

Bexhill Public School

Small School, Strong Values, Excellent Opportunities



Information Booklet



Welcome to Bexhill Public School. We are committed to helping all our students realise their full potential.

Welcome from our Principal

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

A warm welcome to our school. I know that your association with us will be positive and benefit your child both socially and academically. There are many advantages to enrolling your child in a small school. Our small school community provides a close working relationship between students, staff and parents. Older students support their younger peers, develop independence and take on positions of responsibility and leadership, allowing them to make a real contribution to the quality of school life. Our experienced staff are committed to providing high quality, engaging twenty first century learning opportunities.

Bexhill Public School is part of the First North Community which also includes Clunes, Upper Coopers Creek, Rosebank, Eureka and Eltham Public Schools. This alliance sees combined enrolments of over 400 students, giving staff, students and parents the advantage associated with a much larger school, without having to forfeit our sense of community and identity. We have "the best of both worlds"! Children have the opportunity to work with students and staff from these schools enabling social interaction with a greater number of peers through excursions, enrichment days, sporting & cultural events.

Our small school maintains an enrolment of around 100 students. This is an optimum size to cater for the social and academic needs of students, but still small enough to maintain the family feel which we value.

If this is your first time as a parent of a school aged child you may feel as apprehensive as your child about the first day. That is natural and the best way to prepare yourself is by asking lots of questions and talking to other parents and staff. Our school is most welcoming, with an experienced staff to guide and support you and your child.

Our committed staff look forward to meeting you and working with your child in the upcoming year.

Helen Craigie, Principal



School Staff

Principal—Helen Craigie
Assistant Principal—Wendy Brierley

Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten	Wendy Brierley
Year 1	Clare Stirling
Year 2	James Clarke
Year 3 / 4	Trish Jones
Year 5 / 6	Bill Barry
Library & Learning Support	Helen Craigie

Other School Staff

School Counsellor	Jen Gunn
SLSO	Cheryl Hollands
Reading Recovery	Louisa Clifford
School Administrative Officer	Leonie Aafjes
School Administrative Support	Juanita Joseph
General Assistant	Doug Jones
After School Co-ordinator	Kath Degier



**Mrs Craigie & Mrs Brierley with our
2017 School Captains**

Bell Times

Morning Supervision Commences	8:45am
School Commences	9:30am
Lunch	11:30-12:30pm
Recess	2:30-2:50pm
School Concludes	3:30pm
Bus Supervision Concludes	4:00pm



Term Dates

2017

Term 1: Monday 30 January—Friday 7 April
Term 2: Wednesday 26 April—Friday 30 June
Term 3: Tuesday 18 July—Friday 22 September
Term 4: Monday 9 October—Friday 15 December

2018

Term 1: Tuesday 30 January—Friday 13 April
Term 2: Tuesday 1 May—Friday 6 July
Term 3: Tuesday 24 July—Friday 28 September
Term 4: Monday 15 October—Wednesday 19 December



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Attendance

All students are required to attend school on each day. This is a legal requirement. Students MUST have all absences explained by either a note, phone call, or in person. The school is legally required to keep accurate attendance rolls with explanations noted for absences.

No students are permitted to leave the school grounds without written consent from their parent or guardian. Parents/Carers picking up children during school hours MUST come through the front office to inform the office staff and pick up a leave pass.

Assemblies

Assemblies are usually held weekly being run by our student leaders. Students showcase class work or perform an item to receive positive feedback for their efforts. Merit certificates are also presented to students. Parents, relatives and friends are always welcome to attend. The weekly newsletter sent home each week provides details of assembly times and dates.



Banking

School Banking is available

Canteen

Our canteen is run by volunteers and operates once a week. Working at the canteen is a great way to meet and interact with other parents, children and staff. If your schedule doesn't allow you to work at the canteen, there is the option of sending home baking to school on a Monday morning to be made available for purchase by the students. A canteen menu is available on the school website.



Change of Contact Information

The school must be notified in writing of any change of address, telephone number (work and home), or emergency contact information. It is important to keep the list up to date in case of emergency,

Class Organisation

Classes are organised to maximise educational outcomes for all students. Class organisation may vary from year to year depending on external factors, such as staffing allocation, physical resources and student enrolment figures.

Communication between Home & School

- **School Newsletter:** A weekly newsletter is issued to keep you informed of events and activities involved in the school and usually contains photos of student learning activities.
- **School Website:** Our school website offers information about the school, updated photos, our Annual School Report and other handy parent information.
- **Phone / Visit / Email:** Please feel free to ring the school or send an email to arrange meetings with staff.
- **School Facebook Page**

- **Parent Information Session:** In conjunction with our annual Welcome Barbeque, these are held at the beginning of each year to give parents the opportunity to meet with your child's classroom teacher and other parents in your child's class.

- **Parent / Teacher / Student 3 Way Interviews:** Interviews are formally held mid-year and are welcome at any other time of the year. Interviews are a wonderful chance for you to see how your child is progressing in their learning. Student portfolios are also presented at interviews.



Concerns and Queries

Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns or queries they might have about any aspect of school life. Issues can usually be resolved easily at school by discussing any concerns with your child's classroom teacher or the Principal.



