Welcome

Welcome to Darlington Primary School. We trust your association with the school is fruitful, happy and rewarding. This booklet is designed to provide you with as much information as possible regarding the organisation, programs, policies and practices of the school.

Please feel free to contact the office if any clarification is required.

We value your support and involvement as parents and carers in your child’s education. Working together in a true partnership with the home and the school achieves positive relationships and affords your children the best possible education.

We look forward to working with you to realise this goal as your child progresses through their school education at Darlington Primary School.

**RESILIENCE**

**Integrity**

**INITIATIVE**

**CARE**

**Our Vision**

Darlington Primary School will provide a caring, holistic and challenging learning environment that nurtures and celebrates individual potential.

- Our strong sense of community
- Respect and care for the environment
- Being a welcoming and inclusive school
- Having high expectations
- Having a healthy body and mind.

**We Value**
Darlington Primary School
Address: 2-14 Amherst Avenue, Darlington WA 6070
Telephone 08 9257 4000
Email Darlington.ps@education.wa.edu.au
Website https://darlingtonps.wa.edu.au/
School Hours: 8:45am to 3:00pm
Office Hours 8:30am to 3:30pm

Administration
Principal Andrew Newhouse
Deputy Principal Matthew Scott and Zane Moran
Manager Corporate Services Naomi D’Arcy
School Officers Diane Walker (Monday & Tuesday)
                        Kath Stanwix (Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays)

Term Dates 2023
Term 1 Wednesday 1 February – Friday 7 April
      (School Development Day 30/01/23)
Term 2 Monday 24 April – Friday 30 June
      (School Development Day 2/06/23)
Term 3 Monday 17 July – Friday 22 September
      (School Development Day 21/08/23)
Term 4 Monday 9 October – Thursday 14 December
      (School Development Day 15/12/23)

A term planner of events will be posted on ‘Connect’ at the beginning of each term.
Dates are correct at the time of printing but changes may occur throughout the term.
Please check your newsletter or ‘Connect’ notifications for any changes.
The school’s emblem is a dibbler looking over the top of a banksia flower. The dibbler was chosen as the animal in our emblem because it once lived in the hills around the school. There is a picture of a real dibbler in the school office.

The emblem was designed in 1972-73 by the class taught by Art teacher, Mrs Anne Nemeth.

A bronze sculpture of a dibbler and a honkey-nut is a feature of the garden outside Rooms 4 and 5. It was created by artist, Gordon Mitchell, in 2015, from drawings done by the students of Year 5 Room 4 with our previous Art Specialist Helen Bycroft and Class Teacher Anne Sullivan.

Our emblem, reminds us to be proud of our school, determined to show resilience, integrity, initiative and care, and work to protect our native flora and fauna.
FACILITIES

The school was originally established in 1912 and moved to its current location on 28 October 1913. Only two buildings from this era have survived – Room 12, which was constructed in 1915, and the adjacent lunch shed. These have both been recognised by the National Trust as being of Historical Significance. Room 12 is also the oldest school building in the Shire of Mundaring still being used as a regular teaching area.

The classrooms in the main school are set out in a traditional linear layout. Renovations in all classrooms has occurred in recent years. The Early Learning Centre, consisting of three classrooms and a wonderful garden and outdoor play area, was constructed in 2011. It accommodates the Kindergarten and Pre-primary students. There is a purpose designed early childhood classroom in the main school.

Additional facilities include a library, with a computer laboratory, and purpose built music and art rooms. The Covered Assembly Area and canteen were refurbished in 2011. An amphitheatre, constructed by students and parents in the late 1970s, was extensively renovated in 2012 as the P & C’s Centenary Gift to the school. This is a unique and magnificent feature in the school grounds and is used for assemblies, concerts and productions.

The school maintains a long and strong tradition of providing quality education for children from the local area. It is not uncommon for current students to have followed their parents and grandparents in attending the school.

School Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:35am</td>
<td>Classrooms open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Lessons commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Crunch and Sip</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50am</td>
<td><strong>Morning Recess</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10am</td>
<td>Lessons resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunch: Eating time</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:20pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunch: Play period</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:50pm</td>
<td>Lessons resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>End of day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Please Note:** Parents are asked to ensure that students arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:45am. Students arriving before this time are to sit on the seats outside their classroom until their teacher arrives. All classrooms will be open at 8.35am.

In accordance with Education Department regulations, a student is not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day, without the necessary consent of their parent/caregiver. Please call into the office to sign your child out in such instances.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children are aware of where they will be collected at the end of the school day. Any students not collected from school by 3.25 pm should report to the office.
LEARNING PROGRAM

Darlington’s curriculum is based on the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, History and Social Sciences (HASS), Languages (Italian), The Arts (Visual and Music), Health & Physical Education and Technologies.

The implementation of the curriculum is based on the principles embodied in the Western Australian Curriculum, which is implemented in all schools. At parent meetings and at other times offered throughout the year, teachers will provide further information about the way the curriculum is developed and how your child’s progress is reported.

Parents can find further information at http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au

Teachers embed the general capabilities;

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT capability
- Critical and Creative thinking
- Personal and Social capability
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding

as they develop each learning area.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS
Languages (Italian)
All students from Year 1 to 6 are engaged in learning Italian, taught by a specialist Language teacher. In addition to developing the knowledge, skills and understandings to communicate in a language other than English, students acquire cultural understandings, are exposed to systems of another language and develop language learning strategies, with communication as the main outcome.

Physical Education
All classes participate in weekly Physical Education activities. In addition to weekly organised sports sessions, students from Years 1 - 6 participate in physical education lessons with a specialist teacher for one hour per week. The program focuses on the acquisition of fundamental movement skills and the development and application of major games skills, understandings and strategies.

Students are required to wear a hat and appropriate footwear for all physical activity. They are encouraged to wear their faction shirt on the days when they have sport. Currently, Years 1 – 3 have sport on Thursday afternoon and Years 4 – 6 have sport on Friday afternoons. Lap Club operates on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 8.35am. Prior to the start of school, students are encouraged to complete laps of the cross country course around the perimeter of the school site, to improve their stamina and fitness. They earn Faction points for their participation.

