



Annandale Public School

2018 Kindy Transition Guide



Education



Annandale is an area with rich colonial history.

A First Fleet officer, Lt Johnston, was granted land and named it Annandale after his hometown of Annan in Dunfriesshire, Scotland.

*The original gates of his estate, dating back to 1796,
stand in the grounds of our school and our school emblem
is a thistle – the floral emblem of Scotland.*

Annandale Public School was established in 1886.

We currently teach 395 students in Kindergarten to year 6 and
76 students in the Department of Education Preschool.

We also have an Early Intervention Unit with 18 students enrolled.
This is for preschool children aged 3 to 6 who have significant disabilities
including cognitive, fine motor/gross motor, language, social and autism.

Our school motto is 'Strength through Wisdom'.

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Welcome to Annandale Public School

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to welcome you warmly to the Annandale Public School community and thank you for entrusting your child to our care.

Enrolling your child in Kindergarten can be both exciting and challenging – a time for mixed emotions certainly for most parents. My hope is that as you read through the pages of this Transition Guide you will get a feel for the quality of the school, the strength of our community, and the vibrancy of our wonderful students, teachers and parent body.

At Annandale Public School we expect high standards in all that we do. We encourage our students to aim high, set targets, work collaboratively and consistently to achieve outcomes, be sensitive to the rights and needs of others, and participate as members of the democratic, egalitarian society to which we all belong.

We are one of the leading providers of primary education in the local area. We are proud of our reputation, and of our success in helping students achieve their dreams and learning targets. The exit outcomes for our year 6 students demonstrate that when students leave us, they are confident as learners and leaders, and are excellent ambassadors for our school's core values.

Throughout the next seven years of learning, your child will be immersed in a vast array of quality teaching and learning programs at Annandale Public School.

We actively seek out those that are research based and are proven to lift the learning outcomes of your child in the areas of literacy, numeracy, wellbeing and the creative arts. Our teachers are expert practitioners in their field and have been hand-picked and strategically placed to ensure learning is challenging and delivered to suit each individual student's needs.

