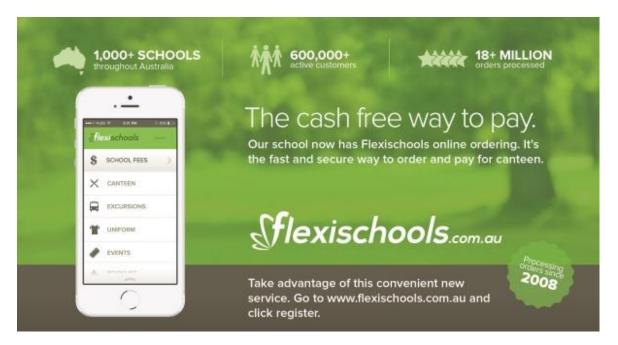


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## FlexiSchools (Lunch Orders)

Lunch Orders available every Monday and Thursday, orders placed through the Flexi schools App.

https://flexischools.com.au



## **Newsletters**

We electronically publish our newsletter weekly on Compass to keep students and parents informed of all events taking place within the school.

Website <a href="http://www.drouinwest.vic.edu.au/">http://www.drouinwest.vic.edu.au/</a>

## **Interviews and Reports**

Interviews and Reports Interviews with your child's teacher will be held towards the end of Term 2 and 4. Parents or guardians are also welcome to organise a meeting at an appropriate time with the classroom teacher or the Principal to discuss a child's progress or highlight any concerns.



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Two written reports are provided throughout the school year in June and December and will be published on Compass

## **Student Supports**

Any concerns regarding such things as your child's progress, discipline, health and wellbeing can be discussed with your child's classroom teacher.

Communication is vital. The School can only act on a concern if we are aware of it. The best results are achieved when we work together as a team. Please feel free to touch base with your classroom teacher via Dojo, Compass or by making an appointment.

## **National School Chaplaincy Program**

The NSCP supports the wellbeing of students and school communities through the provision of pastoral care services and strategies delivered by chaplains.

Our Chaplain is on-site two days a week and runs programs such as; Seasons for Growth, which offers children and young people a safe space to come together, and share their experiences of change and loss.

The Chaplaincy Program also offers emotional support to students who may need a little extra support.

It is not a counselling service however it does help students with building self-esteem, friendship concerns or concerns over loss and grief.

## First Aid

Children who are ill in the morning should be kept home. We understand that at times it is hard to tell and that a child can fall ill suddenly throughout the day. If this happens you will be contacted to collect your child from school. Where necessary basic first aid will be given if a child is injured at school. When immediate medical attention is required, an ambulance will be called and the parents or emergency contact will be notified.

Asthma & Allergies - Every child who has been medically diagnosed with either Asthma or an allergy - particularly if there is concern of an anaphylactic reaction - is asked to complete and provide the school with an annual Asthma and/or Allergy/Anaphylaxis plan.



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These plans MUST be updated each year. The family must also provide appropriate medications for any condition.

## **Student Medications**

For children who are required to take medication while attending school the Parents/Carers must provide the medication in the original packaging with the child's name and dosage and complete a Medication Request form which indicates the dosage and time the medication is to be administered. The forms are available at the front office.

## **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)**

The Outside School Hours Care program (OSHC) is managed and staffed under the direction of Drouin West Primary School Council, and is currently funded for 40 places. We pride ourselves on offering high quality care in compliance with the National Quality Framework. Students attending the program are supervised and engaged at all times and participate in a wide range of activities.

Before School Care operates from 7:00 am - 8:45 am every school morning. Students are provided with breakfast up until 8:30 am and enjoy a range of games, technology and art/craft activities.

After School Care operates from 3:15 pm (2:15 pm on early dismissal days at end of term) until 6:00 pm sharp. The children are provided with a nutritious afternoon tea and join in a variety of educational and children's choice activities.

The program is very well equipped to enable students to participate in art/craft-work, board games and indoor and outdoor sports. Outdoor activities include all types of sports and playing on the school playground equipment. There is also adequate opportunity for children to read or work on school assignments.

## **Breakfast Club**

Start the day with a healthy breakfast at Breakfast club every Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 to 8:45 am in the Year 2/3 Galley. All students are welcome. This is a free service.



## **School Injuries & Insurance**

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The Department of Education does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.

