



Petersham Public School

Information Handbook

2025



Contact us

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STUDENT-CENTRIC

Online application form only asks questions relevant to the student.



USER-FRIENDLY

Form is intuitive, clear and progressed can be saved and resumed later



EASY ACCESS

Available through the school's website. Parents instantly know their in-area school.



SAFE & FLEXIBLE

The form is secure, and can be completed on multiple devices anywhere and anytime.

Online Enrolment Application

We encourage parents/carers to complete an application to enrol online.

To complete an online enrolment application, your child must be

- an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and
- living in the school's local enrolment area.

If your child does **not** live in the school's local enrolment area, you may complete an out-of-area application.

A link to begin an online enrolment application or an out-of-area application can be found in the *Enrolment* section of the school's website (<https://petersham-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/enrolment.html>).

How it Works

- The parent/carer completing the application must provide the child's main residential address and a contact email to begin the online process.
- A one-time security code will be sent to this email to authenticate the parent/carer against their email; the parent/carer can use this email address to resume the application at a later time.
- The dynamic form only requires parents/carers to complete the fields of the application relevant to their child.
- The form can take as little as 10 minutes to complete and is sent directly to the school administration staff at the school.
- Parents/carers will be emailed a PDF copy of the application immediately following the submission for their own records.
- School administration staff can then contact parents directly for any clarification required around the application.
- Enrolment applications will be finalised once the parent/carer has met with the school and provided all the relevant identity and medical documentation for the student.

Petersham Public School

Motto: Our Efforts Make Us

Petersham Public School is an inner urban primary school with eleven classes and approximately 250 students. Petersham PS provides a happy, safe and caring environment where children achieve to the best of their abilities and become reflective, responsible, independent learners.

The school is set on spacious, leafy grounds, with sporting facilities including tennis, netball and basketball courts and play equipment. A strong focus on excellence in teaching and learning, positive student and staff wellbeing and strong partnerships with parents and the wider community underpins the school's philosophy.



Our newly established Excellence in Inclusion and Wellbeing body is a partnership between parents, carers and staff which aims to provide support and voice to neuro-diverse students. To date, this committee has established a parent library, hired an additional Learning and Support Officer, arranged Amy Haddadi workshops and are in the process of sourcing guest speakers for 2025. Please contact Ms Morgan if you are interested in joining the committee.

Petersham Public School has a strong commitment to providing a holistic education, offering specialist programs in band, strings, recorders, dance, choir and a variety of sporting programs.

Curriculum differentiation to meet the diverse learning needs of students, integrating technology to enhance learning across the curriculum, and social/emotional learning programs are key focus areas for the school. Kitchen gardens, a sustainable outdoor learning area (SOLA) and a chicken enclosure have been established to support environmental and sustainability education, through partnerships between staff, students and parents/carers.

The average achievement of students is above the state average in the National Assessment Program and the school demonstrates sustained growth. There is a strong learning support program which meets the needs of all learners, including high potential and gifted students. There is an active parent community which provides consultation and input on initiatives and directions and raises funds to support programs and upgrade resources. An onsite Out of School Hours Care service, managed by a parent committee, works closely with the school to meet the needs of the community.

For more information and an insight into a day in the life of our students, you can view our mini film at <https://vimeo.com/454236548>



Principal's Message

Welcome to Petersham Public School on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people. Our school provides high quality education for students in Kindergarten to Year 6, with a strong focus on academic excellence, positive wellbeing, and creative and critical thinking. Our school's ethos reflects a holistic approach to education, focusing on the development of academic, social and emotional, creative and physical skills, knowledge and understandings in our students.

Petersham's values of Honesty, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Cooperation are reflected in the words and actions of our students, teachers and school community. Our school community places a high priority on wellbeing to underpin quality teaching and learning, and strong relationships between students, staff members and parents are recognised as the foundations of successful achievement at school. Our school motto, Our Efforts Make Us, represents the value placed on hard work and personal responsibility at Petersham.