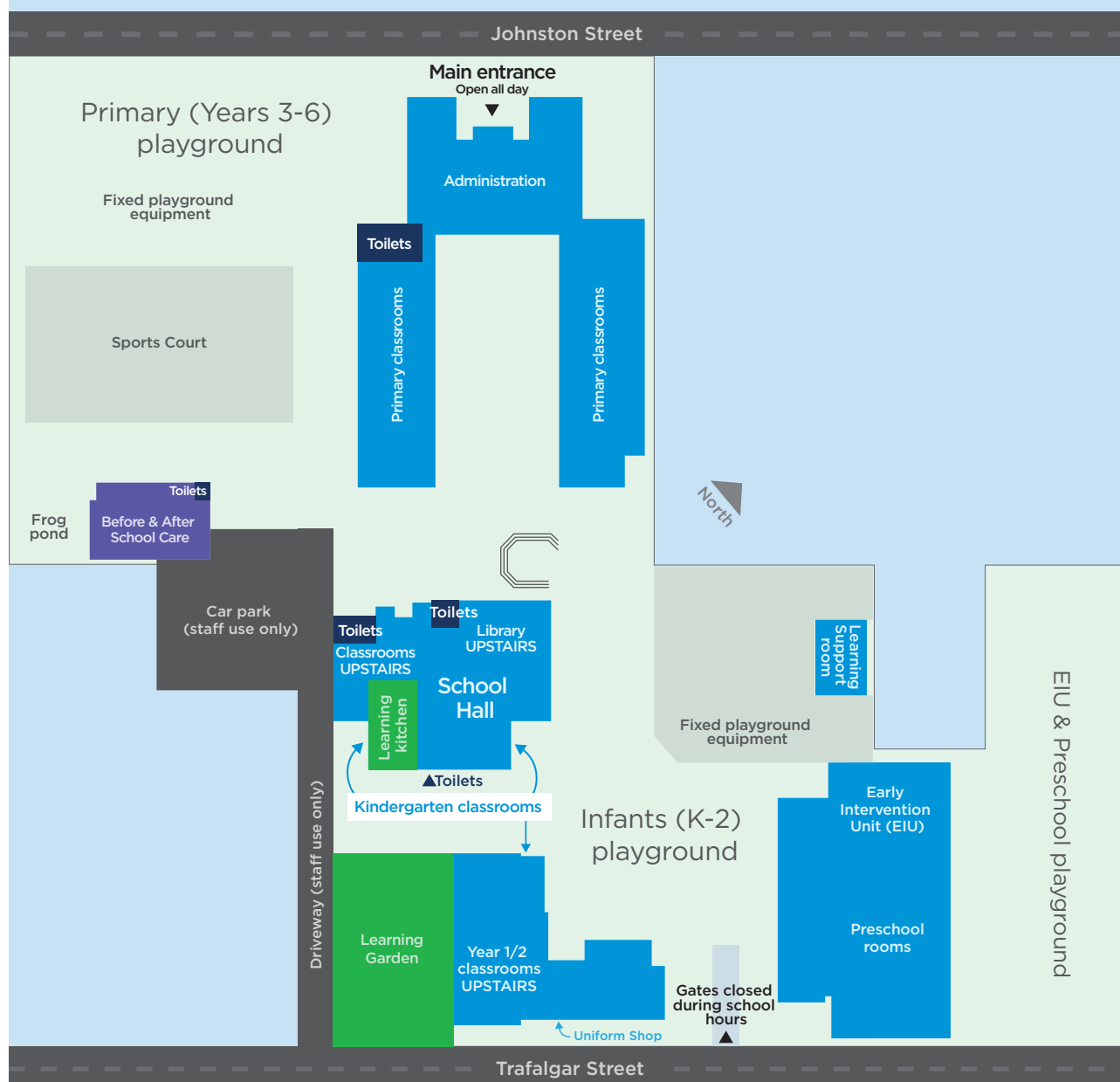
We also have a very strong and supportive Parents and Citizens Association, the members of which work tirelessly to make sure that the school is supported in its pursuit of excellence. I would encourage you to join this amazing group of people, all of whom, in addition to supporting the school, have formed friendship bonds that extend beyond the school gates.

Of course, this booklet cannot take the place of a conversation. In warmly welcoming you to the school, I also remind you that my door is always open to parents and a meeting can be arranged at any time by talking to our wonderful office staff who will schedule it at your convenience.

Once again, welcome to our school. I look forward to a successful and enduring partnership.

Dace Elletson
Principal
Annandale Public School

Annandale Public School map



School hours Years K to 6

8.30am	Playground supervision
9.00am	All classes start
11.00-11.25am	Recess
1.00-2.00pm	Lunch
3.00pm	School day ends

Before and after school care hours

7.30-9.00am	Before school care
3.00-6.00pm	After school care
See page 11 for more details.	

School term dates for Kindergarten 2018

TERM 1

Monday 5 February
to Friday 13 April

TERM 2

Tuesday 1 May
to Friday 6 July

TERM 3

Tuesday 24 July to
Friday 28 September

TERM 4

Monday 15 October to
Wednesday 19 December

Welcome to Kindergarten

Starting school is an exciting time for both parents and children. There are many excellent resources online to help you prepare such as schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary as well as our school website.

On the first day of school your child will be meeting their classmates, familiarising themselves with their classroom and all of the interesting things inside it, listening to stories, singing and dancing, talking about their likes and interests, and making new friends.

They will be given a year 5 or 6 buddy so they have a familiar face and a touch point if there are any difficulties in the playground.

Your child will soon settle into a weekly routine. You will be amazed how quickly they are able to sound out letters and learn to read as well as navigate new social situations.



The most important weekly activities to be aware of

Library

Children visit the library once a week and may borrow a book upon the return of their previous week's loan.

News

Children present a topic of interest or 'show and tell' once a week.