Each year, the school holds Faction Carnival in swimming, cross country running and athletics. Representative teams are also selected to compete in interschool events, such as swimming, athletics, cross country, and winter sports lightning carnivals, as part of the Hills Education Community Sporting Association (HECSA).

Students who have health issues which may impact on their ability to participate in Physical Education classes are required to provide a note from their parent, detailing what level of physical activity they may undertake and the expected length of time for which this will apply. In-term swimming classes are conducted annually for all students from Pre-primary to Year 6, by specialist AUSTRIM qualified teachers. These lessons form part of the Physical Education curriculum and students are expected to attend. Parents are advised of arrangements through Connect and in the school newsletter.
Music

The school has the services of a specialist music teacher three days per week. The aim of the music program is to enable students to be musically literate by the end of Year 6. Students are taken through a program that deals with developing an understanding of the complexities of beat, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, tone, form and style.

Studies of Music in society and creative music, as well as reflecting on and responding to Music, are also included in the program. All students learn to play un-tuned, and then tuned percussion. Opportunities for students to be part of our band and choir are provided.

Peripatetic Music Teachers, through the Department of Education's School of Instrumental Music, also offer courses in classical guitar and brass instruments, to selected students. Students are identified on the basis of a musical aptitude test, conducted in Year 4, and then commence a small group tuition program, of weekly lessons, in Year 5 and 6.

Science

Students in Years 1 – 6 participate in a weekly Science lesson with a specialist teacher. This program develops knowledge through a scientific investigation process.

Visual Arts

A specialist visual arts teacher delivers a comprehensive Art program each week.

The Visual Art program covers all areas of the Western Australian Arts curriculum, using a variety of art forms, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, textiles and weaving.

A fine selection of artwork is always on display in and around the school.
A-Z OF PROCEDURES

Attendance

Absentees
The School Education Act 1999 states that students must attend school in which they are enrolled, on all days on which the school is open.

Department of Education regulations require that every absence is explained by the child’s parent/guardian. These explanations are noted and retained and must coincide with absences marked on the daily attendance register. Any continual, unexplained absences will be referred to the school administration and, where necessary, the North Metropolitan Regional Office.

Parents can inform the school of their child’s absence by:
- Verbal or written communication with the class teacher;
- Phone call to the school’s office ph 9257 4000;
- Email to school darlington.ps@education.wa.edu.au, MGM Messaging System and CONNECT

Parents are reminded that extended absences negatively impact on students’ progress and on the teacher’s ability to accurately report on student progress and achievement. In line with the Department of Education’s Attendance policy, parents are asked to arrange family holidays during vacation time. In addition, students should not be absent due to special occasions such as birthdays etc. Every school day counts.

A record of each child’s attendance is provided in school reporting during the year.

Late Arrival
If your child arrives late to school, they are to go straight to the office to have their attendance recorded, they will receive a late note to hand to their teacher.

Early Collection of Students
Parents or caregivers who need to collect children for appointments, during normal school hours, are required to report to the office, where they will be asked to sign out the student using Passtab. Students will only be released to authorised persons on their contact list. Students attending PEAC or other external programs also need to be signed out at the front office. This ensures students’ whereabouts are known at all times.

Accidents/Sickness
Whilst every effort is made to care for students who are unwell, please do not send your child to school if they are obviously unwell. They are generally more comfortable at home and if they do not attend the risk of infection to other students and staff members is reduced.

Members of the office or administrative staff will assess the students requiring first aid treatment during school hours. If a student is unable to return to class due to illness or injury, efforts will be made to contact parents or the emergency contact person. It is preferable for students to be aware of people listed as their emergency carer, in case they need to be collected from school unexpectedly.

If contact cannot be made, the student will be cared for in the medical room or, in an emergency, transported to medical facilities by ambulance. Please note, parents/guardians will be required to meet the costs of any emergency medical treatment, including the cost of ambulance transport.
It is also important to notify the school of any chronic illness or allergies that may affect a student’s participation in school activities. Appropriate Medical Action Plans will be negotiated for any students who may require special treatment in certain circumstances. The advice of the student’s medical practitioner will form the basis of such action plans.

Please ensure contact phone numbers, including the phone numbers of emergency contacts are kept up to date.

**Implications of COVID 19**

Please be aware that there will be times when activities and events are impacted on by the Government Restrictions due to COVID-19. The school will follow the advice provided by the Department of Education and Health Department and communicate this to parents as soon as it becomes available. Please ensure that you stay up to date with the latest communication via Connect.

**Allergies**

Darlington is an ‘ALLERGY AWARE’ school. There may be students in your child’s class who have severe allergies to food or other substances. In some cases, these allergies can be life threatening. Consequently, when packing your child’s lunch and snacks, it would be appreciated if you could find alternatives to nuts and peanut butter.

Parents are asked to ensure that all current information about their child, regarding allergies and conditions which require emergency care and procedures is provided to the school office staff for inclusion in the school’s records. If required, an emergency care plan, which includes a photo, will be developed for these students, in consultation with the family and their Doctor.

**Animals on School Grounds**

In accordance with Department of Education Policy, animals are not permitted on the school grounds. Walking your dog when you collect your child is a very pleasant and time efficient activity. If you choose to do this, please meet your child away from the school grounds (perhaps at the Railway Reserve) where there are fewer people. Bringing pets to school for specific class activities requires that arrangements are negotiated with the class teacher for each situation.

**Assemblies**

Students meet fortnightly on Fridays for assemblies. Assemblies commence at 9.00am and take place in the covered assembly area or the amphitheatre. Honour Certificates, sports results and other awards are presented. Each class will take responsibility for presenting one assembly per year, with the Student Council having input at each assembly. Parents are most welcome and encouraged to attend. Assemblies are also available to watch on Webex. Details will be emailed and available on ‘Connect’ the week before the assembly.
Assessment and Reports

Student assessment is an ongoing process and includes a variety of forms, both formal and informal. All schools are required to adhere to the Department of Education’s Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Policy which is mandated for all government schools throughout WA.

