

GARDENERS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

INFORMATION HANDBOOK



ABN 77 068 913 216

827 Botany Road Rosebery NSW 2018

Telephone 9667 2193

Fax 9667 4906

[*gardeners-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au*](mailto:gardeners-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

[*www.gardeners-p.schools.nsw.edu.au*](http://www.gardeners-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

School Profile

Gardeners Road Public School is the local government school for students who live in Rosebery, Beaconsfield and parts of Mascot. The school caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and offers a small number of out-of-area placements.

A great strength of Gardeners Road Public School is our multicultural and inclusive learning community comprised of teachers and parents working together for the benefit of students.

Our enthusiastic and dedicated teaching and support staff cater to a thriving and diverse student population. Excellent programs in all Key Learning Areas are delivered. A quality learning environment that includes a broad range of engaging activities provides enrichment opportunities for all students. Programs include Public Speaking, Kitchen Garden, Chess, Junior and Senior Choir and School Band.

Our Support Unit is highly regarded. Caring and expert teachers and staff provide individual programs to meet the needs of students with a range of disabilities.

Gardeners Road Public School encourages parent involvement in students' learning and welcomes new students, parents and staff through social functions, parent and teacher meetings, P&C meetings and information sessions.

History

In 1880 the area around the junction of Gardeners and Botany Roads was settled by a scattered population of market gardeners, with huge tracts of vacant land and a few pockets of workers who were employed in the factories that had begun to be established in the district.

Gardeners Road Public School was established in January 1883 when John Maloney opened the school in a temporary wooden school room designed to accommodate 200 pupils in one room. By the early 1920s the enrolment had climbed to 1700 pupils. Children were crammed into the main building, its corridors and a collection of temporary wooden classrooms and weather sheds.

The other buildings existing today were added over time as the school accommodated varying numbers of students. Gardeners Road was functioning as a secondary school until the local comprehensive high school, JJ Cahill Memorial, was opened in 1961.

The areas of North Rosebery and Zetland are currently undergoing development and gentrification. This suggests a period of growth and renewal for our school.

Gardeners Road has a proud history of education strengthened by strong intergenerational links with the community. Our school builds upon this foundation as we look to the future and the priority of providing a 21st century education for our students.

Mission Statement

*Gardeners Road Public School provides a **safe, caring and inclusive learning environment**. We are committed to ensuring our students strive for **personal excellence** and are **responsible and respectful members of the community**.*

The beliefs and values articulated in our mission statement form the basis of everything we do at school. The delivery of a quality curriculum will result in the following aims for our students being met.

Aims

Learning

- In order to be successful participants in contemporary society and the future our students need to know how to learn rather than simply learn facts. They will do this by:
- Achieving personal excellence in literacy and numeracy
- Acquiring high level ICT (information & communication technology) skills
- Developing critical thinking skills
- Participating in problem solving and open ended tasks across the curriculum.

Personal Development

In order for students to reach their individual potential they need to develop high level emotional intelligence and social competence skills. They will do this by:

- Participating in leadership opportunities and meeting the challenge of achieving personal excellence;
- Developing self-esteem and decision making skills;
- Developing resilience;
- Participating in a comprehensive physical & health education program; and
- Acquiring high level and effective communication skills.

Citizenship

In order for students to be responsible and productive citizens at school and in the wider community they need to understand the world and how they can contribute in a positive way. They will do this by:

- Understanding how their behaviour both positive and negative influences those around them;
- Understanding the interconnectedness of themselves and the environment and the individual responsibility of all to create a sustainable world; and
- Acquiring an understanding of Australian history and society in the context of a world view.

Curriculum and School Programs Teaching & Learning

Key Learning Areas (KLAs)

KLAs are the learning programs for students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. They are developed by the NSW Board of Studies, an independent statutory authority of the NSW Government.

English

The study of English includes the teaching of reading, writing, handwriting, spelling, talking and listening.