Home readers

As their reading skills improve, children are encouraged to borrow short story books from class to practise their reading at home. Home reader books should be swapped as often as daily and a special home reader bag will be provided.

School communication

Please regularly check school bags for notes and read the newsletter through the website or the Annandale Public School app (details about our new app will be communicated when Kindergarten starts).

Assemblies

Kindergarten and Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) assemblies are held every second Friday and parents are always welcome to attend.

Meet the staff

Each class has a dedicated classroom teacher, who manages the class program for the year and teaches all subjects.

Executive team



The school is led by Mr Dace Elletson, Principal with the support of our experienced Assistant Principals.



Ms Margaret Goss (teaches KG)
 Ms Narelle Derwent (teaches 1D)
 Mrs Joanne Petrakis (teaches 2PM)
 Mrs Lynda Maher (teaches 4MZ)
 Mrs Jillian Wolfe (teaches 6KW)
 Mrs Margaret Cali (teaches KC)
 Mrs Imogene Bond (teaches 5B)

In the office

If you have any queries about the school, making payments, or would like to make an appointment with any of our teaching staff or the Principal, please see our staff in the office.



Mrs Helen Bowling, School Administration Manager
 Ms Dolores Morcillo
 Mrs Stella Minuttillo



Our 2017 Kindergarten teachers



KG
 Ms Margaret Goss
 (Assistant Principal)



KH
 Miss Corrina Goddard



KW
 Mrs Margaret Cali
 (Relieving Assistant Principal)

Teachers sometimes move to teach in different stages as part of their own development.

All our teachers are supported by specialist teaching staff



Mrs Susie Ferres, Teacher/Librarian
 Mr Keith Guy, Computer (ICT) Coordinator
 Ms Louise Hamilton, Reading Recovery Teacher/
 Learning and Support Teacher

We also have the services of a School Counsellor, teachers for children with hearing impairment and School Learning Support Officers.

What will your child learn and do?

Key learning areas

At Annandale Public School, our core program follows the New South Wales Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) and Department of Education (DoE) curriculum with seven key learning areas.

English (reading, writing, speaking and listening)

Mathematics

Science and technology

History

Geography

Creative arts

(music, visual arts, drama and dance)

Personal development, health and physical education (PDHPE)

The school is split into four key learning stages

Early stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Stage 1 (years 1 and 2)

Stage 2 (years 3 and 4)

Stage 3 (years 5 and 6)

Library time

Your child will have one lesson each week in the library with a teacher librarian, and is also welcome to visit the library during lunch breaks.

They will learn library skills and this is where a love of reading can be fostered. They can choose to borrow from a wide selection of books, and we ask parents to help them remember their library bag, and to treat books with care and respect.

Computers and technology



Each classroom is equipped with interactive whiteboards, computers and iPads. Technology is used to support learning and encourage creative problem solving.

Every student, from Kindergarten to year 6, has his/her own e-learning account and secure email access through the DoE network.

Special religious education and special education in ethics

Upon enrolment you will be asked if you wish your child to attend religious education classes. Currently we offer religious education for Catholics and Anglicans and these lessons run for 30 minutes on Wednesday mornings.

Annandale Public School also offers Ethics classes as an alternative to Special Religious Education during the same time slot. Ethics is a branch of philosophy that examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances. Please note that these classes are subject to teacher availability. Details of the curriculum topics are available on the website primaryethics.com.au.

For more information please contact our school's ethics coordinator Jacquie Warner via email at jacwarnerpe@gmail.com

Excursions

Teachers arrange stage-based excursions throughout the year to extend your child's understanding beyond the classroom. These range from short visits to places of interest in the local area, to school camps for years 5 and 6. Parents are asked to sign a consent form prior to all excursions.

Classroom activities

All students from Early Stage 1 to Stage 3 participate in music lessons as stipulated by the NSW Creative Arts Syllabus. They will also, at various times throughout the year, participate in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, in which they learn how food grows, and prepare delicious meals in our learning kitchen.

Homework

Kindergarten students will be given home readers to take home.