Reporting to parents will include:
- Formal reports at the end of each semester, July and December, (delivered on-line via Connect.)
- 2 or 3 way conferences at which examples of the student’s work are discussed (beginning of Term 3)
- Formal and informal meetings with parents on a needs basis

Pre-primary students participate in the Department’s state wide On-entry Assessment Program in Term 1. The purpose of this program is to provide teachers with an opportunity to collect information on the essential literacy and numeracy skills and understandings of each child in their class. This assists teachers to develop informed and intentional teaching for play-based programs, designed to foster each child’s learning, reflective of individual needs. Year 1 and 2 students participate in On-entry assessment in Writing in Term 1 each year.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assesses skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May. Assessments are also undertaken in Term 4 as part of the school’s Assessment Schedule. These assessments assist in measuring growth of achievement in Literacy and Numeracy and identifying areas requiring remediation.

Bicycles/skateboards/scooters

Whilst every precaution is taken, we cannot accept responsibility for the security of bicycles, skateboards or scooters at school. Children riding to school should ensure that their mode of transport and helmet are secured with a padlock and chain in the bike racks. In the interests of safety, bikes, skateboards and scooters are not to be ridden in the school grounds.

Bushfire Readiness

Please see the information at the end of this booklet.

Calendar

A calendar of events for the term is sent home at the beginning of each term. Please keep this handy for reference during the term and update as necessary from the fortnightly newsletter.

Canteen

The P&C operates the school canteen three days per week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The canteen is staffed by a Canteen Manager and volunteer helpers.

Our canteen conforms to the WA Government’s healthy food requirement, commonly known as the “traffic light system”. Lunch orders, placed online at flexischools.com or written on lunch bags, are to be lodged, or taken to the canteen, before school. Recess snacks may be purchased from the canteen. Menus and price lists are available from the canteen and will be published on the P&C Facebook page. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact the office or Ros our Canteen Manager on 9257 4008, if you are able to assist. Follow the P&C Facebook page for news, Friday night takeaway menus and current promotions.
Class Placements
All students at Darlington Primary have access to quality education from our committed and professional staff.

Classes are created with due thought given to the placement of EVERY student. Many considerations are taken into account including: learning styles, academic strengths, social and emotional factors, gender balance, learning support requirements and friendships.

Staff are involved in the class placement process. Parent input is sought in Term 4 but placements are ultimately the responsibility of school administration.

Communication
Promoting open lines of communication between home and school is vital. Communication between home and school may take many forms, appropriate to the year level. This process keeps parents informed and provides opportunity to quickly and positively address any issues together.

Parent-Teacher Communication
Parents are welcome to discuss any matter of concern with the class teacher and/or the Principal. A note to the teacher, or a phone call to the office, requesting a suitable time is appropriate to give due attention to your feedback. Parents are encouraged to keep teachers informed of circumstances which may have an impact on their child’s learning. At the beginning of each school year teachers will give parents their school email addresses for communication between home and school. In most cases, staff email addresses use the format firstname.surname@education.wa.edu.au. Should a parent email a teacher during teaching hours, please do not expect an immediate reply. Teachers will respond as soon as they are able during their work hours.

Newsletters
The school newsletter is produced fortnightly. It is available on CONNECT. The newsletter is an important form of communication between school and home and is packed with interesting information that’s relevant to both parents and students, including fantastic photos of student activities. Please ensure that you read the newsletter, which gives current information about what is happening at Darlington Primary.

‘Connect’
The ‘Connect’ Now App is our main source of communication from the school to the parents. You will receive an email with details on how to download the ‘Connect’ Now app from the Apple App Store or Google Play, along with your Parent (‘P’) number. You will have access to the Darlington Primary School space as well as your child/ren’s specific classroom space. The School Space allows for whole school announcements such as upcoming events, newsletters and other important information, while your individual classroom space will be much more class specific. The library section on ‘Connect’ will contain school policies and other important information. Please use this as a resource.

Messages to Students
Whilst in an emergency we are always happy to deliver a message to your student, this should not be a regular occurrence. Please make after school pickup arrangements clear with your student before school.
Complaints
In the first instance, classroom related incidents should be directed to the classroom teacher. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, then contact the school administration as soon as possible.

All staff members at Darlington Primary are responsible for managing the resolution of complaints. Every effort will be made to promptly resolve such matters according to the principles of procedural fairness.

If your concerns cannot be resolved, the complainant may forward written complaints to the Director of Education for the North Metropolitan (Schools).

Complaints can be made by letter or by email.

Contributions and Charges
Parents will receive a copy of the schedule of Contributions and Charges approved by the School Council for the school year. These funds support additional programs during the year. It is the school’s intention to minimise expense to parents, as far as possible, so these charges are carefully considered. Please contact the school should you need to arrange alternative payment methods.

We urge you to pay your Voluntary Contributions to the office within the first two weeks of the school year as this will assist in covering additional expenses in the ensuing year. The school voluntary contribution is $60 per child. Parents are also invited to make a voluntary donation of $25 to the P & C. The P&C help support the school with different programs and projects they fund or contribute to throughout the year.

Dental Therapy Clinic
The school dental service provides free ongoing preventative and general dental care for Pre-Primary to Year 11 students in W.A. who complete an enrolment form. Students from our school can access treatment through the mobile Dental Therapy Clinic. You will be advised where this is located. Parents can contact the Dental Van directly on 0407 594 254.

Emergency Details
Parents should ensure that emergency contact numbers are up to date. It is suggested that two emergency numbers be provided. It is the parent/caregiver’s responsibility to advise the school of any changes to these numbers that occur during the year. A student update form will be sent out in Term 1. Please ensure any changes to your contact details are made, sign the form and return to the school office.
Excursions/Incursions and Camps
Off-site/on-site activities to enhance the educational program are planned by teachers throughout the year. All excursions and camps are approved by the Principal and will meet Departmental guidelines and link to the curriculum program. Advance notice of such events (including details and costs) is provided to parents and permission for children to attend must be given by parents. This is now done using an online form. Maximum annual costs are set out in the Contributions and Charges Schedule each year.