Mathematics

The syllabus is organised into the strands of Working Mathematically, Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

Science & Technology

This involves students learning about the natural and made environments through investigating, designing, making and using technology experiences.

History

Students investigate their personal family and community history. They develop understanding of Australia's Indigenous and colonial history.

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

This KLA develops students' knowledge about the people, social and physical aspects of Australia and the world. The school's HSIE program has strong Aboriginal and multicultural perspectives.

Creative Arts

Students learn about, practice and critique visual arts, music, drama and dance with both classroom and specialist teachers.

Personal Development, HEALTH and Physical Education (PDHPE)

This broad KLA includes fitness, sport skills, dance, and health related units about safety, relationships, rules and healthy eating habits. The students are taught Child Protection, Drug Education and Road & Sun Safety programs on a term basis.

For details of these syllabi please refer to the NSW Board of Studies
<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>



Support Programs

Language Background Other Than English (LBOTE)

A specially trained LBOTE teacher supports the learning of students whose first language is not English. The LBOTE teacher works with small groups of students on many language based activities.

Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA)

A specialist teacher is available to help students experiencing difficulties with their learning.

Reading Recovery

A specialist Reading Recovery teacher supports students in Year 1 who are targeted as needing 1-1 reading support as they have not reached the required benchmarks for their grade.

Additional Programs

Community Languages & Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

The school offers opportunities for students to learn another language and its culture within the school program. A specialist teacher teaches Greek to native speakers. Greek is also available to non-native speakers of the language. A Turkish teacher provides lessons for native speakers of Turkish.

Public Speaking & Debating

Public Speaking is integral to the talking and listening strand of the English syllabus that is implemented in all classes K-6. Students are provided with opportunities to represent our school at the Multicultural Public Speaking and the Sydney East K-6 Public Speaking Competition.

Choir

The junior and senior choirs are constantly learning a wide range of songs and perform regularly at assemblies and school functions.

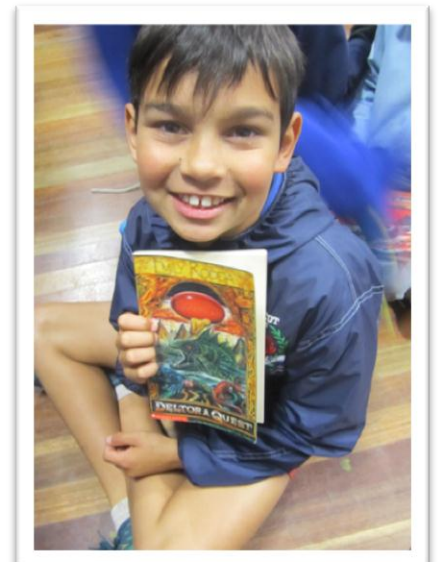
Band

Students in Years 3-6 are selected to join the school band to learn an instrument by specialist music tutors and perform as a school band at GRPS performances and other opportunities including the Big Band Bash.

Library Lunch Time Activities

At lunch time students may participate in a number of activities on set days;

- Card / Board Games
- Quiet Reading
- Story Time
- Internet research
- Drawing
- Audio stories



Assessment and Reporting

Student progress is formally reported to parents each half year by a teacher/parent/student conference and written reports in Term 2 and Term 4.

Assessment of students at the school is a continuous process. Teachers use a wide variety of methods to maintain a comprehensive and ongoing record of information about each student's achievements.

On enrolment Kindergarten students are assessed using the Best Start Program. This provides information to teachers and informs class programs to cater for the individual literacy and numeracy needs of students. National assessment (NAPLAN) takes place in Years 3 and 5. Students are assessed against syllabus outcomes and the resulting data is used in conjunction with school based assessment for whole school planning and goal setting. Parents receive comprehensive reports detailing their child's individual results in reading, writing, language and numeracy.

Teacher knowledge and professional judgment is still the most valuable source of information, particularly in the areas of attitude and application. Parents are welcome to make an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss their child's progress in relation to all domains of learning.