It is recommended that parents/guardians wanting their child to be insured should seek assistance in obtaining student accident insurance with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer.

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include electronic devices (including mobile phones and laptops) calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Staff, students and visitors are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. Please note mobile phones for students are not permitted under DET guidelines.

## **Conveyance Allowance**

Conveyance Allowance is payable to families who live 4.8 kilometres or more from their nearest school. The distance is measured from the families' home gate to the school via the shortest possible route. This payment is provided by the Government for families where a bus is not available. Forms are available from the office.



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## **School Uniform**

The wearing of school uniform is strongly supported by Parents and Friends Association and has been made compulsory by School Council. Our School Council believes that the uniform, in giving children a group identity, helps to develop in a child a sense of belonging within the school community. It also provides a measure of security when groups are on excursions.

The DWPS School Council has approved an attractive uniform based on the school colours of maroon, navy blue and gold. In accordance with school policy, compulsory full uniform must be worn every day, or a note of explanation sent to the classroom teacher.

DWPS is a SunSmart School and therefore hats are compulsory when the UV rating is above 3 - particularly in Terms 1 & 4. A policy of No Hat - No Play applies. If a child does not have a hat they are to play under the 'icy pole' tree or undercover area.

Uniforms are available to purchase from Beleza, Williams Square, Warragul.

**Second Hand Uniform** Second hand uniforms are available for \$2 per item from the office.

Please refer to our website for a copy of the DWPS Uniform Policy. Our uniform includes:

Navy Shorts, Navy Track pants, Navy Skirt, Polo Shirt (Long or Short Sleeve) Windcheater, Bomber Jacket, Summer Dress, Art Smock, Hat, Runners

All tops have the School Logo.

## **Year 6 Tops**

All grade 6 students can purchase a Grade 6 'Class of' graduation polo.

## **Lost Property**

Please ensure that everything brought to school is clearly named. This includes hats, jumpers, jackets, windcheaters, coats and any other articles of clothing that may be removed during the day. Please also name property – e.g. lunch boxes and drink bottles. Named property can easily be returned to the owner.



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Navy Winter Tunic Navy Square Weave Culottes **Navy Shorts** Navy Track Pants Navy Bootleg Pants

Short/Long Sleeve Polo Shirt

Bomber Jacket

Soft Shell Jacket



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## **Student Inclusion**

Our school community recognises that a proactive behaviour management structure will support students in developing their emotional intelligence, resilience and social competences. These aspects of a child's development are linked to long term learning and life success.

We are very keen to work with families and any support persons (OT, Speech, Paediatricians, therapists) who can help us to have a joint plan in navigating the best supports for the young people in our community.

We aim to provide a positive learning environment where all students can learn and feel safe. We encourage students to take responsibility for the choices they make. We understand that the impact one student may have upon the social dynamics of a classroom environment and believe with support and clear and consistent feedback children can learn to make appropriate choices. If children need an extended time to talk through things then they will spend time, at lunchtime, in a safe space called the reflection room which promotes thought about their actions and choices. We encourage children to build empathy, develop thoughtfulness and accountability for the way a person chooses to behave. We address the causes of the harm, the impact of the harm on those affected and investigate ways to make amends and to put things right.

## 4 B's - Be a Learner, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Kind

These expectations of behaviour will be taught explicitly at the beginning of the year using the detailed matrix explaining what each means. These are displayed in the appropriate areas of the school. Each matrix was revisited in 2020 by students, staff and the school community. Positive Behavioural Support Team is reviewed annually.

## School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program

Student's and staff listed all the behaviours they would like to see in the various areas of our school making it the best school for all involved. These behaviours were sorted into groups of behaviours with input from students, teachers and the School Wide Positive Behavioural Support Team.



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As a school we have devised the following matrix as guidelines for all members of our community.