The school has the right (and responsibility) to exclude students from excursions who may present a risk to the safety of themselves and/or others, as well as those whose behaviour has indicated they are unable to accept responsibility for behaving appropriately. Parents will be notified of alternative supervision if this is the case.

Teachers may call for parent volunteers to assist with excursions and camps to comply with appropriate adult/student ratios. In accordance with Department guidelines, the school requires appropriate documentation to be completed by parent volunteers. **Students may only attend excursions with the permission of their parent/care giver.**

**Please Note:** From time to time, groups of students may engage in activities in the local area, within walking distance of the school. At enrolment, parents are asked to sign a consent form giving ongoing permission for their children to participate in such activities. Students for whom such permission has not been signed will remain at school for the duration of any excursions of this nature.

**Enrolment**
An Application for Enrolment form must be submitted for the Principal’s approval before enrolment can be offered. Parents or guardians are required to present: a copy of the student’s birth certificate as proof of age; current immunisation records; and proof of home address details. Where applicable, details of the student’s previous school enrolment will be requested. The school must be made aware of any special needs for learning, Family Court Orders or immigration visas relating to the student.

**Factions**
Our factions are: Green, Red, Blue and Gold. Your child will be placed in a faction at the time of their enrolment. Families will be grouped in the same faction and will remain in this faction throughout their time at the school. Students are encouraged to wear their faction polo shirts for carnivals and during sport lessons.

**Good Standing**
As part of our Positive Behaviour and Engagement plan, students who maintain positive behaviour, as outlined by the Code of Conduct, will maintain Good Standing.

Once a term, these students will be invited to participate in a Good Standing Reward experience. This may take the form of an in school event such as ’Tech day’, ‘Hot wheels day’ or a movie time or an offsite excursion to a playground or a walk to a local park. This may be a class activity or a whole school activity.

**Hats - “NO HAT - NO PLAY IN THE SUN”**
As a Sun Smart school, and in accordance with the Sun Smart policy, endorsed by the School Council, all students are required to wear a broad brimmed hat every day. Students will not be permitted in the sun without wearing an appropriate hat. They will be required to remain in shaded areas of the school. An appropriate brimmed hat is required when participating in all Physical Education lessons and sport. These hats are available at the uniform shop.
Head Lice
Pediculosis (head lice) is an ongoing medical problem in many schools. Eradication of the problem requires vigilance and cooperation, on behalf of both the school and parents, in detecting and treating infestations. If a student is found to have head lice, parents will be contacted to take them home. Students will not be permitted to return to school until it is confirmed that they have received appropriate head lice treatment. Information brochures are available from the office. Information can also be found on the Department of Health, Healthy WA website: [https://healthywa.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Head-lice](https://healthywa.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Head-lice)

Regulation 29 (1) under the School Education Act s123 (1) gives the principal of a government school the authority to approve a member of the teaching staff, or another officer at the school, examining the head of any student at the school, for the purpose of ascertaining whether head lice are present. Section 27 of The Act applies in the case where a student is found to be suffering from a contagious medical condition. The parents of students found to have head lice will be contacted to take them home. If the school is unable to contact parents, the student will carry out their school work in the office, away from other students.

Homework
The School Council, in consultation with the community, has endorsed the expectations outlined in the Homework Policy. Homework is intended to provide students with an opportunity to consolidate and revise concepts taught in class. It may also involve the completion of work commenced in class time, and the consolidation of research skills. Regular homework will enable students to form healthy attitudes, habits and time management skills. The Policy is available on the school website and in the ‘Connect’ library.

Images and Internet Permission
Upon enrolment at Darlington Primary School, parents are asked to give permission for their child to have supervised access to the internet as part of the school curriculum. Parents are also asked to give consent for Darlington Primary School to use images/work samples and your child’s first and last name in various publications. You may withdraw your consent, at any time, by contacting the school in writing. You will also be asked to give your consent for the school to use third party software, as information about your child is stored offsite.
**Immunisation**

Children enrolling in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary must be up to date with all the scheduled immunisations for their age to be able to attend school.

You will need to show your child’s Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement as proof of immunisation.

Protection against the following is required:

* Diphtheria
* Tetanus
* Whooping Cough
* Polio
* Measles
* Mumps
* Rubella

**Infectious Diseases**

Students are required to be absent from school for the duration of any infectious period. Health Department regulations on the exclusion from school for specific infections may be obtained from the office. The following infections require students to be excluded:

**Chicken Pox:** Exclude until at least five days after the eruption first appears.

**Conjunctivitis:** Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased.


A reminder to all that if you or your child is feeling unwell, it is better to be cautious and stay at home. Please let the school know as soon as possible as well as reporting this to the Health Department.

**Diarrhoea:** Exclude while diarrhoea is present.

**Glandular Fever:** Exclude until child is well.

**Head Lice:** Exclude until effective treatment has been instituted. [https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/Treating-head-lice](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/Treating-head-lice)

**Hepatitis A:** Exclude, re-admit on medical certificate of recovery.

**Herpes:** Exclude while lesions are open and weeping.

**Influenza:** Exclude until well.

**Measles:** Exclude, for at least four days after onset of the rash. *Measles cases also require the exclusion of any non-immunised children from school.*

**Mumps:** Exclude – at least nine days after onset of symptoms.

**Ringworm:** Exclude until day after treatment has commenced.

**Rubella:** Exclude until at least four days after the onset of rash. Exclude - antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.

**Scabies:** Exclude until the day after treatment has commenced.

**School Sores- Impetigo:** Exclude until effective treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered.

**Whooping cough/ pertussis:** Exclude until five days after starting antibiotic treatment.

The danger from the presence, at school, of students suffering from an infectious disease arises chiefly from their attendance during two periods:

Whilst suffering from the early symptoms and when convalescing from the disease, but still retaining infection in their person or apparel.