Curriculum

Primary learning includes whole-class, group and individual activities designed to develop an inquiring mind and develop learning skills to equip, engage and challenge students. Literacy and numeracy are the building blocks of learning and that is why English and Mathematics take up half of students' learning time in primary school. Kindergarten to Year 6 focuses on six key learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science & Technology
- History & Geography
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education
- Creative Arts (Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts)

Our school will work towards ensuring that young people are prepared with the capacity to think, problem solve and thrive in a changing society as 21st century learners. Our learning spaces are future-focused learning environments, and are adapting to the continual changes in technology.

All NSW public schools are guided by the NSW Board of Studies (BOSTES) curriculum, which incorporates the Australian Curriculum. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage, there are skills, knowledge and a level of understanding the each student should develop.

- Early Stage 1 refers to Kindergarten
 - Stage 1 includes Years 1 and 2
 - Stage 2 includes Years 3 and 4
 - Stage 3 includes Years 5 and 6

Student academic progress is also mapped along the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Continuums.

Environmental Education

Bexhill prides itself on award winning environmental programs and offers regular life skills in sustainability. Opportunities include maintaining vegetable/herb gardens, a snack track (fruit & bush tucker trees) and caring for chickens. We have strong connections with Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre and Southern Cross University to further enhance our Environmental Sustainability programs.



Students take their own rubbish home if it cannot be recycled in our compost waste. Each Wednesday students are encouraged to pack a “Nude Food” lunch with no rubbish items in their lunch. Solar Panels provide the school with renewable energy.



The Waste / Water Wise Education Program consistently recognises Bexhill for its great work in waste management, plus it provides interactive and fun learning opportunities, and helps save money through lower energy and water use.

Excursions

Engaging excursions, linked to the curriculum, are offered throughout the school year for all students. With sufficient interest, the following major excursions are offered on a rotating basis.

Stage 2 (Year 3/4)

Odd Year—Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre

Even Year—Brisbane

Stage 3 (Year 5/6)

Odd Year—Maranatha Outdoor Adventure Centre

Even Year—Canberra

School Houses

All students are allocated a House where they earn points throughout the year for positive behaviour, sporting events and other school functions. House members are encouraged to wear their house colours at appropriate events. Generally, all members of a family are allocated to the same house.

Bennett—Blue and Withers—Yellow



Immunisation

When enrolling a child, parents are requested to provide an Immunisation History Statement (IHS). Parents may request an IHS by contacting the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809. A child without an IHS will not be prevented from enrolling in primary school, however children without proof of immunisation may be asked to stay home during an outbreak of vaccine preventable diseases.

Library

Bexhill Public School offers a variety of rich texts and engaging library lessons. We are fortunate enough to have a wonderfully resourced library and students are encouraged to regularly borrow books.

All students participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge and have access to a wide range from the Premier's Booklist.



The school also offers the opportunity to purchase from Scholastic Australia Book Club each term and holds an annual Book Week celebration where children are encouraged to dress as their favourite character.



Medications at School

Only medication prescribed by a doctor may be administered at school. It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure that medication left at school is not out of date. All medication MUST be left at the school office and accompanied by a note with the child's name, dosage and time required.



Music and Drama

The school has a well-developed Creative & Performing Arts Program. Students have the opportunity for musical tuition at our school, conducted by the Lismore Conservatorium of Music.

Each year Bexhill and other local schools display their talents at the Lismore Performing Arts Festival and the Lismore Show.



Senior students have also have the opportunity to participate in the Small Schools Choir, which performs locally and at the Sydney Opera House. All students may be involved in the School Choir.



Out of Hours School Care

Before and after school care is available at Bexhill Public School for school aged children, Kindergarten to Year 6. Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebates are available for those who qualify through Centrelink. A healthy breakfast and afternoon tea are provided along with a wide range of fun activities.

Hours of Operation are as follow:

Before School—6:30am-9:00am
After School—3:30pm-6:30pm

If you are interested in this service, please contact Kath Degier 0424 436 474.

Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)

The P&C provides a vital link between school, community and families. The P&C Association is open to all, and provides opportunities to actively participate and contribute to school life. It is also a great opportunity to meet and interact with other parents and staff.

Meetings: General meetings are held monthly. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is generally held in February.

Fundraising: The P&C Association assists the school purchase books, materials and equipment that are essential for the successful running of the school's educational programs. Major fundraisers have included Movie Night, Trivia Night, Pie Drives, Bunnings BBQs and Sports Day Canteens.



Parent Participation

Parents are always most welcome to assist with a number of activities. Your assistance will be welcome and appreciated by the teachers and students.

Permission Notes and Money

Notes and payment for special events, excursions and visiting performances are collected by the classroom teacher. It needs to be enclosed in a sealed envelope with the student's name, the event and amount written on it. Written consent is required for each individual excursion.

Reading Recovery

Students experiencing difficulty with reading in Year 1 may be given the opportunity to participate in the Reading Recovery Program with a trained tutor. This is an intensive 20 week program.



