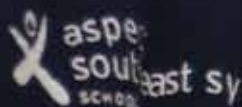




**aspect**  
South East  
Sydney School



Every **aspect**  
of our school

**a different  
brilliant®**

Understanding,  
engaging and celebrating  
the strengths, interests and  
aspirations of people  
on the autism spectrum.

## Acknowledgment of Country

Aspect (Autism  
Spectrum Australia)  
acknowledges the  
Traditional Custodians  
of the lands on which  
we work and live.

We pay our respect to  
their Elders past and  
present.



**aspect**  
South East  
Sydney School

**Aspect South East Sydney School**  
4 Monterra Ave  
Peakhurst Heights NSW 2210

**Phone: (02) 9534 4758**



**Welcome to Aspect South East Sydney School.**

**We understand the uniqueness of every child, value their individual strengths, interests and aspirations and we celebrate the 'different brilliant' of everyone.**

# Meet our Principal

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I am honoured to introduce you to our extraordinary multi-campus school through this prospectus, where you will discover the remarkable journey of over 200 students, all of whom are autistic, as they navigate the many pathways we offer from Kindergarten to Year 12.

At Aspect SES, we are dedicated to providing highly individualised education that recognizes the diverse strengths and talents of our students while following the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum. An inclusive and carefully crafted autism friendly environment is key to ensure student success.

We strive for academic achievement while fostering social and emotional growth. We are dedicated to equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed and provide high teacher to student ratios across our school. Generalisation of skills and transition pathways from Aspect SES is always a key consideration within individualised planning.

As the Principal of Aspect SES, I am proud to lead a team of passionate teachers, support staff and therapists who are committed to quality education specifically designed for Autistic individuals.

In our school, we celebrate diversity and promote a sense of belonging. We encourage open communication between parents, guardians, and the school community because we firmly believe that a collaborative approach is the key to our students' success.

As you explore our prospectus, I invite you to note the flexibility we provide within our educational setting as well as the academic growth we celebrate.

Thank you for choosing Aspect South East Sydney School as your partner in education. We look forward to you contacting our school so we can provide more information.

Joanne Tisdell  
School Principal

# About our school

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**We offer a warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment for students on the autism spectrum. Our School provides education for over 200 students on the autism spectrum across twelve sites. Approximately seventy students are enrolled at the main school sites which are located at Peakhurst, Loftus and Marrickville.**

The remaining students are enrolled in the satellite program. The satellite program are specialised autism specific classes located within mainstream Department of Education and Sydney Catholic school sites. Generally, there are two classes within the Primary setting, one Kindergarten to Year 2 (Infants Class) and one class Year 3 to Year 6 (Primary Class). Primary Satellite Classes at Aspect South East Sydney School are located in the Eastern Suburbs, Sutherland Shire and Inner West.

There are two Satellite High School Programs which are located in the Menai, Regents Park and Auburn Regions. These classes provide education for students from years 7 to 12 who require a life skills Curriculum.

We work with a student's interest areas to be able to motivate them to achieve their personal best. We have created a setting where the unique strengths and interests of all students is used to drive their learning. We are a vibrant school that thrives on personalising learning and using evidence based and informed best practice in autism. Students are encouraged to become self-determined learners through the provision of individualised and tailored learning programs.

Our highly skilled staff are committed to continual improvement and value the importance of positive home and school relationships.

## **Focusing on transitions**

The primary focus of Aspect schools is to help students develop the skills to become as independent as possible and to enable them to succeed in the wider community. Aspect South East Sydney School has a transition focus aimed at preparing children and young people for non-autism specific educational environments, whether this is in mainstream, supported classes or general disability classes.

Future planning and transition from an Aspect school into a non-autism specific education setting or into a post school program is part of the Individual Plan (IP) process for each student and their parents and carers. The student's readiness for transition and the type of placement most suitable for each individual student will be discussed with their parents, and carers responsible at each student's Individual Plan (IP) meeting.

## **Planning made personal**

Individualised planning is the most critical consideration in educational intervention for individuals on the autism spectrum. While all children on the autism spectrum share many common traits, each individual child possesses his or her own unique profile of strengths, difficulties and learning styles.<sup>1</sup>

A 'one size fits all' approach will never meet the needs of all students at all times. Rather, Aspect recognises the importance of individualised planning in promoting the potential of every learner.

Individualised Plans (IP) form the cornerstone of the approach adopted in Aspect schools. IPs are developed collaboratively with parents and students and are based on developmental and/or functional assessment. The individual planning process is ongoing and dynamic.

*1. Le Roux et al., 1998; Siegel, 2003.*





## Inside our classrooms

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Typically, classes are small, with around six students, so everyone gets more intensive individual support.

The classroom environment is purpose-built and carefully structured, with clearly defined work stations and autism-specific supports and strategies – such as calming spaces, key visuals and established routines.

Our classrooms at our Peakhurst site have been upgraded after consultation with people on the autism spectrum to create contemporary autism friendly learning spaces such as acoustic panelling to reduce noise, natural lighting and engaging play spaces.

