



aspect
South Coast
School



**a different
brilliant®**

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

Every **aspect**
of our school

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.



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Aspect South Coast School
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Corrimal NSW 2518

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Welcome to Aspect South Coast 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



Welcome!

Aspect South Coast School is a thriving learning community of students, families, teachers, teacher aides, a learning support team and school administration staff who are committed to providing a rich, challenging and rewarding education that is specifically designed for children on the autism spectrum.

At Aspect South Coast School, we believe that every child can achieve when given the right support, educational environment and time. The school's staff place a high value on literacy and numeracy as the building blocks for learning and success across the curriculum, and on providing opportunities for our students to prepare for life at school and beyond. We are committed to meeting the needs of children on the autism spectrum and supporting their families.

Aspect South Coast School has classes ranging from Kindergarten to Year 12, consisting of a main campus at Corrimal and satellite campuses in the following locations;

- St. Pius X Catholic Primary School, Unanderra (Kindergarten – Year 6)
- St. Paul's Catholic Primary School, Albion Park (Kindergarten – Year 6)
- Barrack Heights Public School (Kindergarten – Year 6)
- University of Wollongong Junior campus (Kindergarten – Year 2)
- University of Wollongong Senior campus (Years 7 – 12)

The main campus site at Corrimal caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Class composition is based on many factors, including learning levels, age, social, emotional and behavioural skills. The classes are not always year or stage-based as we review the individual learning profile of each student. Beyond main-site, we have a number of satellite classes with students ranging from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Aspect is a transitional school service and not a whole of school life service. Our aim is to work with students in a highly specialised setting and when ready, transition students to a less specialised education setting where these skills can be further developed and generalised in the wider education community.

We aim to understand, engage and celebrate the strengths, interests and aspirations of each student through the development of each student's Individual Plan using the Aspect Five Point Star, which focuses on each student's individual likes, preferences and strengths. In doing so, we get to know each child deeply, sharing and celebrating their successes along their educational journey.

I am proud to be the Principal of Aspect South Coast School; a caring and thriving learning community where we see each child as "a different brilliant!". We would be happy to meet with you at one of our Parent Information sessions to discuss what Aspect South Coast School can do for you and your child.

Rowena Perritt – School Principal

About our school

We offer a warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment for students on the autism spectrum. Our school operates from our main site at Corrimal, NSW. We also have 4 satellite campuses that are specialised autism specific classes located within mainstream Department of Education or Catholic schools. These satellite classes are located in Barrack Heights, Albion Park, Unanderra and the University of Wollongong (UoW).

Our school caters for over 110 students from Kindergarten through to Year 12 and delivers a mainstream school curriculum with embedded deliverable goals relating to each child's individual learning areas. We work with a student's strengths and interests to motivate them to achieve their personal best.

We have created a setting where the unique strengths and interests of all students are 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

Aspect regards transition as a necessary part of every student's educational journey. The primary focus of our school is to act as a transitional setting that builds on student's skills and independence enabling them to transition to less specialised settings with comprehensive and personalised support. Approximately 20 percent of our students successfully transition each year. 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, 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, guardians or carers at each student's meeting.

Planning made personal

Individualised planning is the most critical consideration in educational support 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.¹

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

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.

We take part in a range of community activities such as swimming, gymnasium visits, excursions, camps and regular trips into the community to practice skills learnt at school.

We offer recently upgraded facilities including new classrooms, a library, new playgrounds, a

multi-purpose hall, a sensory room and upgraded bathroom facilities.

A high school program that includes work education, work experience and travel training opportunities. We currently provide a life skills curriculum for the attainment of the RoSA and HSC. This includes mandatory Key Learning Area subjects modified to meet the needs of our students. Classes at the University of Wollongong (UoW) include the junior campus for students in Kindergarten to Year 2, and a senior campus. These classes access facilities at the UoW including the Discovery Space.



We run coffee mornings, parent groups, grandparent groups and things like that so parents can support each other. We've had parents connect on 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 school located in the South Coast region is the ideal location to start your child's education journey in a close-knit, caring community.

Why choose our school?

We understand autism like no other school

Aspect has been leading the way in providing services to people on the autism spectrum for more than 55 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 are here to help you.

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 moving 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, we 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



School hours

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

'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 Coast 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 special transport.



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) 4285 2393.



How our enrolment works:

1.

Come to a school info session

Give us a call on (02) 4285 2393 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

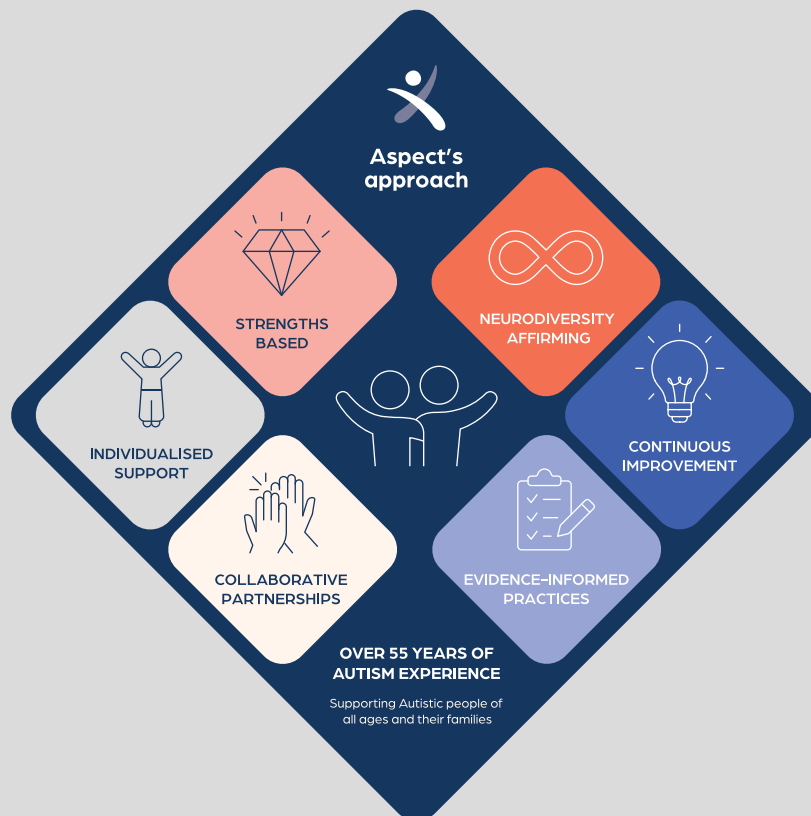
Once there's a place available, we'll send a formal letter of offer and an Enrolment Contract to the student's parents or guardians. You'll need to accept the offer by signing and returning the Enrolment Contract, and paying the non-refundable enrolment fee.

Who is eligible?

Eligible students:

- Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or hold an eligible Australian visa.
- Has had a formal autism diagnosis 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



aspect.org.au
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