We ask parents to spend time each night reading with their child, as this is an essential part of learning to read. Parents are also welcome to volunteer to help with daily reading groups during Kindergarten class time. Please speak to your class teacher if you would like to be involved.

Extra-curricular activities

As your child moves through the school, they will have the chance to develop their interest and skills in many other areas, including:

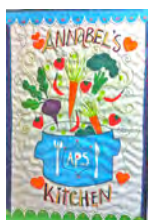
- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Student Representative Council

Creative Arts

- Dance
- Drama*
- Drama Ensemble (Stage 2)
- Choir
- School bands*
- Learning an instrument*
- Recorder Consort
- String Ensemble*

Sport

- Gymnastics
- Athletics and swimming representation
- PSSA team sports



Cooking, gardening and sustainability

- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program
- Learning kitchen

Languages and other pursuits

- Chinese (Mandarin)*
- Italian*
- French*
- Spanish*
- Chess*

* Before or after school, additional tuition fees apply. If you want to sign up for these extra curricular activities see the classroom teacher or front office for more information.

Music program

Annandale Public School has an excellent music and performance program with opportunities for students of all ages. All ensembles, classes and individual musicians have many opportunities to perform in school assemblies and concerts.

If you would like your child to learn to play an instrument, private lessons are available on an individual basis. We have clarinets, saxophones, flutes and trumpets for hire through the school, and there is a drum kit, percussion instruments and bass guitar available for use in tutorials. Please phone the school office on 9516 3711 for tutor contact details and more information about instrument purchase or hire.



Annual APS Showcase

All Kindergarten students perform at our annual Showcase in Term 3. Each class performs a rehearsed dance routine.

It's a wonderful celebration of our performing arts program and a great night out for the school community.

Getting organised

How to get to school

There is no onsite parking, and limited parking on nearby streets. A drop off/pick up zone is located immediately behind the school on Trafalgar Street, as well as a small number of 5 minute parking spots. If possible, it's easiest to walk to and from school.

What to bring

Lunch (please see 'What to eat' on next page), a water bottle, a hat and a glue stick. There is no need to pack a pencil case as all pencils, scissors etc, will be provided in class.

What to wear – school uniform



Uniform Shop is open
Mondays 8.30-9.15am

The Uniform Shop opens Mondays 8.30-9.15am and is located near the school's back gate on Trafalgar Street. The easiest way to buy these items is online through Flexischools (flexischools.com.au), with collection at the Uniform Shop. Second hand items are also available.

All items are designed with practicality in mind and there is no separate sports uniform. Children may wear whichever items suit the season. A full list of the available items is below.

Please label all items clearly with your child's name and note that children must wear a hat in order to play outside at recess and lunch.

Boys

- Pale blue short or long sleeved polo shirt
- Dark blue shorts or gabardine trousers
- Pale blue long sleeved skivvy
- Blue zip-front tracksuit jumper
- Blue tracksuit pants
- Blue zip-front fleecy vest
- Baseball cap/Legionnaire cap/soft brimmed hat
- White socks, black shoes – preferably not lace-ups unless they can tie their own shoelaces

Girls

- Summer dress
- Pale blue short or long sleeved polo shirt
- Dark blue skort, shorts or gabardine trousers
- Winter dress with skivvy
- Blue zip-front tracksuit jumper
- Blue tracksuit pants
- Blue zip-front fleecy vest
- Baseball cap/Legionnaire cap/soft brimmed hat
- White socks, black shoes – preferably not lace-ups unless they can tie their own shoelaces

Optional items

- School bag with APS crest
- Excursion bag
- Art smock

What to eat

Please no nuts.

Please don't include any nut products or items that have traces of nuts in your child's lunch. This includes peanut butter, Nutella and most muesli bars.

Each day your child will need:

1. A water bottle
2. Fresh fruit or vegetables for 'Crunch 'n Sip'.
Your child will be able to have a fresh snack and some water during a morning class break
3. Lunch – no nut products or nut spreads. Make sure any packaged items are easy to open

There is no tuck shop or canteen at the school, but a wide variety of snacks and meals are available to order online via Flexischools for lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Your order must be placed by 8.30am for delivery to the school that day.