Religious Education (Scripture)

Scripture classes are provided by authorised representatives of approved religious groups to students. Scripture classes are held each Wednesday, Catholic, Uniting & Baha'i classes are offered at Bexhill. Students who nominate not to attend Scripture classes attend Non-Scripture or Ethics depending on year level.

Reporting to Parents

Reports are issued at the end of each Semester (end of Term 2 and end of Term 4). Parent / Teacher / Student 3 Way interviews occur at the end of Semester 1, and by request at the end of Semester 2. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child's progress at any time by making an appointment with the classroom teacher. Your child's teacher will appreciate receiving information about your child's health or any other matter that may affect student learning at school.

Road Safety

Children being picked up will be supervised at the main gate (Withers Street). In the interest of student safety, parents must collect their child at the gate and walk them to the car. We ask that parents observe the parking signs in order for the bus route to remain clear. Please remember - NO parking or stopping across the driveway at any time. Parents and students are requested not to enter the staff car park for safety reasons.

School Contributions

Your contribution allows for the purchase of books, materials and equipment that are essential for the running of educational programs. The fee is reviewed annually and is due at the beginning of each year.



School Counsellor

A School Counsellor visits the school on a regular basis and is available, upon request, to discuss areas of concern related to your child. In cases where the school perceives a need for counselling of students, parent consent is obtained prior to counselling taking place.

Sick / Injured Students

Sick or injured students should advise the classroom teacher or the teacher on playground duty. On the teacher's recommendation the student will report to sick bay for attention. When necessary, parents will be contacted. In the event of a serious injury, an ambulance will be requested and parent/s will be notified immediately.



Special Events

Term 1

- *Swimming Carnival
- *Welcome BBQ
- *P&C Annual General Meeting
- *Southern Cross University Science Program
- *MILO Cricket
- *Harmony Day Celebrations
- *Life Education
- *Interrelate Health Program
- *Sporting Schools Program

Term 2

- * First North Cross Country
- * Biggest Morning Tea
- * Grandparents Open House
- * Student Reports
- * Parent / Teacher Interviews
- * Bexhill Public School Athletics Carnival
- * Multicultural Public Speaking Competition
- * Premier's Sporting Challenge
- * NAIDOC Celebrations
- * Sporting Schools Program

Term 3

- * First North Athletics Carnival
- * Education Week / Book Week
- * Performing Arts Festival
- * Spelling Bee
- * Young Communicator's Award
- * Gymnastics Program
- * Jump Rope for Heart
- * Premier's Reading Challenge
- * Brisbane / Dorrroughby Excursion
- * Sporting Schools Program

Term 4

- * Swimming Program
- * Kindergarten Orientations
- * Student Reports
- * School Concert
- * Movie Making
- * Canberra / Maranatha Excursion



Sport

Skills based PE skills programs are conducted to meet the needs of our students. Participation is the focus at Bexhill Public School. We provide opportunities for children to develop their skills and fitness through regular organised activities. Weekly sport often combines groups with children of all ages. There are opportunities for children to participate in team sports and compete at PSSA zone, district, regional and state level.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Students in Years 3-6 are eligible to be elected by their class peers. Issues for school improvements are brought to meetings and discussed. The SRC also organise and host fun days to raise money for charities and school resources. The SRC are an integral part of the decision making process of the school.

Student Wellbeing Policies and Procedures

Student wellbeing encompasses many programs that meet the personal, social and learning needs of students. At Bexhill Public School, these include:

- Positive Reward Systems Specific Programs, such as You Can Do It and the Student Representative Council
- Effective Management Procedures
- Open Communication between Students, Staff & Students
- Leadership and Mentoring



Technology

The school is well resourced, utilizing innovative technology, quality teaching elements and 21st century learning opportunities. Our highly motivated and experienced staff use these tools to effectively educate students. Children are given exposure to a wide range of programs that ensure all students are assisted in reaching their full potential.

Modern technology used in our school includes Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms, iPads, laptops and video conferencing facilities.

Transportation

The school bus offers a safe and friendly trip to Bexhill Public School. Bus routes to Bexhill Public School include Lismore, Richmond Hill, Clunes, Rosebank and McLeans Ridges.

It is vital that the school office be made aware of any changes to afternoon travel arrangements via a phone call or a note.



Uniform

As a part of the Bexhill Uniform Policy and Sun-Safe Policy, children are expected to wear full school uniform. Uniforms may be purchased through the P&C Association. An order form is available from the school office. A uniform pool also operates at the school. Contact the school office for further details.

REGULAR UNIFORM (Monday-Thursday)

BOYS	GIRLS
Light Blue Polo Shirt	Blue Check Shirt
Dark Grey Shorts	Navy Blue Shorts or Skorts
Navy Blue Wide Brimmed Hat	Navy Blue Wide Brimmed Hat
Grey Socks	White Socks
Footwear: Black shoes	
Winter: Dark Navy Blue Zip Jacket / Navy Blue Pullover Jumper / Trousers or Track Pants (Dark Grey for Boys, Navy Blue for Girls)	

SPORTS UNIFORM (Friday)

Gold Polo Shirt
Navy Blue or Black Shorts
Navy Blue Wide Brimmed Hat
Footwear: Joggers

