



aspect
Western 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.



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Aspect Western Sydney School
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Welcome to Aspect Western 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



Welcome to Aspect Western Sydney School, where we take great pride in providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all our students. Whether you are an existing family or joining us for the first time, I want to take a moment to share with you what makes our school truly special.

Aspect holds over 55 years of expertise in supporting children, young people, and adults on the autism spectrum. At Aspect Western Sydney School, we are dedicated to fostering a culture where every student is celebrated for the unique individual they are. Our students inspire us each and every day with their creativity, resilience, and individuality. Their growth and achievements drive us as educators to provide them with the best personalised education possible, ensuring that each child has the opportunity and support they need to reach their full potential and it is our privilege to be part of their journey.

As leaders in autism education, we ensure that our teaching approach is tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students. With small class sizes and a team of specialised teaching staff, we can give each student the dedicated support, guidance and focus to succeed and provide a learning environment where they feel supported, valued, and understood.

At Aspect Western Sydney School, we truly believe that our families are the heart of everything we do. We understand that a child's educational journey is most successful when we work in close partnership with the families who know them best. We are committed to providing an environment where your child feels supported, understood, and valued every step of the way.

Our collaborative approach ensures that every child's experience here is holistically meeting their academic, social and emotional needs. To create an enriching and fulfilling schooling environment that empowers them to thrive in all aspects of life.

Whether you are a long-standing member of our school community or considering Aspect for your child's education, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for entrusting us with this important role. As we continue to foster a positive and inclusive environment, we are excited to welcome new families and work together to provide an exceptional educational experience. Our commitment is to ensure every student is inspired to reach their full potential, and we look forward to partnering with you to make this journey a success for our students.

Michelle Zikmundovsky
School Principal

About Western Sydney School

Established in 1984, we offer a safe, supportive learning environment for students on the autism spectrum. Our school caters for close to 140 students across the Greater Western regions of Sydney. Our school has a main school site at Wetherill Park which consists of six primary classes and the administration base, as well as seven primary satellite classes and six high school classes within NSW Department of Education and Catholic Schools.

Our highly skilled staff are committed to continual improvement and value the importance of positive home/school relationships. We work closely with students and their families to develop confidence and skills that will support transition to less specialised settings, and inclusion into a student's local community in the future.

Aspect Western Sydney School is committed to the provision of a contemporary and progressive education program, specifically for students on the autism spectrum. 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.

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 Western

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.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.

Our school has recently undergone major renovation works. All classrooms 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 also have a new sensory room. This space features interactive and tactile panels, bespoke lighting and sound effects, as well as educational projections and soft play equipment.



"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

"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

Our purpose-built school 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 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'

Aspect has a 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 he'd be supported, knowing that he's somewhere where he'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

School Hours are different for each site. Please contact the office to confirm the times for each class.



Wet weather days

In the event of wet weather, students will work and play inside their classroom or the canteen, 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. High School parents will receive a copy of the class timetable.



Parent info and meetings

IP meetings are held with the teacher in Term 1 and a review meeting in Term 3.

Teachers, Coordinators and families have the opportunity to meet during Parent information sessions. These sessions are regularly held to support families and students. We also have a Parent & Families engagement group that meets once a term to create social opportunities for students and families.



What to wear

Uniforms vary between classes. Contact the office for further information.



Drop off and pick up

Students can be dropped off and picked up from school by parents and carers. Assisted Transport options are also available for some families. Please contact the office for further information on Assisted Transport.



Staying in touch

Our main form of communication for teachers and families is through a communication book which all students are given on commencement of school. Some classes use the See-saw app as another form of communication. Administrative information is communicated via Parent Lounge through the Orbit app which is Aspect's School management system. If there is an urgent matter, please call the school office on (02) 8786 3000.



How our enrolment works:

1.

Come to a school info session.

Join a Zoom school information session.

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 for a Zoom school info session.

3.

A spot opens up.

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

4.

Family interview.

Once a placement has been offered and verbally accepted, a transition interview will be held with the Coordinator to set your child up for success.

5.

Enrolment offer.

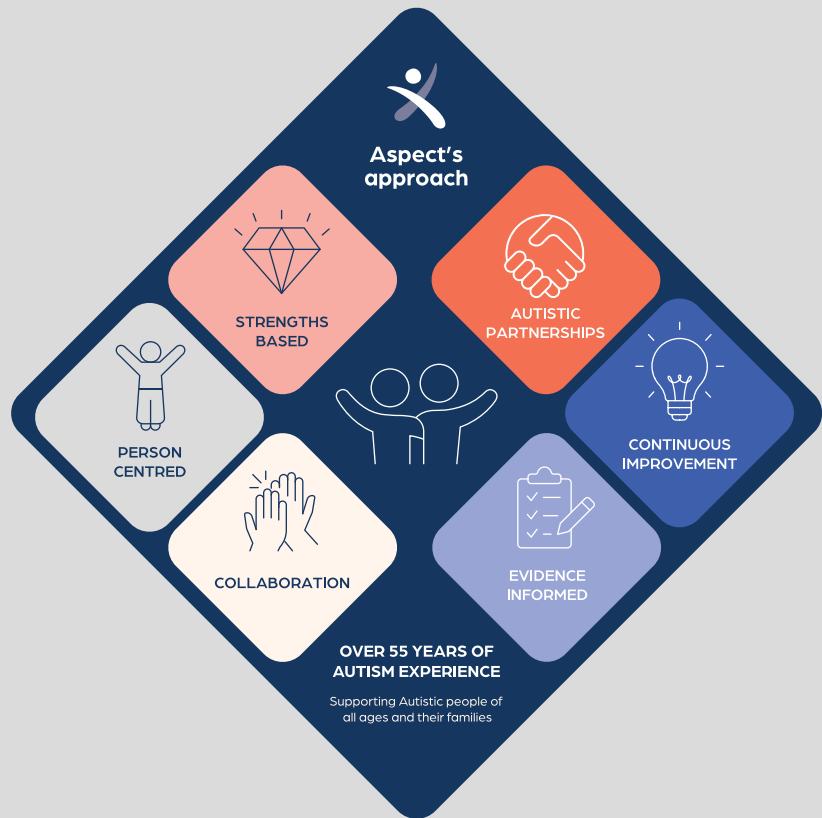
Once there's a place available, we'll send a formal letter of offer and an Enrolment Contract to the student's parents or guardians. You'll need to accept the offer by signing and returning the Enrolment Contract and paying the non-refundable enrolment fee.

Who is eligible?

Eligible students:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

What else does Aspect offer?

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.

Services include:

- Assessments for autism across the lifespan
- Therapy
- Support coordination
- Adult Community Services
- Workshops

For the full range of Aspect services, please scan the QR code or visit aspect.org.au



aspect.org.au
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