Please refer to the exclusion periods set out above.
**Insurance Cover and Students**
Neither the Department of Education nor the school, insures students against injury at school. This is the responsibility of parents. School student’s accident insurance cover, which provides 24 hours per day cover, can be arranged privately. The Department of Education does have a public liability insurance that covers their liability in case of accidents caused through defects in school buildings, equipment or playgrounds, or through negligence on the part of an employee of the Department.

On school excursions, camps, swimming etc., where students travel by bus or private car, they are covered by normal Third Party Insurance, the premium for which is part of both car and bus licence fees.

**Jewellery**
In accordance with our School Dress Code, and in the interests of your child’s safety, the wearing of jewellery, except studs and sleepers in pierced ears and/or watches, is not permitted.

**Library**
Each class has a timetabled session in the library each week, as well as opportunities to access its resources for research at other times, as required. All classes will have the opportunity to borrow from the library each week. In order to do so, each child is requested to have a library bag (preferably waterproof).

*Payment will be required for the replacement of “damaged beyond repair” and lost resources. All books are checked for damage on return, before being returned to the shelves for further borrowing.*

The Library contains a variety of book and multi-media resources. All staff and students have access to a variety of on-line resources and are able to search the library resources from any networked computer in the school environment. At regular times during the week, the library is opened at lunchtime for student use.

Parents are welcome to assist in the library. Many hands are helpful for the maintenance of library books. Please call the office if you are available to help.

**Lost Property**
All lost property is stored in a wooden box located in the office foyer. To keep lost property to a minimum, *please ensure all items are marked with your child's name.*

School uniform items that are not claimed may be washed and offered for sale as second hand uniforms through the P&C uniform shop. Unclaimed clothing will be sent to local charities or washed and used for emergency clothing.

**Medication**
In accordance with Education Department policy, parents requiring medication to be administered to their child at school need to complete the necessary forms at the office. Forms for ongoing administration of medication require the signature of the prescribing doctor. Any changes to medication will require alteration to these forms, as they are a legal requirement for those taking the responsibility for administration. Students may not bring any medication or Herbal preparations to school to self-administer from their bag. The only approved medication to be kept in bags is asthma inhalers.
Mobile Phones
Students are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school unless prior arrangement has been made. These arrangements will only be approved for extenuating circumstances. If students bring phones to school, they need to be handed into the front office for safe keeping throughout the day. While students are at school, all communication and contact will be made through the school office. This maintains security and confidentiality for all students.

Parent and Community Partnerships

Parents and Citizens Association (P & C)
Darlington Primary has an active P&C which meets twice per term. The dates of these meetings are on the School Calendar and in Term Planners. Reminders are included in our newsletters. All parents and other citizens of our community are most welcome. Please see the P&C Information Book for further information and services that are on offer and how you can become involved.

The P & C has three major objectives:
1. promoting cooperation between parents, teachers, students and members of the general community;
2. assisting in the provision of resources, facilities and amenities; and
3. fostering community interest in educational matters.

School Council
The School Council is a body formally constituted under the Education Act. The purpose of the School Council is to provide Darlington staff and community members with opportunities to work together and participate in the decision making processes which inform the school’s planning processes. Parent representatives on the School Council are nominated and elected, through a formal process. The Council is comprised of elected parent and staff representatives elected from within the school staff. The Principal is an Ex Officio Member.

Council members take part in:
- establishing and reviewing the school’s objectives, priorities and policy directions;
- financial planning to support the above;
- evaluating the school’s performance in achieving these;
- setting the level for voluntary contributions and charges each year;
- approving extra cost option components of the school’s program;
- approving items for personal use in the educational program; and
- approving arrangements for advertising or sponsorship in relation to the school.

Parent Involvement
Darlington Primary School is a learning community with strong, supportive partnerships between students, staff and families. Throughout the school year, there are many ways in which parents will be invited to support teachers in classrooms and be involved and/or assist with special events and activities. All parents who are involved in classroom assistance will be advised of the school’s confidentiality obligations via information from each teacher.
Parent/Teacher Interviews
While Darlington Primary encourages ongoing communication between teachers and families, discussions of a more formal nature will require an appointment to be made. Parents are requested to make appointments for a meeting with their child’s teacher. Mornings before school are generally a very busy time for teachers and not appropriate for unannounced meetings. Parents are encouraged to keep teachers informed of circumstances which may have an impact on a child’s learning on any given day.

Parking, Pickups and Set-downs
The Loop in Amherst Avenue provides a drive through area for delivering and collecting students.

1. Queue in the loop moving forward when able.
2. Children can enter/exit the first 3 vehicles in the line, they must enter and leave the vehicle from the left hand side.
3. Driver must remain in the vehicle.
4. When children are clear of the vehicle, indicate and enter the traffic flow.
5. If your child is not ready, don’t stop, drive around and try again.
6. Always be courteous to other road users.

Parking is available at the end of Amherst Avenue, adjacent to the Early Learning Centre. People driving cars in this vicinity are requested to exercise care and courtesy and to follow the traffic signs. Parents are encouraged to park or drop their children off at the car park in the Railway Reserve opposite the Post Office. Please do not park in the Post Office Car Park. From there, students walk to school, entering via the Emma Hogan Memorial Gate, avoiding the driveway to the staff car park. Use of the Staff car park (entry off Glen Road) is restricted to staff and service personnel only. The Administration Area car park (at the foot of the stairway) is reserved for staff and visitors on official business in the office. Students should not be dropped off or picked up in these areas.
Darlington Primary School Parking Map

PLEASE NOTE: Do not park in the Staff and Visitors Car Park (office entrance) off Amherst Avenue to drop off or pick up children. Parking in the Staff Carpark off Glen Road is not permitted at any time.