Before/after school and vacation care

We are lucky to have an excellent onsite before/after school care centre that welcomes children from Preschool to year 6. The centre is open before school from 7.30-9.00am and after school from 3.00-6.00pm and is located behind the basketball court. Children can participate in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities including:

- Cooking
- Craft and art projects, drawing, making jewellery and sewing
- Computer play, Lego and construction
- Water activities and other outdoor games and sports such as tennis, soccer and basketball
- Regular special events such as discos, sports clinics and birthday parties

The centre also offers a vacation care program.

Places are limited for both and you must enrol your child before using either service. For more information about fees and availability, please check the school website or call the centre on 9519 8180.



A checklist for your first day

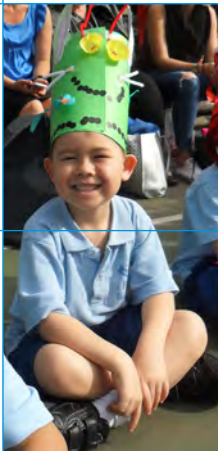

- ☐ Lay out your child's school uniform the night before
- ☐ Plan your travel to school to avoid delays
- ☐ Maintain a positive attitude and assure your child that any tears on your part are happy tears
- ☐ If your child is feeling nervous, reassure him/her that it's ok to feel nervous or worried and that these feelings are very normal
- ☐ Bring a school bag containing the following items labelled with your child's name:
 - Lunch box
 - Fruit/veggies for Crunch 'n Sip
 - Water bottle
 - Glue stick
 - Hat
- ☐ Arrive by 9.00am
- ☐ Collect your child at 3.00pm

Many children find it hard to explain what they did during their school day, and certainly not in the amount of detail that you might like. To help find out what happened, try asking them 'what did you work on today' instead of 'what did you do today'. Avoid asking who they made friends with, and instead ask if they played with other people, and if so who they were.

Expect them to be very tired in the first few weeks as they learn many new things.

Annual school events

SEMESTER 1 (FEBRUARY TO JUNE)

School Development Day (teachers only)	School Swimming Carnival	Open Night to Meet the Teacher	Selective High Schools Test Year 6	NAPLAN
Harmony Day	Semester 1 Reports	Parent/Teacher Interviews	Easter Hat Parade	
NAIDOC Week			Open Day	

SEMESTER 2 (JULY TO DECEMBER)

School Development Day (teachers only)	Stage 3 School Camp	Athletics Carnival		Education Week and Science Week
	Children's Book Week and Book Parade	Father's Day Stall	Opportunity Class (OC) Test for Year 4	UNSW Skills Competitions (ICAS) Years 3-6
Annual School Showcase		Kindergarten Transition	Big Night Out (Instrumental and Choir performances by students)	Stage 3 theatrical production
Annual Presentation Day	Year 6 Farewell	Stage 3 School Social Evening	End of Year Reports	School Picnic Day



Get involved with the school community

Annandale Public School's P&C association is a very active and social group dedicated to supporting our children and their school.

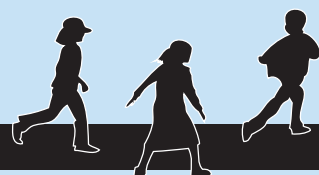
We plan and run regular events and fundraising activities, from art shows to trivia nights and fetes. We also work behind the scenes, supporting school activities such as the Learning Garden through our tireless sub-committees. It's a great way to meet parents at the school and form lifelong friendships.

There are many ways to support our P&C. Here are a few ways to get started:

- Make sure you're on the mailing list – email the P&C Secretary at apspandc@gmail.com
- Become a member – fill in the membership form from the P&C web site and pay your \$1 membership fee
- Help out with P&C events and activities, including your child's class activities
- Come along to meetings – meetings are every month, on the last Tuesday of the month, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the School Library
- Join a sub-committee and help co-ordinate an activity or issue of interest.