We have a high school program that includes work education, work experience and travel training.



*We run coffee mornings, parent groups, grandparent groups and things like that so parents can support each other. We've had parents connect as Facebook groups and do play dates."*

– STAFF MEMBER

*"The teachers communicate with me whenever something happens, both positive and negative. I have found that its been really good. It made me realise that I have made the right decision."*

– PARENT

*"They transitioned him from the main site at the end of the year last year, and he went to satellite class at the beginning of year 2. He was really nervous about another move. So, they did a lot of work to help him establish a sense of safety, give him all of the information about what he could expect, give him options, and what he could do when he's feeling overwhelmed.*

*He was really into Harry Potter then. The teacher at the satellite class actually sent a letter in the school holidays to my son saying that he has been accepted into the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry."*

– PARENT

Our purpose-built schools located in Peakhurst, Loftus and Marrickville are the ideal location to start your child's education journey in a close-knit, caring community.

# Why choose our school?

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## We understand autism like no other school

Aspect has been leading the way in providing services to people on the autism spectrum for 50+ years – and we offer the largest autism-specific education program in Australia. Our students benefit from decades of experience and research into how to best support people on the autism spectrum. Everything we do is evidence-informed and aims to give students the best opportunities possible throughout their lives.

## Get a great education, tailored to you

Aspect is a registered and accredited school with highly trained, capable teachers who are passionate about what they do. We follow the NSW Curriculum and we carefully adapt learning and development based on each individual student's strengths and interests. Every student therefore has a positive experience that is personalised for them.

## A community where you'll feel right at home

We're more than a school – we're a close-knit, caring community of families and carers with similar experiences. When you join us, you'll have an instant support network to share your journey with Aspect and beyond. Together, we share experiences and advice and celebrate milestones and achievements.

## The conversation is always open

Communication is a key part of a student's education to make sure we're on the same page – and at Aspect, we're open, honest and supportive at all times. We encourage ongoing two-way conversations with every family, so it's never hard to bring up an issue or ask a question. After all, we're here to help.

## The journey doesn't end with us

A student's education journey usually has a few key transition points, and at Aspect, we are here to support you through these times of change.

That includes coming into our school, and going out of our school into other educational environments. We also support students for up to 12 months after they've transitioned out of an Aspect school.

## We work in partnership with the 'home team'

In 2022 Aspect finalised our Working in Partnership Charter which provides an overarching set of principles to guide Working in Partnership at Aspect. This charter has been rolled out across the organisation and provides guidance and support to Autistic and non-Autistic staff around what working in partnership looks like.





*"As a parent, just knowing that she'd be supported, knowing that she's somewhere where she's understood, and knowing that the teachers are working as a team to help bring out the best in my child... it's been amazing."*

– PARENT



# Your need-to-knows

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## School hours

Official school hours depend on what campus you attend. Usually these are from 8.45–2.45 or 9.00–3.00pm..



## Wet weather days

In the event of wet weather, students will work and play inside their classroom or the gym, supervised at all times by Aspect staff.



## Timetable

Each term parents will receive a copy of the class timetable as well as a term overview.



## Parent info and meetings

Each term parents will receive a copy of the class timetable as well as a term overview.

'Meet the Teacher' events for parents are held in term one as well as open classrooms throughout the year.

Individual Planning meetings are held with the teacher and any external therapists in term one with a review in term three



## What to wear

Aspect students are encouraged to wear the full Aspect South East Sydney School uniform at all times. Please contact the school directly regarding uniforms.



## Drop off and pick up

Students are transported to and from school via parents and Assisted School Transport via Department of Education.



## Staying in touch

TASS Parent Lounge is our official administrative communication system. This is used to report student absences, changes of address and important updates. Teachers and parents can also liaise using the See-Saw app for day to day updates. If there are any important forms or notes that need to be completed and returned, they'll be sent home through TASS Parent Lounge. If there's ever an urgent matter you need to discuss, just call the school office on (02) 8556 5800.



# How our enrolment works:

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1.

## Come to a school info session

Give us a call on (02) 8556 5800 to find out when the next one will be held.

2.

## Join the wait list

To register a student, just fill out a registration form and pay a \$200 registration fee. You can get the form at the school info session or by contacting the school.

3.

## A spot opens up

When a position becomes available at the school, the School Enrolment Committee considers all the students on the waitlist. This decision is made based on a number of factors – it's not simply on a 'first come, first served' basis.

4.

## Family interview

Before a student is officially offered a place, they may be invited to meet with our team (together with family or carers).

5.

## Enrolment offer

Once there's a place available, we'll send a formal letter of offer and an Enrolment Contract to the student's parents or guardians. You'll need to accept the offer by signing and returning the Enrolment Contract and paying the non-refundable enrolment fee.