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DROUIN WEST	Always	Inside	Outside	On Excursions	Using Technology
Be a Learner	We ask for help     We accept     challenges and     have a go     We listen actively     We try our best	We use a growth mindset     We listen actively     We ask questions	We follow the rules     We attempt to solve problems     We ask for help	We listen     We ask questions     We look at what is around us	We use computers for education use only
Be Safe	We follow instructions     We keep our bodies to ourselves	We move around carefully     We use equipment in the right way	We walk away from trouble and get help     we tay in the school's boundaries     We use equipment correctly     We wear hats in term 1 and 4	We use safety equipment     We follow instructions	We keep our details to ourselves     We tell someone if we are not sure of what to do
Be Respectful	We use an appropriate tone of voice and body language     We are honest     We look after property and equipment	We use an inside voice     We understand and accept that differences	We understand and accept differences     We speak kindly     We include others	We understand and accept others     We are our best self     We listen	We treat others online how we would like to be treated
Be Kind	We are considerate and help others     We share with others     We use our manners     We are friendly	We support others     We include     everyone	We look after everyone     We include everyone	We look out for our peers     We speak nicely	We use appropriate language     Share technology when needed



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> improving practice I am committed to

> > I understand that all

and relationships.

# DROUIN WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL – STAFF BEHAVIOUR MATRIX

Vision - To create an inclusive, safe community for all, where students are engaged as learners.

Learner Веа

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DROUIN WEST

I keep up to date curriculum and with current practices.

feedback on my constructive practice. l seek

community.

I model lifelong learning in our

children can learn. reporting

I use appropriate the department processes as per guidelines.

appropriate online

presence.

maintain an

I maintain my own

I keep my classroom space clean and in

self / work / life

balance.

good repair.

Be Safe

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I ensure I represent positive light in all the school in a forums and

Positive Behaviour

Support (SWPBS)

conflict in a positive

relationships with

community.

our school

Respectful

create positive

and respectful

work to resolve

strategies at all

times.

use School Wide

to students using timely feedback I will provide effective and

I will be welcoming and inclusive of everyone.

opportunities.

I engage fairly and consistently with our community.

for my words and

actions.

I am accountable

language in every I use appropriate interaction.

I am inclusive of community. the whole

understand others.

I seek to

Be Kind

Ŕ



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school events that

I will attend

help my child to

learn.



## DROUIN WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT BEHAVIOUR MATRIX

Vision - To create an inclusive, safe community for all, where students are engaged as learners.

Learner Веа

DROUIN WES

I will support my child to be ready to learn each school day.

I will support learning at my child's home.

lifelong learning I demonstrate to my child.

them to understand I will support my child by helping the value of education.

I am welcoming and inclusive of

everyone.

school notices as I will return

timely manner. requested in a

the car at drop off child to the front gate and back to

appropriate online

will support my

child to use

my child does not bring offensive or harmful things to

I will make sure

will sign in at the

Be Safe

communications.

I will walk my

and pick up times.

respectfully, both in I will communicate person and online, to school staff and the school

negotiated time

will get my children to

I will make a

to meet with my child's teacher

when needed.

community.

appropriate language. I will use

grounds during office while on school hours.

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school.

relationships with our community. create positive and respectful I work hard to

Respectful

Be

school on time.

others and their understand I seek to needs.

for my words and am accountable actions.

appropriate online I will maintain an manner.

I am inclusive of

Be Kind Ź.

community.

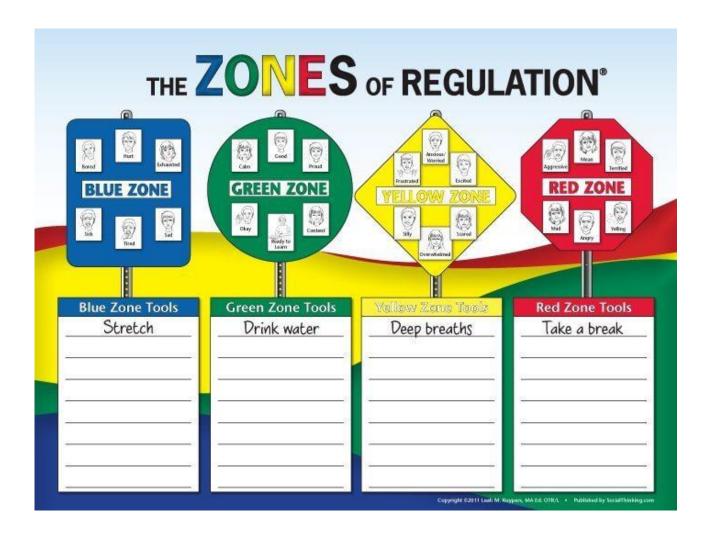
the whole



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## The Zones of Regulation

is another proactive resourced based resource we will be introducing in 2022 at DWPS. The **ZONES** of Regulation creates a systematic approach to teach regulation by categorizing all the different ways we feel and states of alertness we experience into four concrete coloured zones. Students build skills in emotional and sensory regulation, executive functioning, and social cognition. The framework is designed to help move students toward more independent regulation while also honouring and respecting each student and their unique self.