Technology

Gardeners Road Public School has a bank of computers in every classroom in addition to a well-equipped, air-conditioned computer room with 28 computers, a Smart board, and a colour LaserJet printer. A connected classroom is also available for video conference. Smart Boards are installed in all classrooms to enhance teaching and learning. An extensive range of educational software is available to integrate into classroom programs. The P & C provides funding for all students to have free access to the Mathletics and Spellodrome online programs.

A Computer Coordinator manages the school network and provides training to staff and in consultation with class teachers a computer program for classes. Upgrade of software and computer facilities is ongoing.

Students gain experience in word processing, multimedia, Internet, spreadsheet, database and video production. The Department of Education has provided a student portal (Kid Space) where students can access Blogged, email and links to various learning tools.

The Department of Education monitors and controls access to non-educational sites to protect the students from undesirable material. Students, in conjunction with their parents, are required to sign a "Student Access to the Internet and Video Conferencing" code of conduct agreement before Internet access or video conferencing is permitted.

Sports Programs

A fully implemented Physical Education program applies from Kindergarten to Year 6. K-2 students participate in a Gross Motor program each week, while students in Years 3-6 participate in school sport or competitive inter-school sport every Friday.

Special Swimming Scheme

In keeping with Australian tradition this school aims for every child to learn to swim. Annual intensive swimming classes are conducted for students in Year 2.

PSSA Sport

Children in Years Three to Six are selected on ability to participate in inter-school competitions conducted by the Eastern Suburbs Primary School Sporting Association (PSSA). The competition is run during school hours and all games are played outside the school grounds.

Summer Competition (Terms One and Four) includes Softball for girls and Cricket for boys. Winter Competition (Terms Two and Three) includes Netball for girls and Soccer for boys. In order to promote values of cooperation, participation and sportsmanship students are expected to follow the PSSA Code of Conduct and sign the agreement each year.



Sport Houses

Children are allocated a sporting house. The house teams and colours are; Cook – yellow, Phillip – blue, Macquarie – red, Wentworth – green. Children wear their house colours at swimming, athletic and cross country carnivals.

Library

The School Library provides extensive resources to support the teaching and learning programs throughout the school. Regular library lessons are timetabled for each class.

Library Hours

The Library is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The Library is closed in the last three weeks of Term 4 due to the Library's annual stock take.

Borrowing

Students may borrow during their library lesson once a week or at lunch time on Mondays and Tuesdays. All students need a library bag for carrying their borrowed books. Library bags are available for purchase from PSW School Wear, 395 Anzac Parade, Kingsford. The borrowing period is two weeks but it is preferable if students change their books each week. Each student may only borrow books in his/her name. Students are surveyed at the beginning of each year about what books they like to borrow, and a request box is available for students to include the titles of any books they would like bought during the year.

Borrowing Limits

Kindergarten – Year 2: 2 fiction, 1 non fiction

Year 3 – 6: 2 fiction, 2 non fiction

Overdue / Damaged / Lost Books

Students will be reminded of any overdue books they have out, once a term. Students with long-term overdue loans will be sent a reminder note, which will include the cost of replacing the book. While books are in the care of students it is their responsibility to keep them safe and ensure they are returned. A student's borrowing privileges may be suspended. If a student returns a book, but the computer systems indicates it is still on loan, a search for the book will be made by the teacher-librarian with the child present.

Teaching and Learning

Library lessons involve the teaching of the information skills process; Defining, Locating, Selecting, Organising, Presenting and Assessing. The focus is on the History, H.S.I.E. or Science topic that the class is currently studying. Lessons will also introduce students to a variety of literature, and appropriate creative and language activities.

Religious Instruction

Weekly scripture classes are provided for students on Thursday mornings. Teachers from Uniting, Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Islamic religions provide students with a Religious Education program, at parents' request.