Our dedicated, cohesive and talented team of teachers and support staff work collaboratively to provide our students with enriching and engaging educational experiences that cater to the individual needs of learners in their classrooms. Our school's strong focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum is evident in our students' scores in standardised testing, but more importantly in the high quality of achievement they demonstrate in the classroom.

Our teachers are future focused practitioners, who are dedicated to refining and developing their practice as educators. They flexibly integrate technology and incorporate innovative teaching strategies to ensure that our students will develop the necessary skills, knowledge and understandings to succeed and thrive in the rapidly changing world we live in.

Petersham is fortunate to enjoy the enthusiastic support of a highly engaged community. The parents, carers and families of our students are deeply invested in the school and its students, and they work closely with our staff members to enrich the life of the school and the education of the students in various ways. Our school is also developing links with the wider community in many ways, and we maintain a strong commitment to developing socially conscious and responsible citizens through the support of charitable causes.

Once again, welcome to Petersham Public School. We look forward to a positive partnership with you on your child's educational journey.

We encourage you to join our Petersham PS and P&C Whatsapp community for key announcements. Each class also has a Whatsapp group. Please email the P&C to be added to the class WhatsApp via hello@petershampandc.org.au or scan here for the combined WhatsApp community.

Beth Morgan - Principal



2021—2024 Strategic Improvement Plan

Strategic Direction One—Student growth and attainment

Purpose: To achieve expected growth in literacy and numeracy for all students with targeted use of school resources.

Initiative One: Whole School Assessment Schedule. Implement a whole school judgement process for analysing achievement and progress, including the use of comparative teacher judgement and digital assessment tools.

Initiative Two: Early and ongoing intervention. Target teacher and SLSO time and expertise to run ongoing learning interventions to narrow the achievement gaps between equity groups.

Strategic Direction Two—Quality Differentiation and Explicit Teaching

Purpose: To enhance student learning through targeted, explicit teaching.

Initiative One: Extending High potential and gifted students. Support every student to achieve their education potential through talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices.

Initiative Two: Individualised learning. Challenge and support student learning needs through targeted goal setting in literacy and numeracy.

Strategic Direction Three—Authentic Partnerships and Continuous Improvement

A planned approach to enhance student outcomes through quality relationships between staff, students, local schools and the community.

Initiative One: Targeted professional learning. A planned approach to enhance teacher practice and student outcomes through tailored professional learning.

Initiative Two: Community engagement. Engage in strong collaboration with parents, carers and external providers to inform and support continuity of learning.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the 2021—2024 Strategic Improvement Plan.



School Rules

Our school rules underpin our approach to student wellbeing and behaviour management.

Be Safe

- Behave in a manner that keeps yourself and others safe at all times.
- Play in designated areas.
- Always go to the toilet and on messages with another student.
- Tell an adult if you see something unsafe or find something dangerous.

Be Respectful

- Respect yourself, other people and the environment.
- Consider the feelings of others.
- Speak politely.
- Bullying, teasing, harassing and put downs are not acceptable.
- Respect property (your own, others' and the school's).

Cooperate

- Work together to solve problems.
- Follow instructions from school staff or other people in charge.

Do Your Best

- Apply yourself and try your best at everything you do.
- Be the best you can be in every situation.
- Represent the school proudly in the wider community.

School Hours

8:45am	Office opens
8:45am	Playground supervision starts
9:10am	Reminder bell for students to visit toilet and/or wash hands, then line up
9:15am	Classes start
11:15am	Lunch: supervised eating time
11:30am - 12:05pm	Lunch: break time
12:05pm	Reminder bell for students to visit toilet and/or wash hands, then line up
2:10pm - 2:30pm	Recess
2:30pm	Reminder bell for students to visit toilet and/or wash hands, then line up
3:15pm	School finishes
3:30pm	Office closes



WELCOME TO
PETERSHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL
our little community
2025 SCHOOL MAP



School Uniform

Wearing a school uniform encourages pride in the school, develops a sense of shared identity among students, and reinforces the school's values of Fairness, Respect and Responsibility.