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## **Extra Curricular Programs**

Additional programs which identify and develop the individual abilities of interested and talented students include a range of competitions with students from other schools.

## These include:

- · School camp ~ begins with a Year 2 sleepover to prepare children for the Years 3 6 camping experiences
- · Swimming program ~ offered from Foundation Year 6 with the aim of developing water safety.

The Arts	End of year	Concert	Leadership
Lunchtime Art Activities	All students from	m across the	School Captains, House
Piano Lessons (at parents	school are	involved	Captains, Communication
expense)			Captains,
			Environmental Captains,
			Library Captains,
			Technology Captains

## **Physical Education**

Interschool Competitions
District, Regional & State
Competitions e.g. Cross
Country Winter Sports –
Softball, Netball,
Football & Hockey

## **External Competitions**

Debating Spelling Bee

## **Other**

Gardening Club Technology Club Art/Craft Club



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## **Other Activities & Events**

- Start of the year "Welcome BBQ" -February
- Easter Bonnet Parade
- Book Week Character Parade
- Footy Day
- Intensive Swimming Program
- Interschool Sport Years 4 to 6

- Year 2 overnight sleepover at school
- School Camp Years 3 & 4 (Woorabinda)
- School Camp Years 5 & 6 (Urban Camp)
- Grade 6 Graduation
- Picnic Sports Day
- Christmas Concert / Family BBQ

## **Events & Excursions**

Excursions and Incursions are an important part of our educational program. They provide new experiences which assist with language development, enrich vocabulary and expand knowledge.

Excursions/incursions are planned to complement the classroom curriculum and can be used as a springboard for inquiry or to complete a unit of study.

## **Parent Participation**

## **School Council**

The School Council plays a key role in all Victorian state schools. The Council contributes to the broad direction and vision of the school, develops and reviews school policies, maintains the school's grounds and buildings and helps to promote interest in the school in the wider community.

Being a member of School Council is a rewarding and challenging experience. As part of a team, Council supports the Principal and represents the school community in providing the best possible educational outcomes for students. The School Council consists of 11 elected members – parents & staff, including the Principal. Elections for Council positions are held in March of each year and the names of those elected are published in the newsletter.



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Please contact a Council member if you have an issue you would like discussed. There is an open invitation to all parents to attend School Council meetings as a visitor at any time, with the Principal being advised of this 24 hours prior to the meeting.

School Council meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the school.

## **Parent & Friends Association**

The Parents & Friends Association (P&F) is a group of committed and enthusiastic parents from within the school who work together to provide materials and amenities additional to those provided by the Department of Education (DET). This group is a sub-committee of the DWPS School Council which helps develop a sense of school community through the organisation of fundraising and social events throughout the year.

## **Parent Helpers**

Parent helpers are always welcome to support activities and events happening both inside and outside of the classroom. This might involve working with a small group of students, or working on a 1:1 basis listening to reading. It might be attending an excursion or helping with a school event such as the Cross Country. It might be that you're happy to do work for the teacher at home, such as covering books or cutting out, making games, etc. However you can contribute, we would LOVE your help.

Whether it's in the classroom or helping in the library or on an excursion, parent helpers really enrich student learning. If you are a parent helper, you are required to have a Working with Children's Check (WWCC) and carry this card with you when you are working with children at Drouin West Primary School, (or at any school). Getting a WWCC is free to parents/volunteers helping in a school. The WWCC process is outlined on the DET website:

https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/



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## **Attendance**

Under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, parents have a legal responsibility to ensure the regular school attendance of their children aged between 5 and 17 years.

## Is regular attendance important? - Yes

From the first day. If students miss the basics in the early years of school, they often experience difficulties later. It has been shown that irregular attendance in the infants and primary years often lead to the development of poor attendance and attitude to learning in later years.