Homework

Gardeners Road Public School promotes the development of positive study habits, both at school and at home. The students in Kinder through to Year 6 are provided with homework each week related to the current teaching/learning program being implemented in the class. The class teacher provides the amount of homework appropriate for the student. Home Reading is an ideal opportunity for parents to enjoy sharing the wonderful world of literacy.

School Administration and Organisation

Enrolment

Students may enroll at Gardeners Road Public School providing they reside within the school's designated area. Consideration is given to students outside the school's feeder area depending on availability of places at the school. An out of area enrolment application needs to be completed.

Kindergarten

Students turning five years old by the end of July can enroll for the beginning of the next school year. To assist class planning, parents should contact the school in June and July regarding Kindergarten enrolments for the following year.

Please note that a birth certificate or passport must be produced for all students enrolling as well as current proof of residential address.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 also requires parents to provide the school with an Immunisation certificate for students enrolling in Kindergarten. Immunisation certificates are available from a Medicare office or online.

If a student has not been immunised and there is an outbreak of certain diseases at school, the parent may be requested to exclude their child from school during the outbreak. More information of the NSW Immunisation Program can be found at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation>

Other Years

Parents are requested to accompany children to school on the day of enrolment and complete the necessary enrolment forms. Documentary proof of age or a transfer form from another school is required. Children from overseas must bring their passport. Children will be placed in classes and parents may wish to take the opportunity to meet their child's teacher.

Privacy

The school collects personal information, including sensitive information about children and parents. This information is confidential and the school cannot disclose this information to others without parental permission.

Staff

The NSW Department of Education allocates teaching and support staff to each school. At Gardeners Road Public School the Principal (class free) and four teaching Assistant Principals form the executive team. They lead a range of classroom and specialist teachers including a Teacher Librarian, Special Education teachers, Language Other Than English (LBOTE) teacher, Greek and Turkish language teachers, Computer teacher, as well as teachers to support students experiencing difficulties with learning (STLA).

There are several full time permanent SLSOs (School Learning Support Officers) who work in the Support Unit as well as part-time SLSOs to assist some students. Our office administration staff is comprised of a School Administration Manager (SAM) and School Administration Officers (SAOs). A part-time General Assistant (GA) manages general upkeep of the grounds and buildings.

Our teachers and staff are committed to continual school improvement based upon the annual evaluation of student progress and whole school goals.

Classes

In NSW there are seven years of primary school education. The first year is Kindergarten followed by Years 1 to 6, after which students go to high school.

Commencing in late January / early February the school year is broken into four terms, with the long summer holiday break in December and January. Students are placed in classes of mixed ability. Sometimes students from different grades are combined. Co-operative planning and interaction occurs between grades and teachers.

School Times

8.30am	Playground is supervised
8.55am	Students line up for assembly under the shelter
9.00am	School begins
11.00-11.30am	Recess
1.15-1.30pm	Teachers supervise eating in class
1.30-2.00pm	Lunch Play
3.00pm	School finishes

For their safety, students should arrive at school after 8.30am and be picked up at 3.00pm. Students, who for any reason, are left waiting after school should report to the office and their parents / carers will be contacted.

Before and After School Care

A Safe Multi-Cultural Out of School Hours (SMOOSH) centre operates on site at the school for students from Gardeners Road Public School.

Hours of operation are from 7.00 to 8.45 am and from 3.00 to 6.00 pm.

A Vacation Care program operates each school holiday.

For all enrolment inquiries contact the Director, on 8338 9678, or the South East Neighbourhood Centre, on 8338 8506.

Absences

Legislation requires regular school attendance of all children aged between six and seventeen years.

Students should not be absent except for acceptable reasons of illness or special leave. Upon return there must be an acceptable reason presented in writing to the class teacher, dated and specifying the reason for and the period of the absence.

Students who arrive after 9.05 am should report to the office to obtain a Late Note to be given to the class teacher. If an early departure is required, class teachers should be advised in writing or an Early Departure Note signed at the Office. Departmental regulations require teachers to record all absences or partial absences. In some circumstances if unexplained absences occur a referral will be made to the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) who will work with families to ensure attendance.