Our P&C Association run our onsite Uniform Shop. All details can be found at—petershambandc.org.au



2025 Staff

Role	Staff Member
KB	Nomiki Bairaktaridis (M-Th), Areti Deligiannis (F)
KM	Donna Macphail
1/2D	Danny Marshall
1/2M	Bernadette McDermott
1/2N	Daniela Nobilia (M-W, F), Roukyh Akkawi (Th)
1/2W	Angela Wilson
3/4J	Joanna Jerez
3/4T	Amornsee Tawinwong (M-W,F), Angela Wilson (Th)
4/5CP	Jessica Clay (M-W), Nicole Phillips (W-F)
5/6B	Tim Barrett
5/6M	Eliza Matthews
Learning and Support +English as an Additional Language/Dialect	Franca La Rosa (M, Tu), Eva O'Rourke (W)
Teacher Librarian	Tim Bellamy
Creative and Performing Arts	Susan Sukkar (Tu, W)
I.T Coordinator	Geoff Corbett
SLSOs/Quick Smart Tutors	Melanie Bray Sarah Hannigan Melanie Parison Heather McDonald
Counsellor	Charlotte Scotton (W)
Business Manager	Kris Golds
School Office Managers	Sharon Rowe
School Administration Officer	Kristy Newcombe
General Assistant	Tony Vallelonga
Assistant Principal K-2	Nomiki Bairaktaridis
Assistant Principal 3-6	Amornsee Tawinwong
Assistant Principal Creative and Performing Arts	Susan Sukkar
Assistant Principal Learning and Support (including High Potential and Gifted learners plus attendance)	Jessica Clay
Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction	Roukyh Akkawi
Principal	Beth Morgan

Teaching and Learning Programs

Our teachers work collaboratively to plan and implement teaching and learning programs that cover the content mandated in the NSW Syllabus documents, across seven Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Personal Development, Health and PE
- Creative Arts



Teachers collaboratively develop a range of formative and summative assessment strategies to assess students' prior knowledge, guide the implementation of programs, and assess students' understanding at the conclusion of programs. Consistent teacher judgement is a key focus area of our teachers' collaborative practice.

All students collaborate with their teacher to set learning goals in English, Mathematics and a social/emotional learning goal. Learning goals are revised and updated through the year by students and teachers.

Reporting to Parents

Teachers report to parents twice a year, at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. Reports contain information about students' achievements across all Key Learning Areas, and their progress towards their personal learning goals.

Parent - teacher interviews are offered late in Term 1 or early in Term 2. This provides parents and teachers an opportunity to exchange information about students' strengths and areas for further focus prior to the Semester 1 report. Parents are welcome to contact the office and request an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss their child's progress at any other time during the year, as required.

Learning Support and Extension



Our school's Learning Support Team collaborate with teachers and parents to identify students who are experiencing difficulty, and students who require extension and enrichment. The Learning Support team works with families to tailor interventions and to meet individual learning needs.

These may include in-class support or withdrawal groups led by specialist teachers, focused on particular areas of need or extension; professional learning for teachers to develop their capacity to cater for students' needs; and/or referral to the school counsellor or external agencies for additional support or assessment.

Educational Technology

Teachers at Petersham Public School flexibly integrate technology into their practice to support quality teaching and enrich and enhance planned learning experiences. Students have structured, supervised access to a range of educational technology devices and software to support and extend their learning. A strong focus on STEM programs including coding, robotics and design and make projects exists across the school, with extensive resources in these area available to teachers and students.

All teaching spaces are high speed Wi-Fi enabled. The school maintains a fleet of portable and desktop devices including Windows PCs and laptops, Chromebook laptops and iPads. Petersham PS does not have a Bring Your Own Device system, and students are expected to check mobile devices into the office when arriving at school.

School Library

Our school library has an extensive range of fiction and non-fiction books, which are regularly updated and restocked. Our teacher librarian teaches weekly library classes, where students borrow books and learn research and information literacy skills, using both print and online sources. Students are encouraged to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge through the library teaching program.

The library is also open at lunchtime three days per week, for students to borrow books and access a range of resources.