Parking options are highlighted in yellow.
Positive Engagement Policy
The aim of our Positive Engagement Policy is to establish and maintain high quality, positive relationships between the staff and students. We believe that all interactions should aim to develop appropriate and acceptable behaviour. The policy concentrates on the positive reinforcement of learning behaviour and citizenship, encouraging children to be thoughtful and to care about each other. Whilst encouraging positive behaviour, the policy also outlines processes for redirecting students and consequences, if required, for behaviour that is non-compliant with school policies and expectations. The policy outlines the rights of all children and staff to participate in the learning program safely. The Policy is available from the school office and on the school website.

The Dibbler – Valuing Our Community
The dibbler is the main part of the school’s emblem, where it appears looking over the top of a banksia flower. It was chosen as our emblem because it once lived in the hills around the school. There is a picture of a real dibbler in the school office. When we look at our emblem, it reminds us to be proud of our school, determined to demonstrate resilience, show initiative, display integrity and demonstrate care and work to protect our native flora and fauna.

Little Dibblers K/P
Students in the Early Learning Centre are learning Darlington Values. Students receiving a ‘Little Dibbler’ award will receive a small certificate and a point towards their faction (Students post their token into the designated faction box). These points will be added to the Dibbler Shield totals at the end of each term.

Dibbler Points 1-6
Students displaying positive behaviours as outlined by Darlington Values and Code of Conduct will receive Dibbler Stamps and Tokens for their Dibbler Record Sheet. Dibbler dollars go towards the individual student’s progress and are added to the faction total for the Dibbler Shield.

Dibbler Tokens/Stamps
Students will receive stamps for displaying positive behaviours, awarded stamps in the classroom. In the playground, and in specialist lessons, students may receive Dibbler Tokens which can be traded in the classroom for personal stamps on the Dibbler record sheet.

Dibbler Awards
Bronze - 100 Dibbler Points – Certificate
Silver - 250 Dibbler Points – Lapel Pin
Gold - 500 Dibbler Dollars – Lapel Pin
Platinum - 1000 Dibbler Points – Lapel Pin
Diamond - 2000 Dibbler Points – Special Lapel Pin (Name on Dibbler Honour Board)

Students will receive Dibbler Pins to wear on their uniform. Badges will be awarded at the end of term assembly. Parents will be contacted prior to the receipt of these awards.

Dibbler Shield
The Dibbler shield will be awarded at the end of each term to the Faction with the greatest number of Dibbler Dollars. The winning faction will be treated to a special lunch time reward with their representative teachers.
At the end of the year the Faction with the greatest number of Dibbler points will be awarded the Annual Shield which will in turn be engraved with the Winning Faction.
Road Safety and School Zone
The 40 km/hr ‘SCHOOL ZONE’ must be observed: 7.30 - 9.00am and 2.30 - 4.00pm. All students must use the crosswalk on Glen Road when passing to and from the school in that direction. The crosswalk is supervised by a Traffic Warden before and after school.

School Development Days
Six School Development Days are scheduled for the year. Dates are included in the school calendar, in Term Planners, in the Newsletter and published on ‘Connect’.

During this time school staff are involved in whole school planning, professional learning activities and Department of Education directed programs. Students do not attend school on these days.

School Payments
Payments can be made in the office with cash or EFTPOS or on Flexischools (for most payments). We are also happy to take credit card payments over the phone.

School Dress Code
The School Council of Darlington Primary School, in consultation with its community, has established a clearly defined Sun Smart dress code for all students attending the school.

Parents, staff and students believe that a school dress code:
- fosters and enhances the public image of the school;
- encourages equity among students;
- ensures students are safely and appropriately dressed for specific activities; and
- assists in building team spirit.

Parents are reminded that fake tattoos, make up and nail polish, are not appropriate for school. Where necessary, parents will be contacted regarding the removal of such items. Enrolment at Darlington Primary School is taken as acceptance of the dress code.

Rationale
Darlington Primary has a Sun Smart School Dress Code, as endorsed by School Council. Our Dress Code is compulsory for P-6 students (optional but encouraged for our Kindergarten students).

Guidelines of the School Uniform

**GIRLS:**
- Bottle green sports skirt, track pants, skorts, shorts, or jazz pants.
- Winter rain jacket or zip jacket with school logo.
- Red school polo shirt - with school logo.
- School dress - green, red and white checked tartan. Available from the uniform shop.
- Socks, solid colour – red, white or green.
- Bottle green bucket hat.
- Coloured faction polo for sports days.

**BOYS:**
- Bottle green track pants, shorts, or cargos.
- Winter rain jacket or zip jacket with school logo.
- Red school polo shirt - with school logo.
- Socks, solid colour – red, white or green.
- Bottle green bucket hat.
- Coloured faction polo for sports days.
These are available from the uniform shop, or some items may be obtained at other outlets. Items may be ordered via Flexischools (www.flexischools.com.au) or through visiting the uniform shop at the advertised opening hours. **Uniform Shop opening hours – every second Tuesday 8.45 to 9.00am.** Please see our school term planners and newsletters for dates.

- Students are expected to take part in regular physical activity. Joggers and trainers are the most appropriate footwear. Thongs, sandals and heeled shoes are not suitable.

- Sun Smart faction shirts should be worn for physical education lessons and sports days/carnivals. Dresses are not suitable for sports lessons.

- Students will be required to wear the school’s wide brimmed, bucket or legionnaire’s hat every day. Students without hats will be asked to remain in the shaded areas/verandah.

- Hair needs to be neat and tidy. Hair past collar length needs to be tied up for health reasons.

- A wrist watch, studs/sleeper earrings may be worn. For safety reasons, other items of jewellery may not be worn. Exemptions will be granted if there are cultural/medical reasons.

- Nail polish, make-up and fake tattoos are not to be worn.

- Graduating Year 6 students will have the option to wear a graduands polo shirt and/or Leavers Jacket. Parents will be informed of the cost and design.

- Students may be granted an exemption from the dress code requirements on religious or health grounds, or at the Principal’s discretion. Exemptions must be applied for through the office.