There are times when arriving late is unavoidable. However, it's worth considering just 15 minutes a day makes a real difference. Over a term this calculates as 15 minutes x 5 days x 10 weeks = 12.5 hours or near enough to the equivalent of 2 school days. Mornings are an important part of the day as messages and instructions are often delivered at assembly and in the classroom.

Health and Medication

If a student requires medication at school it must be handed to the office labelled with name, class and dosage. A **Prescribed Medication** form will need to be completed by the parent. Students will report to office staff for medication to be given.

Puffers for asthmatics can be kept by students, provided they are not accessible to other students. Students who are sick should not be sent to school. If a student is sick at school the parent/carer is notified and asked to collect the student.

The N.S.W. Health Department directs that students with certain infectious diseases be excluded from school for a period of time. Sometimes contacts are also excluded. The requirements of the N.S.W. Health Department can be viewed at the following site: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious>

If a student is suffering from one of these diseases, the doctor will provide information regarding the period of absence, and a Medical Certificate must be produced before the student is permitted to return to school.

Some students have health conditions that require an Individual Health Plan. This may include severe allergies that result in anaphylaxis, asthma or epilepsy. Please let the school know if this applies to your child.

Accidents

In case of sudden illness or accident at school, every attempt is made to contact parents. If parents cannot be contacted and medical treatment is necessary, the student is taken to the Emergency Department of the Sydney Children's Hospital, High St, Randwick.

It is the responsibility of all parents and carers to ensure that the Student Information Form is updated when addresses or telephone numbers are changed. A 'Change of Details' form is available at the school office.

Canteen

The canteen is operated five days per week by an independent operator. It provides a variety of lunches, drinks, frozen lines and snack food.

Lunches must be ordered prior to 9.10am.

Orders can be made over the counter at the canteen or students can bring their order from home written on a large paper bag with the child's name and class clearly written on the bag. Money can be enclosed within the bag. A price list is available from the canteen.

Nutrition

"Children need to eat a variety of foods every day to be healthy. Parents can give children a healthy school lunch that tastes great and is good for them too. Many parents say one of the major problems with school lunches is when the children bring them home!

Try to give the kids some choice about what they take for lunch, and if possible, get them involved

with preparing the 'healthier' foods. Choosing food for a healthy lunch is easy. Use Nutrition Australia's Healthy Eating Pyramid to plan a healthy school lunch."

An extract from **Nutrition Australia** - <http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/>

Excursions

A number of excursions are organised throughout the year to enhance learning, provide motivation and give experiences not otherwise available at school. Excursions are conducted by teachers. Costs are kept to a minimum and, unless otherwise stated, uniforms should be worn. Students are expected to attend excursion days so they do not miss vital learning experiences. Notes are sent home prior to the excursion explaining details and cost involved. Parental permission is required if students are to attend.

Several times each year various performers may visit the school. Only those performers considered to be beneficial to the students' learning are invited. Payment for visiting performers is requested in advance.

Money Collection

Parents and students are asked to return all money collected in a clearly marked envelope showing student name, class reason for and amount of money.

For example:

Mary Jones Class 3Y
Zoo Excursion - \$20

This should be deposited in the money collection box situated at the office counter before school. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, Visa and Mastercard.

School Uniform

"The wearing of a school uniform can encourage pride in the school, assist in the maintenance of tone and good conduct, and reduce to a minimum the undesirable distinctions between children in the same school because of clothing. The wearing of a school uniform may provide greater security for children travelling to and from school". - NSW Department of Education.

Parents are requested to assist in ensuring that children wear the appropriate uniform at all times.

Footwear

Black shoes should be worn for all uniforms, and are strongly recommended for safety and health. Joggers, gym boots etc. are worn for Sport/PE. Sandals or thongs are not permitted under any circumstances.

Uniforms, hats and library bags are available from PSW School Wear, 395 Anzac Parade, Kingsford, Phone: 9613 6003.