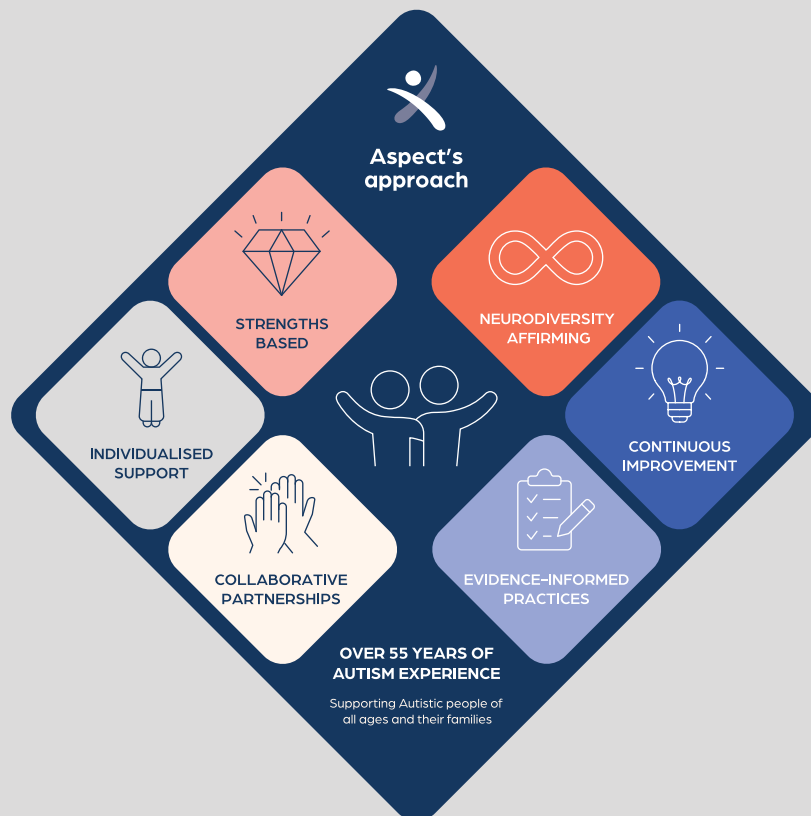
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## Who is eligible?

### Eligible students:

- Are Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or hold an eligible Australian visa.
- Have had a formal diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in the last two years.

*When a child is deemed eligible, they will be registered on the school's waiting list. The order of placement on the waiting list does not determine the order of an enrolment offer.*



# Aspect's approach

Aspect's approach draws on 55 years of expertise in supporting Autistic people of all ages and their families. It outlines the key principles that guide how we provide best practice supports and services to Autistic participants, students, and their families or carers. We take the time to understand how each Autistic person experiences the world, using their strengths, interests, and aspirations to shape individualised supports. Our practices are underpinned by the latest evidence, informed by the individual and their support networks, and are continuously adapted to meet each person's unique needs.

Every individual on the autism spectrum has the right to be an active participant in the community and to make choices about things that matter to them.

## The Five Point Star

The Five Point Star is our relationship-based approach to understanding and supporting students on the autism spectrum. The approach recognises the strengths of Autistic students – and also that Autistic students and non-Autistic people need to work together to understand each other, and to adapt to meet each other's preferences and needs. Aspect staff collaborate with students to develop their Five Point Star profiles, which are used to guide positive empathetic trusting relationships.

## Our guiding principles

- We focus on the strengths and interests of each student.
- We work in partnership with students, their families and their communities.
- We work to understand students from their perspective.
- Our approach is autism-specific.
- Our research focuses on best practice.
- We expect positive change and progress.
- Together we can achieve positive outcomes.

## Our values

We are passionate about people, about being positive and about what's possible.



Aside from our educational program, Aspect provides a number of services that may come in handy for students and families, now or down the track.

# What else does Aspect offer?

## Assessments

Aspect offers autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and cognitive assessments in person and via telehealth. Children diagnosed early can access services that will significantly improve their prospects for a meaningful life. An assessment provides teachers and schools with information that will allow them to more effectively support your child, and you will gain a better understanding of how your child processes the world.

Aspect also offers review assessments for those already diagnosed. These assessments provide updated information about their strengths and differences, and include recommendations to assist with support planning. Such an assessment can be useful at times of transition (e.g. when commencing primary school, high school or postschool planning) or to assist in applications for funding for autism (e.g. NDIS, Disability Support Pension, school supports, etc.).

## Therapy

Aspect Therapy is a registered NDIS provider with a large team of allied health professionals (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers) and educators.

Together, we develop and deliver individualised and small group autism-specific therapy and positive behaviour support.

## Workshops

Aspect offers a broad range of autism-related workshops and webinars for parents, carers, educators and health professionals. We deliver practical, real-world solutions to benefit families, communities, professionals and organisations.



For the full range of Aspect services, please scan the QR code or visit [aspect.org.au](https://aspect.org.au)



[aspect.org.au](https://aspect.org.au)  
+61 1800 277 328  
[customerservice@aspect.org.au](mailto:customerservice@aspect.org.au)

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