**If a student does not meet the requirements of the dress code:**

- The class teacher will explain to the student the need to be in uniform.
- If the student is still out of uniform the class teacher will again remind them of the dress code requirements and communicate this to the parents/carers.
- If the student is still out of uniform, the class teacher will inform Administration.
- Administration will liaise with parents/carers. A copy of the dress code requirements will be provided with an acknowledgement or receipt of the information.

**School Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop is operated by P & C Volunteers. It operates under the following arrangements: Open between 8.45 – 9.15am, every second Tuesday. Please refer to Term Planner for dates. Uniform orders placed through Flexischools will be delivered to the child’s classroom on opening days. **Please visit** [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) **. Uniform Shop Email - dpsuniform@gmail.com**

**Security**

The school is secured by silent alarms and patrolled by Education Department Security. Any suspicious activity, noticed by the community in a “neighbourhood watch” sense, can be reported to the school or Department Security by telephoning 1800 177 777. Access to, and use of, the school grounds, outside normal school hours, is only permissible with specific permission from the Principal.
Sporting Equipment
Play and sporting equipment is provided during recess and lunch time. Distribution procedures are outlined to students at the beginning of the school year. Personal sporting equipment is not to be brought to school.

Student Leadership
It is important for students to experience leadership opportunities during their schooling, to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. It also provides an opportunity to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

Student Leaders are selected to grow leadership skills and aspirations. Student Leaders use these skills to serve the school community and to represent the student voice in the school.
A strong focus is placed on student leadership at Darlington Primary. Student Councillors and Faction Captains, from Year 6, are elected by their peers and staff. Duties for these leaders may vary from year to year, however they will be involved in a number of organisational and public roles that promote and reflect the Darlington Primary culture. Senior students are also invited to nominate for selection as a Library, Art or Media Monitor. All student leaders receive a badge reflecting their commitment to the position.

Code of Conduct for Student Leaders
Lead and inspire good behaviour in fellow students through example and encouragement.

1. Uphold school rules at all times.
2. Make extra time for my duties and still maintain my own standard of class work.
3. Be proud of the traditions of Darlington Primary School and be prepared to be a worthy ambassador both in and out of school.
4. Be understanding and considerate towards others and guard against unfair treatment of students by fellow students.
5. Set an example, in dress, with the wearing of full school uniform at all times.
6. Carry out duties independently with minimal supervision.

Student Leadership Guidelines
Student Leaders agree to:

1. Follow the Code of Conduct
2. Wear my school uniform with pride
3. Arrive to school and meetings on time
4. Assist in the playground, when needed
5. Carry out my duties without being asked
6. Assist staff when needed
7. Use initiative

Positions available
- Head Boy and Head Girl
- Student Councillors (4 positions)
- Faction Captains (one girl and one boy for each Faction)

Selection Process
Students may self-nominate or be nominated, however, each nominee must agree to the nomination. Students who nominate for the position of Head Boy or Head Girl must prepare a written statement which will be shared with staff.
All nominees will prepare to present to students in Years 3 to 5. Voting will occur giving all interested staff and students (in Years 3 – 5) the opportunity to communicate their preferences. Preferential voting will be used.

**Student Leadership Continued...**

Term 4 Week 7  Call for nominations for Student Leaders
Term 4 Week 8  Nominee names to Electoral Commission to construct the ballot papers
Student Speeches to students in Years 3 – 5
Student Speeches to students in Years 3 – 5 faction groups
Written speech from Head Boy/Girl nominees to distribute to staff
Term 4 Week 9  Conduct Elections
Term 4 Week 10 Announce election outcome at last assembly

**Student Requirements**

Each year, the School Council approves the list of items that students are required to supply in order to participate fully in the school’s programs. These *Items for Personal Use* are commonly known as ‘booklists’ and details are distributed at the end of each school year, in preparation for the following year. All items must be clearly labelled. Some items may be stored for later distribution. This will be explained by classroom teachers at beginning of year meetings, when classroom procedures are described.

**Student Services**

Our Student Services Team is supported by our School Psychologist, School Chaplain, School Community Nurse and Learning Support Coordinator.

**School Psychologist**

The school is allocated the services of a Regional school educational psychologist. The school psychologist assists in assessing and verifying concerns with student learning and behaviour. The process of referral is through the Learning Support Coordinator or our Deputy Principal in consultation with the classroom teacher.

**School Chaplain**

The School Chaplain supports our students and families. Our Chaplain, Tracey Buckley, is on site on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. She is available to provide pastoral care to both students and parents. Contact can be made with the Chaplain via a mailbox in the office, where messages can be left, or by phone on the school number.

**School Nurse**

The School Community Nurse visits the school from time to time to carry out duties, such as eyesight and hearing screening, mainly with Kindergarten and Pre-primary students, throughout the school year. At all times, families will be informed of any possible contact with the school nurse in relation to the particular screening involved. Please contact your child’s teacher if you wish to discuss any concerns regarding your child’s health. Specific health issues can impact on the overall physical, emotional, social and academic development of all students and should be dealt with as soon as possible. Confidentiality is always respected.
**Students at Educational Risk**
The Department of Education recognises the scope and nature of the challenges faced by students at educational risk. Students at educational risk are defined as: “those students who may be at risk of not achieving their potential in relation to the major learning outcomes of schooling”.
Darlington Primary School strives to provide all students with educational programs that reflect their needs through increased class support and modified class work. The school’s policy for Students at Educational Risk seeks to ensure that all students’ needs are catered for. If you have concerns about your child’s progress, please contact the class teacher.

**Primary Enrichment and Challenge (PEAC)**
**Early Years Extension Program (EYEP)**

Enrichment opportunities are available to students through classroom extension and enrichment, as well as external programs.

Years 5 and 6 PEAC, students are currently selected using formal testing in Year 4. Programs at PEAC Centres include students from several schools and may be of short duration (2/3/4 days spread over a few weeks) or up to a term and a half in duration. Identified students will be invited to apply for these courses. Students are selected for EYEP (Years 1-4) according to school assessment and teacher nomination.