Contact Us

The Secretary Annandale Public School Parents & Citizens Association c/- Principal,
25 Johnston Street, Annandale 2038 Phone 02 9516 3711 email apspandc@gmail.com



Annandale Public School P&C

P&C email
apspandc@gmail.com

P&C website
apspandc.com.au

P&C page on the school website
annandale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/p-c

Join the P&C Facebook page
[facebook.com > Annandale Public School P&C](https://facebook.com/AnnandalePublicSchoolP&C)

Handy things to know

School communications

There's always a lot going on in your child's school, and we encourage you to be part of it all. That's why it's good to stay in touch. Here are a few ways to do that:

The school newsletter

Every two weeks during term, you'll get an eNewsletter with important information about all the latest school events, activities and announcements. It's sent through the school app via email and/or push notification to your smartphone, so please subscribe to make sure you don't miss out. We also use this app to distribute printed notes electronically.



The school app

Information will be forwarded to parents/carers regarding a new school communication app when Kindergarten starts.

P&C class reps

Early in term 1, you'll get to meet your class teacher and the other class parents. At that time, the P&C asks for two parents to volunteer to be class representatives. They support communication between the teacher and all class parents and manage a comprehensive class email list. If you're not sure about a specific class activity, your class rep is a great person to ask.

Teacher contact

If you'd like to arrange a face to face meeting with your child's teacher about anything at all, please ask the school office for an appointment form. It's usually possible to organise a quick meeting at fairly short notice, either before or after school.

School email

If you have any feedback on school activities, or need to make a time to see the Principal, you are also welcome to email the school directly at annandale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

School website

Need to check term dates? Looking for information about school policies or the P&C? Visit the school website at annandale-p.schools.nsw.edu.au.

P&C Facebook page

If you're on Facebook and you'd like real-time information on the school community – as well as P&C events and reminders – sign up for the P&C Facebook group. This is a private group for parents and carers, so please message the moderator with your child's teacher's name for verification when you ask to join. Visit facebook.com and search Annandale Public School P&C.

Absences and holidays

If your child is unwell, home is the best place to be. It's important for all members of our school community that we try to reduce the risk of passing on infections, and we have limited space to care for sick children at school. If your child is ill at school, the office staff will call you to request that you collect and take him/her home.

You do not need to call the office to let them know if your child is going to miss school for the day due to illness. However, it is essential that you send a sick note for the teacher when your child returns to school, explaining the reason for the absence.

If your child is late to school, or needs to leave school early, please visit the school office to get a late note (or leave note) for the class teacher.

In accordance with Department of Education policy, you must request a Certificate of Leave from the Principal if you intend to take your child away from the school during term time for any reason other than illness. This is at the Principal's discretion and there are strict policy guidelines in place that mean the **leave may not be granted**. Every day of learning is important, and we encourage families to take their holidays during school holiday time.



Fees and contributions

As a public school, Annandale has no compulsory fees. However, government funding is limited so we ask families to pay a voluntary contribution fund. This is determined at the beginning of the school year, and can be paid in one sum or as regular payments. You will receive a receipt for any contribution made.

Extra-curricular activities, such as excursions, music and performance programs, typically involve a cost to families. We do try to keep this to a minimum. If you have any concerns, you are welcome to contact the school office at any time.

We encourage parents to use our online payments portal (POP) for all payments to the school. This is easy to use through the school website.

Staff development days

There are five pupil-free days during the school year, usually adjacent to the school holidays. These days enable all members of staff to participate in professional learning and program development.

School assessments and reports

You will receive a student progress report at the end of Term 2, and an end of year report at the end of Term 4. Your child will be assessed on an ongoing basis during class time.

Parent teacher interviews are held during Term 1 to ensure we catch any potential problems early in the year. You are welcome to request a follow up parent teacher interview at any time during the year.

Ongoing student assessments also include:

- National assessments (NAPLAN) for year 3 and 5 students
- International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

If your child has any learning difficulties, or is learning English as a Second Language, their report will be written by the specialist teacher.