School hats are also available at the school office.

Other items can be purchased from Target and K Mart Eastgardens, Best and Less Mascot and Maroubra. Our school has a no hat, no play rule as part of our Sunsafe Policy.

Please label all your child's belongings clearly with his/her name.

Girls Uniform Summer

Terms 1 & 4

Check blue and white dress

White socks

Black shoes

School jacket or tracksuit top

Option - Royal blue shorts, White Polo shirt

School hat

Winter

Terms 2 & 3

Royal blue pinafore

White blouse or skivvy.

White socks or navy tights

Black shoes

School jacket

Option–School or blue tracksuit

School hat



Sports Uniform

Royal blue shorts

White polo shirt or Gardo T Shirt

Sports briefs

Sandshoes / Sneakers

Tracksuit in cooler weather

T Shirt in team colours for carnivals

School hat

Boys Uniform Summer

Terms 1 & 4

Grey shorts

Blue shirt

Grey socks

Black shoes

School jacket or tracksuit top

Option - White polo shirt

School hat

Winter Uniform

Terms 2 & 3

School or blue tracksuit

Grey socks

Black shoes

Optional- Grey trousers

School jacket

School hat

Sports Uniform

Royal blue shorts

White polo shirt or Gardo T shirt

Sandshoes / sneakers

Tracksuit in cooler weather

T Shirt in team colours for carnival

School hat



Funding

The NSW Department of Education provides funding to the school for the educational needs of the school, as well as a contribution for the provision of staff, administration and maintenance costs.

In addition to Departmental funding, the school receives some income from the hire of facilities and donations. The school relies on income from parent sources. The Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association raises funds, and parents and caregivers are requested annually to make a School Contribution. The amount of the School Contribution is decided by the school's Finance Committee, which has a parent representative.

The School Contribution is used to purchase:

- Library books;
- General materials, eg paper etc; and
- Major items not supplied by the Department of Education.

All other expenses, such as text books, excursions, uniforms, sport, performances and general materials are the responsibility of parents/caregivers.

Parent Participation

Parents provide invaluable assistance throughout the school, whether it is helping with reading in the classroom, assisting in the computer room, covering books in the library, or participating in the P&C Association. If you are able to help in any way, please inform your child's teacher, or the Principal.

Parents are also invited to come to the school on the many occasions arranged by the school, including: Open Day in Education Week, Concerts, Easter Hat Parade, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Special Assemblies, Presentation Day, Book Week Activities, Indigenous Book Swap, Kindergarten Transition Program, Multicultural Book Reading and NAIDOC Week activities

Parents & Citizens Association

The Parents and Citizens Association conducts its meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm at the school. Parents are cordially invited to attend and take an active part in the Association which discusses educational matters and conducts functions to raise funds for school equipment. All parents and carers of children enrolled in the school are welcome.

Take a look at the Parents & Citizens Web site.

<http://www.pandc.org.au/>



Support Unit

The school's Support Unit has one IM class, two IO classes, and one IS class. Special Education trained and experienced teachers provide a supportive and caring learning environment. Each class has a full-time School Learning Support Officer (SLSO).

Teaching and Learning

All students in the Support Unit have a Personalised Learning and Support Plan (PLSP). Teachers program within the Key Learning Area (KLA) framework. The PLSPs are collaboratively developed by parents, school staff and therapists. Each PLSP will be updated as necessary by the planning team when targeted outcomes have been achieved.

Living Skills Program

Living skills is a component of the Key Learning Area called PDHPE (Personal Development, Health and Physical Education). The living skills program aims to develop a broad range of skills, which will lead to a degree of independence in present and future living situations.

Program Components

Personal Development:

- Grooming skills
- Dressing and undressing (swimming)
- Personal hygiene
- Peer support lessons

Home Skills

- Preparing simple meals and drinks

Community Mobility

- Catching a bus/train
- Moving around the community safely
- Road safety
- Eating in a restaurant/café

Money Program

- Recognising coins and notes
- Handling money in a shop
- Keeping money in a wallet

Social Skills

- Focusing on eye contact, voice volume, social distance, taking and listening.