Music Classes

All classes participate in a music lesson each week. These lessons are taught by a specialist creative arts teacher, who works at Petersham two days per week.



Students listen, play, sing and create and begin to read music in fun, interactive lessons. Each year, the school hosts musical performances by a variety of ensembles through the Musica Viva In Schools program, and students learn about the performers and their music in weekly lessons leading up to these performances.

Assemblies and Special Events

Every fortnight on Friday morning, we have whole school assemblies to celebrate students' success and recognise their achievements, and to communicate about events and matters of importance for our students, teachers and community. Parents are welcome to attend our assemblies, which are held at 9.15am under the COLA.

We also stage special events through the year, where we welcome our school community into our school for various occasions. These include Grandparent's Day, Education Week, Open Day, Performing Arts Showcase Concert, Recognition and Presentation Days.



Sustainability and Environment Programs

Petersham PS has a strong commitment to developing students' awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable practices. We have a range of Sustainable Outdoor Learning Areas, including the Garden Classroom, the Library Lawn, the Native Garden and Yarning Circle, Edible Garden Beds and the Chicken Coop, housing our much-loved brood of chooks.

Students, teachers, PACC (our OOSH service) and parents all contribute to the maintenance and development of these facilities. A Farm Gate Stall is held fortnightly, selling fresh eggs and produce from edible garden beds; classes take turns feeding chooks and collecting eggs; and teachers and students regularly engage in teaching and learning experiences in our outdoor learning areas.



Co-curricular Activities and Programs

Sport



Petersham PS is a member of the Balmain Primary School Sports Association (PSSA). Our students have opportunities to participate in a wide range of sporting experiences through Balmain PSSA, including weekly inter-school competitions in football, netball and AFL, and gala days in cricket, touch football, AFL, football and other sports.

School sports carnivals are held each year for swimming (usually in term 1), cross-country running (usually in term 2) and athletics (usually in term 3) with top performers qualifying to represent the school at Balmain District PSSA carnivals.

Each student is allocated a sport house at enrolment. These are:

- Banksia (green)
- Kurrajong (blue)
- Wattle (yellow)
- Waratah (red)

Choir

Our Choir Program includes Junior (Years 3 & 4) and Senior (Years 5 & 6) Choirs. Students audition for these groups at the beginning of each new school year. Details of these opportunities are communicated to students.

Sharing Our Facilities

Our school shares our facilities with several community and educational groups to provide extra-curricular learning opportunities.

Instrumental Music Programs

There are a wide range of Instrumental Music Ensembles available. The Band Program includes Training and Concert Bands; the Strings Program includes Stringlets, Junior and Senior String ensembles; the Recorder Program includes Junior Recorders and Recorder Consort. Our Instrumental Music Programs are administered by our P&C Association.

Ensemble rehearsals and tuition lessons are held on site before and after school. Additional fees are payable for IMP ensembles, tuition and instrument hire.

Details of these opportunities are communicated to current students in Term 4 and to new students during the orientation program.



Languages

Three languages are offered as after-school programs provided by community user providers: French (administered by Alliance Francaise) and Chinese (administered by Chinese Learning Centre). Additional fees are payable for these programs payable to each organisation. Details of these opportunities are advertised in our newsletters regularly during the year.

Other extra-curricular programs

Other extra-curricular programs provided by community user providers include tennis (lunchtime); chess (before school); and drama (after school).

Additional fees are payable for these programs payable to each organisation. Details of these opportunities are advertised in our newsletters regularly during the year.

Before & After School Care: PACC



Petersham Activities Centre for Children (PACC) is our on-site Before and After School Care provider (BASC). PACC caters for up to 95 students from 7am until 6pm Monday - Friday. PACC also offer Vacation Care programs during school holidays.

PACC has a stable and talented team of staff members, a dedicated building which has been recently refurbished, and is overseen by a parent committee which ensures all decisions are made in the best interests of the school community. Enquiries can be made to PACC on 9560 1030.

Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)

Petersham PS is fortunate to enjoy the strong support of a highly engaged parent community. The Petersham PS P&C Association is the official vehicle for the school's partnership with parents and community members. The P&C allows parents to have a voice in consultation processes for school planning and decision making, and stages a range of fundraising events which significantly supplement the school's budget and enable greater teaching and learning resources and opportunities for our students.

Our P&C administer our Uniform Shop, Canteen and Instrumental Music Programme.

Events organised by the P&C include a Welcome Barbecue (Term 1), Mother's and Father's Day Stalls and Breakfasts, Parent's Night Out (Term 3), Halloween Howler Disco and Fair (Term 4), Silver Coin Day supporting charity and the End of Year Lunch for students.

The P&C meets 1-2 times per term on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, in the school library. All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

For further details please visit petershampandc.org.au

Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE)

Every Friday morning, students have the opportunity to participate in Special Religious Education (SRE) classes, in accordance with NSW Department of Education policy. Special Education in Ethics (SEE) is also offered (the number of class groups is dependent on the number of volunteers available). Students who do not participate in SRE or SEE, will take part in Alternative Meaningful Activities (AMA - reading, homework and private study).

Office Information

Office hours are 8:45 am to 3:30 pm .

School Gates

All gates are kept locked during school hours (9:15am – 3:15pm). The only gate operational during school hours is via Hunter Street. For entry please follow the instructions at the gate.

Student leave procedures

If your child is away from school for any reason please email the office with your child's full name, class and reason for leave (eg: sick, family). Please email the school with absences on the day otherwise you will receive a text message before 10am informing you of an absence.

It is preferred that families do not take holidays during the school term. However, if you are taking your child on a holiday during the school term please email the school to obtain permission from the principal for the leave.

If you are bringing your child to school late or collecting them early please advise the school via email. Students must come to the school office to be signed in or out.

Communication between home and school

Email is the preferred mode of non-urgent communication with the office, as we have limited administrative staff and telephone lines to receive phone calls.



Newsletters, school payments, online forms and parent/carer communication

Our school engages the services of *School Bytes* who offer a simplified digital system for school payments and parent/carer communication.

Statement of Account, payment reminders, online forms and notifications will be sent directly to parents/carers via email.

Please ensure that your email address and contact details are up to date.

Parents/carers can also set up a *School Bytes* parent portal account.

Parents and carers without email access may request a hard copy of the Statement of Account, consent forms and newsletters.

Student Leadership

Students at Petersham PS have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through the Student Representative Council (SRC) and Year 6 Student Leadership positions.

All classes elect two representatives to the SRC each term. The SRC collaborate with Year 6 Student Leaders and staff to oversee environmental and fundraising initiatives.

In Year 6, eight students are elected as Student Leaders for the year (two School Captains, two Vice Captains and four Prefects). However all Year 6 students are given the opportunity to assume a leadership role suitable to them, including House Captains and Vice Captains (responsible for Sport), Music Captains, Technology, Environment and School Pride Officers and Library Monitors.

Statement of Account

Statement of Account can be accessed via the *School Bytes* parent portal, for fees payable for excursions, incursions and other paid programs which students participate in as part of planned teaching and learning programs. These include sporting, dance and gymnastics programs, musical performances and excursions and in-school experiences linked to units of work being studied in class.



Payments

School Bytes
Parent App
Available now!
Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.

Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news

Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

Online payment is the preferred method for payment. **Statement of Account / Activity notification** emails will include a **make a payment** link that will allow you to pay securely and easily via credit or debit card (Visa and Mastercard only). Online payments can also be made easily and securely via the *School Bytes* parent portal.

Health Care Procedures

If your child has any health conditions or needs which require medication or other forms of care at school, a Health Care Plan must be completed, in consultation with your doctor and the principal.

If your child needs to take medication for a short period of time, a prescribed medication form must be completed to permit school staff to administer the required medication. This form can be found on our school website.



Uniform Shop

Our P&C association run our onsite Uniform Shop. All details can be found at -

petershampanc.org.au

Lost Property

Lost property can be found near the Music Office at the top of the stairs in the brick building opposite the Hall. Small or precious items are kept at the office.



Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information.