

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the bell times?

Our school day operates from 9:00am-3:30pm. We operate a six session timetable of 50 minute blocks.

- 9:00am-10:40am Class (2 sessions)
- 10:40am-11:10am Recess break in playground
- 11.10am-12.50pm Class (2 sessions)
- 12:50pm-1:05pm Lunch eating in classrooms
- 1:05pm-1:50pm Outside playtime in playground
- 1:50pm-3:30pm Class (2 sessions)
- 3:45pm Brooke St toilets are closed, and we ask that all students leave the site at this time

Communication

All whole school communication is via Compass and families can use Compass to email teachers. Teachers also use Seesaw to post class photos and activities, they can also contact families direct via Seesaw.

Do you operate a before and after care service?

Yes, the school provides both before and aftercare and this is a service that the school runs via a School Council sub-committee. It's known as Outside School Hours Care or OSHC. The program opens at 7.30am in our Clarke Street facility situated in the John Cain building. Children are provided with breakfast and a range of activities.

At 8.45am Prep/1/2 students are escorted across to the Brooke Street playground, 3-6 students move directly into the Clarke Street playground at this time. Likewise, at the end of the school day P/1/2 students are collected directly from their classrooms and escorted over to the service.

Students are provided with a snack and a choice of free or structured activities. A further snack is served at 5.15pm. The service closes at 5.50pm.

At the start of the prep year students are introduced to the OSHC educators in their classroom prior to moving over the OSHC space. All students from Brooke St wear a coloured sash to identify they are attending OSHC.

How do I know if Westgarth Primary School is my designated neighbourhood school?

To see which school zone you reside in, please visit to the Department of Education webpage called [Find my School](#).

Does your school have a nurse?

No, our school employs a first aid officer who manages the first aid care in a consistent manner and is supported by the office staff. Any attendance at first aid will generate a Compass notification to parents/carers.

What is your homework policy?

All students are required to read on a daily basis, practise the number facts and on some occasions may be asked to complete work unfinished in the classroom. We do not have formal homework requirements. The school website offers a range of open ended homework tasks which are available to interested students and their families.

Are school uniforms compulsory?

No, school uniforms are parent choice however, we do offer a uniform to interested families. A sun smart hat is the only compulsory uniform requirement. The majority of the P/1/2 students do wear an element of the uniform which is available through an online provider. Year six students have a special year six t-shirt for their final year of primary schooling.

Are there camps?

Yes, the grade 4 student camp is held at CYC Phillip Island in September each year and the grade 6 camp is held at Cave Hill Creek near Beaufort in February.

Do you have open plan classrooms?

Some of our classrooms have doors that open between spaces but they are not open plan. Each class has their own classroom teacher.

What specialist programs do you offer?

All students attend 50 minute sessions of the following: Library, Music, Physical Education, Art/Spanish, Spanish P-2 and STEAM 3-6.

Any other programs?

All students in Prep to Year 3 attend the computer room with their classroom teacher each week.

What is the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program?

This is a program offered to students in years 3-5. We rely on both voluntary contributions and parent payments to support this program. Students rotate each fortnight with 100 minutes of cooking and gardening. Students and volunteers then share the food cooked at the end of each session. Please refer to the website for more detailed information.

Do you have a buddy program?

Yes, we have both a formal program where every prep class will be allocated a buddy class and this is generally a year 5 class. We also have a playground buddy program where the P/1/2 students are supported in the playground by older students who wear purple vests.

What time can my child arrive at school?

Yard duty teachers are on duty from 8.45am until 9.00am each morning and again in the afternoon from 3.30pm-3.45pm. We ask that outside of these times all students are supervised by an adult or attend the OSHC program.

How many students attend Westgarth Primary School?

We currently have approximately 570 students enrolled across the two sites. The Brooke Street site houses our P/1/2 students and is their dedicated playground. The Clarke Street site houses our 3-6 students and all the specialist program and OSHC. The school office is situated on our Brooke Street site.

What is the grade structure across the school in 2026?

We currently have 25 classes. The classes at prep level have numbers in the low 20's in each class.

Can students learn a musical instrument?

Students in the upper year levels have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument after school on a user pays arrangement with a music tutor. The school offers the use of our classrooms for this program. We currently have guitar.

Are there any extra curriculum programs offered?

Students in the 5/6 area are involved in a range of sporting competitions including AFL football, athletics, triathlon, swimming and basketball, soccer, cricket, tee-ball and newcombe.

How does the school deal with inappropriate student behaviour?

As a school we recognise that students are still learning to be part of a larger community and will make mistakes. Many students will require additional support to learn to understand that some behaviours are not appropriate. On our school t-shirt we reference our motto, safe, fair and friendly. This is a great conversation starter with all students when discussing with them an action that may not have been appropriate and what is the learning for them in this process. We know that some students have difficulty regulating their emotions and staff are here to support them to manage both their triggers and their reactions. We ask that parents are empathetic to all students as they learn how to behave appropriately towards others in a school setting.

What literacy program does the school use in preps?

As part of our literacy program the prep students use the 'Little Learners Love Literacy Program' which is an explicit phonics based program and 'Sounds Write'. Students learn the letter names and the corresponding letter sounds and then move onto blending sounds as they learn to decode when reading. Home readers are sent home in term two and we welcome parent volunteers in the classroom from this time.

Does the school have a canteen?

No, the school does not have a canteen and does not offer lunch orders. All students are required to bring both a snack and lunch from home. We strongly encourage food that is not pre-packaged. All students eat their lunch in their classroom before they go outside to play to ensure we maintain a rubbish free playground. We are not a nut free school – however we do encourage families to not send nut based products.

Can I get involved in the school as a parent?

Yes, we welcome and encourage school involvement from parents and carers in all aspects of the school. We welcome parents/carers to volunteer in classrooms, in the Kitchen Garden, joining School Council or sub-committees, support the swimming program and excursions, joining the Fun and Fundraising (FAF) Committee, supporting the annual fete as a volunteer or member of the organising committee, join Dads 'n Such, assist in organising the Trivia and Comedy nights or performing at Westgarth Idol. You may like to become your child's class representative to organise social events such as a play at Johnson Park.

Does my child have to have their own computer?

No, the school provides both desktops and iPads for our Prep – 3 students and individual chrome books for the year 4-6 students.

My child has special needs. Who do I tell?

The school is here to support all students. Please ring the school office on 9481 5577 and ask to speak with the Assistant Principal to discuss your child needs.

What day do the prep students stay at home at the start of the year?

First week of Prep – Prep testing will take place on the first 4 days of the school year. Then groups A & B will attend for the next full school day and groups C & D for the second school day. All preps will then be full time on the 6th school day.

How are grades formed?

The school constructs grades each year based on a number of factors, student ability, gender, special needs and the best learning opportunity for all students. We value the professional judgement of our teachers in this process.

Bikes/Scooters

There is a bike shed on Clarke Street and bike parking at the front of Brooke Street. All bikes and scooters must be locked at the owners own risk. They cannot be stored inside buildings. We ask that all students wear a helmet.

Digital Devices

All digital devices including phones, smartwatches etc are to be handed to the class teacher for safe storage during the day.