Support Unit Transport

Children should arrive at school no earlier than 8.45 am. A teacher is on duty at this time.

Taxis pick up students at 2.50 pm. Students are dropped off and picked up at the far end of the main driveway/ parking area.

Taxi drivers have been notified in writing that no child should be left unattended in the car/ van. Please ensure that you wait for your child outside your home in the morning and afternoon.

Taxi drivers have been informed by Assisted School Travel to only wait 3 minutes then drive to the next destination.

Students who are not on special transport finish school at 3.00 pm.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Gardeners Road Public School welcomes parents and friends into the school community and looks forward to hearing their comments and contributions. This makes our school a happy and positive learning environment. It is, however, necessary to make an appointment with the student's class teacher at a mutually suitable time to discuss their progress.

Personalised Learning and Support Plans

All parents/carers, appropriate therapists and the teacher are invited to meetings in March each year to assist in the design of each student's PLSP. The class teacher gives an overview of the student's assessment and progress.

Reviews

Review meetings are usually conducted in June each year. All parents/carers, class teachers, therapists, the Principal and District personnel are present. During this time an overview is given regarding the student's progress, and any concerns or issues are addressed.

Communication Books

A communication book has been provided for each child in the Support Unit. Teachers regularly inform parents of things happening in the class, and parents are free to write in the communication book informing teachers of any issues or concerns they may have.

Student Welfare and Discipline

Schools need to be places where every student can learn and grow with confidence. Students develop best in schools where teaching and learning occur in a context of student welfare.

Schools need to be safe and happy places for students and their teachers. Student welfare is enhanced when all members of the school community participate in the learning programs and life of the school.

For more information about the NSW Department of Education's Student Welfare Policy document go to:

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/student_welfare

Student Welfare at Gardeners Road Public School

- Encompasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of students
- Creates a safe, caring school environment in which students are nurtured as they learn
- Is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered
- Incorporates effective discipline
- Incorporates preventive health and social skills programs
- Stresses the value of collaborative early intervention when problems are identified
- Provides ongoing educational services to support students
- Recognises the diversity within the school community and provides programs and support which acknowledge difference and promote harmony
- Recognises the role that the school plays as a resource to link families with community support services
- Provides opportunities for students to enjoy success and recognition, make a useful contribution to the life of their school and derive enjoyment from their learning.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Gardeners Road is a PBL school. Our program is based upon values derived from our mission statement. Our core expectations for students are: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner.

Students are explicitly taught what these expectations are, why they are important and what they look like in all areas at school. Students receive positive reinforcement for demonstrating the expectations.

PBL works to create a positive and consistent culture within the school. By creating a safe and structured playground and a quality learning environment in the classroom student learning outcomes across the curriculum are enhanced.

***“If a child doesn’t know how to read, we teach.
If a child doesn’t know how to swim, we teach.
If a child doesn’t know how to multiply, we teach.
If a child doesn’t know how to drive, we teach.
If a child doesn’t know how to behave, we..... teach!”***

Strategies to Promote Positive Student Behaviour

In order to promote positive student behaviour and achieve good discipline and effective learning at Gardeners Road Public School a wide range of strategies are employed. Strategies may be used at the classroom level for individuals and small groups through to broader levels incorporating whole classes, grades and sports groups.