**Supervision**

**Before School**
Parents are advised that there is no formal supervision of students before 8.35am, so students should not arrive at school prior to that time. However, if students do arrive at school before 8.35am, they are to sit quietly outside their classroom until their teacher arrives. Students are not permitted to play games, use sporting equipment or participate in other activities where injury may be sustained.

The exception to this is on Tuesday and Thursday morning when Lap club is operating from 8.35am.

**Recess and Lunch times**
At recess and lunchtime, teachers are rostered to provide playground supervision. Students are encouraged to seek help if needed. Duty teachers wear a clearly visible florescent vest. Students are encouraged to communicate any concerns to the duty teacher who will endeavour to assist and resolve conflicts which may occur. Informing teachers about inappropriate or undesirable behaviour is part of the responsibility all students must accept to stop inappropriate behaviour. The school has a “zero tolerance” to bullying.

At lunch time all students sit quietly to eat their lunch during the initial ten minutes, (seniors on the veranda outside rooms 1-5, and juniors in the soft fall play area).

**After School**
It is expected students will leave the school grounds immediately and proceed home by appointed means. The school provides no formal supervision after 3.00pm. However, students who are waiting at the Loop (drive through pick up area) on Amherst Avenue will be supervised. Those who have not been collected by 3.20pm will be taken to the Office. Please tell your students if they are ever unsure about their pickup arrangements they should go to the office for assistance. Students training with sporting teams, most of which start at 4.00pm or later, should return only when an adult supervisor is present.
**Term Planner**
A Term Planner is made available via ‘Connect’ and the Newsletter, at the beginning of each term to advise parents of upcoming events.

**Transferring to another School**
When students are transferring to another school, please advise the office in advance so that their belongings can be collected and library books returned. On admission to the new school, a transfer note will be sent, advising of the student’s enrolment and their date of commencement. With your permission, the student’s records will then be forwarded to the new school.

**Toys, Trading Cards, Electronic Devices and Valuables**
Students should not bring toys, electronic games, music devices, portable radios, or other expensive games to school, except under special circumstances, such as when it is their turn for news. On such occasions, these items will be stored on the teacher’s table or in the child’s bag and will not be accessed at break times. We are not able to accept responsibility for loss or damage of such property.

**Use of Equipment after School Hours**
Students are not permitted to play on adventure playground equipment or climb trees while waiting to be collected after school. Students need to wait quietly in the appointed pick-up area. Pre-school aged children should not play on the equipment at any time.

**Visitors and Volunteers**
To ensure our school is a safe place for our students all visitors to the school must report to the office and wear identification while on the school grounds. Parents visiting the school (other than at the beginning and end of the school day for student pick-ups or when attending a school assembly or school function) and parents helping in classrooms must also sign in at the office and be issued with a visitor’s sticker.

Volunteers to our school are welcome. Many opportunities exist for families to be involved in helping in classrooms, on excursions and other student related activities. All volunteers in our school must sign a Declaration of Confidentiality. These forms will be provided by your classroom teacher.

**Water Bottles**
All students are permitted and encouraged to have a drink bottle in the classroom at all times throughout the year. Drink bottles must contain water only and may be refilled from refrigerated drinking fountains in each block. Please make sure you label your drink bottles.
Darlington Primary School
Bushfire Emergency Procedures

All gas cylinders are to be turned off at the beginning of Term 4 each year. Practice drills of the Bushfire Emergency Procedure will be carried out during the first two weeks of Term 1 & 4.

1. The School will liaise with the Police or Bushfire Control (DFES) regarding the location and direction of a fire and/or will monitor the DFES website or ABC Radio 720 for updated details.

2. If a Watch and Act is issued by DFES, all children are to remain in the classrooms, with windows and doors closed. Air conditioner fans should be turned off, but the pumps left running. School bags are to be taken inside classrooms. Student Attendance should be checked. Admin are to ensure that staff in the Early Learning Centre are aware of the situation. ★ Deputy Principal (or other representative) to be despatched to the Incident Support Group.

3. If it is deemed necessary, students and staff may be required to shelter in place. The Principal gives instructions, through available channels, to evacuate all classrooms to the Covered Assembly Area.

4. Teachers take class list from Evacuation Pack (located next to the door and the evacuation map in all rooms) and escort students to their normal assembly place via designed evacuation routes. Specialist teachers relieve the Deputies of their classes once evacuated. Teachers should take classroom keys.

5. If possible, class lists, including absentees, will be printed from Integris by office staff and distributed to class teachers for Roll Call.

6. School Administration staff to carry out special duties as per the school’s “Emergency Plan”.

7. Medical kits, including student medication, will be organised by the office staff. Drinking water is available in the Covered Assembly Area and Canteen. A toilet is located in the Music Room.

8. Parents should not attempt to reach the school to collect children as roads will be blocked by Police for use by fire fighting vehicles.

9. Off-site evacuation, if required, will be co-ordinated with the DFES Incident Management Group. Children and staff will be taken to a safer location to be collected from there. Parent contacts listed in Integris will be notified by special SMS message. The location of the evacuation area will be available from the DFES (Department of Fire and Emergency Services) information line on 1300657209 or www.dfes.wa.gov.au or via ABC Radio 720 on the quarter hour.

10. Parents SHOULD NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL as the lines must be open for communication with the relevant authorities. The OOO phone number should only be used to report emergencies.

The school will be CLOSED on all declared days of Catastrophic Fire Danger

Prior to the day of closure, SMS Messages will be sent to all parents’ mobile phone numbers registered with the school and formal, written notification will be sent home to each family. Announcements will also be made in the media.

School Closure signs and banners will be posted at all entrances to the school and on fences in Glen Road and Amherst Avenue.

Children must not attend school.
DARLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
2 – 14 Amherst Ave,
Darlington, WA, 6070
www.darlingtonps.wa.edu.au
darlington.ps@education.wa.edu.au
Phone: 9257 4000