Must children be sent to school every day? - Yes, unless:

- · The child is too sick to leave the house
- · The child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, mumps or measles
- · The child is incapacitated by injury preventing movement around the school
- · The child has to honour a religious commitment
- · The child is accompanying his or her parents on a family holiday which cannot be arranged in school holidays. (This should be communicated to the school prior to absence).
- · Wherever possible, dental, medical and other appointments should be made out of school hours.

Must the school be notified if a child has been away? - Yes

· Parents/guardians are always required to contact the school to explain the reason for any absence.

Should the school be notified if a child refuses to go to school? - Yes

· Parents/guardians should contact the school and seek assistance as a matter of urgency.



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## **Students Arriving Late**

Late arrival is disruptive for the student and others and should be avoided. Parents/guardians must report late arrivals to the office and collect a 'Late Pass'. This must be handed to the child's teacher.

## **Students Arriving Early**

Student Leaving Early If parents wish to collect children during school hours, they must collect them from the school office. Any person other than a child's parent, who wishes to collect a child, must have written permission from the parent, identification must also be sighted. No child is permitted to leave the school grounds on his/her own before 3:15 pm.

https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/attendance/policy



## **Curriculum Days**

Four days a year are set aside for all public schools to use for staff professional development, curriculum planning, assessment and report writing.

## On these days students are not required at school.

Parents will be advised through the school's communication platforms when a pupil free day is coming up.



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## **School Ground Supervision**

All recesses and lunch times are supervised by teachers on duty, as well as before and after school. Although teachers are often at school early, they are engaged in tasks which, by personal choice, are being done in their own time.

Supervision is not provided until 8:45 am and children are not expected to be dropped off before this time.

Consequently, parents are notified that no responsibility is accepted for children of a morning prior to 8:45 am and in the afternoon after 3:30 pm.

Students not collected by 3:30 pm will remain at the office until 3:45 pm after which time they will be taken to After School Care and parents will be required to pay a fee for the session.

Please be courteous and phone the office if you are going to be late, this enables staff to reassure children that everything is alright and mum/dad or carers are just running a bit late.



535 Main Neerim Road, Drouin West, 3818 PO Box 176, Drouin, VIC 3818 Ph: (03) 5625 1971

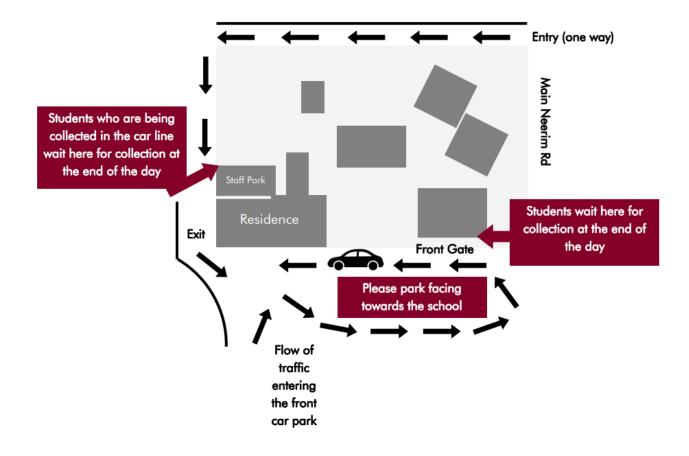
E: drouin.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au

School Principal: Kelly Halliday www.drouinwest.vic.edu.au ABN: 81 960 156 844

## **Car Park Routine**

As with all schools, the end of the day dismissal time is busy and student safety is a priority. At Drouin West it is particularly busy at 3.15 pm with all families using private transport. It is very important for safety and efficiency in delivering and picking up the children that all parents follow the established routine. Please make sure cars are parked in the appropriate areas and do not block the exit of other cars. Please park facing towards the school. Please note that the road around the school is one way with the entrance from Main Neerim Road on the north east boundary.

Staff are on duty at the car line collection point or supervising students at the front of the school. Parents not using the car line are required to collect students from the front of the school and take them to their vehicle. Students will not be permitted to walk out to the front car park unless they are supervised.





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## Thank you

Thank you for spending a few minutes of your time to consider Drouin West Primary School.

We invite you to take a personal tour of the School so that you can experience our wonderful facilities and meet our friendly staff and students.

Please contact our Office on (03) 5625 1971 or email Drouin.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au to arrange a School Tour led by our Assistant Principal or Principal.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

## **Drouin West Primary School Community.**