Strategies include:

The provision of appropriate curriculum to meet the needs of each student, including

- Support programs (LBOTE, STLA, LOTE and Reading Recovery)
- Use of the Quality Teaching Framework
- Use of Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Cooperative learning
- Counselling

The provision of programs which develop self-discipline, reflection, communication, conflict resolution and leadership skills, including:

- Peer Support
- Student Representative Council (SRC) and other leadership roles
- Buddy Classes
- Social Skills programs

The implementation of an effective school discipline policy through the use of;

- School expectations and matrixes for the playground and classroom
- Clearly stated positive and negative consequences
- Continued professional learning for teachers
- Data based decision making
- Anti-bullying Policy and Grievance Procedures
- Anti-racism Policy and Grievance Procedures
- PSSA Sport Behaviour Contract
- Uniform policy
- Homework policy
- Discussion and liaison with parents/caregivers
- Implementation of a structured and transparent Reward System K-6
- Personal and public acknowledgement and celebration of student and school achievement
- Explicit teacher feedback and the deliberate nurturing of positive relationships

All attempts are made to use positive teaching and correction strategies to manage inappropriate behaviour. However, if students don't respond the following consequences may be applied:

- Restitution or apology
- Conference with teacher
- Parent interview or contact
- Time out in class
- Time out or walking with teacher in the playground
- Loss of privileges
- Time out with Assistant Principal
- Detention
- In School suspension
- Short suspension
- Long suspension
- Expulsion

Students experiencing difficulty in managing their behaviour may be referred to the School Learning Support Team.

Learning Support Team (LST)

Gardeners Road Learning Support Team meets every fortnight. It is comprised of the school executive team, the school counsellor and specialist support teachers. Classroom teachers are able to refer students to the LST for academic, behavioural or social/emotional needs if they are concerned about their progress or participation at school.

This team approach draws upon the professional knowledge of our staff. Possible outcomes for a student may be school based or result in referral to Department of Education programs. Programs include such things as District Learning Support, Behaviour Support, Outreach Services or specialist class placement. Sometimes liaison with outside services is recommended.

Teachers will discuss this with parents if they are considering referring a child to the LST or the School Counsellor.

School Counsellor

Counselling services are available in the school for students with specific needs including the areas of learning, behaviour and physical needs. Parents may approach the Counsellor for guidance by contacting an executive member of staff. The School Counsellor's office is located in Building C and the Counsellor is usually at the school one day a week.

The Department of Education has further information about the School Counsellor service at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/counselservice.php>

Child Protection

The Department of Education's Child Protection Policy is implemented at Gardeners Road Public School. The school staff is aware of the policy, legal requirements and associated concerns pertaining to child protection and has been trained in the required procedures to protect students.

All classes participate in specially organised Child Protection lessons suited to their age group and understanding. These lessons are taught for a term each year.

To visit the NSW Department of Education and Training's Child Protection policy go to:

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/child_protection/protsupp/pd02_7_2_protsupp.pdf

Peer Support

Developing Leadership Skills

The Peer Support program provides an opportunity for all Stage 3 students to participate in meaningful leadership experiences. All Year 5 and Year 6 students, including students from the Support Unit, participate in 2 consecutive days of Peer Support leadership training.

The purpose of this training is to prepare students for their role as Peer Support leaders and to highlight the structure of the Peer Support Program. It also assists students in developing the skills that are necessary for the effective facilitation of Peer Support Groups.

Peer Support leaders present a series of PBL lessons designed by the PBL team to teach our whole school expectations – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner.

Working Together

Since each Peer Support Group is made up of a mix of children from Kindergarten to Year 4, and run by trained leaders from Year 5 and 6, all students participate in cooperative group work. This builds strong student relationships between and across year groups, creating a safer, friendlier learning environment.

Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council program provides another opportunity for students to develop leadership skills. Teaching leadership behaviours is a crucial element in ultimately creating responsible citizens within our society.

Membership

Each year students elect representatives from Year 6 who, along with the Captains and Vice Captains comprises the SRC. A representative from each class provides input at a number of SRC meetings.

Members of the Student Representative Council have a variety of important responsibilities, in both leadership and fundraising, and work collaboratively with staff to achieve their outcomes.

Many of the responsibilities of the SRC are related to being strong leaders within our school. For example, the SRC is responsible for running each morning assembly, as well as the fortnightly whole-school assembly. They learn skills in time management, public speaking and working collaboratively with teachers and students.