



Caring for local children and families since 1874

Whorouly Primary School

School No. 1373

Celebrating 150 years of education in Whorouly

Information Booklet 2024

At

Whorouly Primary School
we value:

- Learning
- Relationships
- Persistence
- Respect
- Teamwork



Welcome
to
Whorouly
Primary
School

The Principal, staff, students and families of Whorouly Primary School would like to welcome you to our school.

Contact Us:

18 Church St,
Whorouly, 3735

whorouly.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Ph: (03) 57 271 363

Mob: 0467 793 905





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Welcome to Whorouly Primary School

At Whorouly Primary School we value:

- Learning
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Whorouly Primary School provides a caring, stimulating, cooperative and safe learning environment to allow children to reach their full potential. The school works to develop children's academic and social skills, self esteem, self confidence and individual responsibility.

Whorouly Primary School stresses the importance of high quality literacy and numeracy programs and small class sizes to be able to maximise learning for every child. We encourage the use of technology to support all learning with every student having access to their own laptop or desktop computer. The school provides programs in all domains of the Victorian Curriculum.

Students also participate in multi-age sessions working as a whole school group. Specialist teachers present the Library, Music, Science, Art and Italian programs. The classroom programs are enriched through camps, excursions, musical performances the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, STEAM Challenges and Ovens Learning Community (OLC Custer) activities.

Whorouly Primary School places great emphasis and value on being a community school with parents, students, teachers and community members and groups working together to provide a high quality education. We see ourselves as a school family and hope that you will as well. Many of our school programs could not operate without the support of parents.

We support our families by offering Outside school Hours Care (OSHC) before and after school care and a holiday program.

This booklet is designed to explain many aspects of our school and to assist families in making a smooth transition into the Whorouly Primary School community.

In 2024 we look forward to celebrating our 150th birthday.

Pauline McPherson
PRINCIPAL



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Whorouly
Primary School



About Our School:



Whorouly Primary School is located in the small rural community of Whorouly in the Ovens Valley between Wangaratta and Myrtleford in North Eastern Victoria, about 250 kilometres from Melbourne. Students are drawn from the town itself and a school bus service transports students from the surrounding district. We expect to have twenty-seven students enrolled in 2024.

The school strives to create a personalised learning experience for each child. We have small class sizes which provide an excellent student teacher ratio. We also prepare Individual Learning Plans for every student and differentiate classroom activities to ensure we teach to the precise needs of each child.

The Whorouly Primary School buildings consist of a semi-open plan learning space with three teaching areas, a multi-purpose classroom, large covered deck, kitchen/staffroom and office. The grounds are well maintained and established trees and three large shade structures which provide shaded playing and learning areas. The school location enables easy access to the Whorouly Memorial Library Hall and the Whorouly Recreation Reserve facilities.

Whorouly Primary School has a close relationship with the Whorouly Pre-School, which is adjacent to the school. Most of our Foundation enrolments have attended this pre-school. Joint programs with the pre-school make the transition into Foundation very smooth.

The following values underpin the beliefs of the Whorouly Primary School Community and provide the basis for our actions:

- Learning:** Acquiring academic, social, physical and emotional knowledge and skills.
- Relationships:** Developing authentic relationships where mutual respect and support are promoted.
- Persistence:** Cultivating a positive work ethic and managing challenging situations as they arise.
- Respect:** Building respect for self and others, our community and the environment.
- Teamwork:** Working co-operatively with others towards common goals.

The school currently operates with two classrooms: Foundation to Year 3; the junior room, and a Year 4 to Year 6 room; the senior classroom. In 2024 our Grade 3 students will work in the Junior classroom for Literacy and Numeracy and other morning activities. They will join the senior class in the afternoons. We operate a third group for numeracy sessions three mornings per week. The Tutor Learning Initiative has been funded for the next two years to assist students requiring additional support in literacy and numeracy.

We have a Mental Health in Primary Schools coordinator who leads the implementation of our Health and Wellbeing Programs and we have been successful in accessing special funding for the next four years to have our chaplain one day per week.

Whorouly Primary School is a member of the Ovens Learning Community (OLC) which is made up of seven rural schools: Whorouly, Milawa, Oxley, Glenrowan/Winton, Carraragarmungee and Everton Primary Schools. Together we attend performances at each other's schools, go on camps to Queenscliff, Canberra and 15 Mile Creek and participate in sports days together to allow the students to create new friendships and access a wide range of experiences.

We welcome your interest in the quality education that Whorouly PS can provide for every child. We encourage you to come into the school, speak with our staff—or best of all, spend some time with our students of whom we are justifiably proud.

OUR MISSION:

To provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for our students to become the best version of themselves socially, emotionally and academically .



Whorouly

Primary School

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Mob: 0467 793 905



Staff List 2024:

Principal:	Pauline McPherson
Junior Classroom Teacher F-3:	Angella Francis
Middle/Senior Classroom Teacher: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	Alice Corcoran
Middle/Senior Classroom Teacher:	Pauline McPherson
Admin Support: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (Library weeks) Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (Art weeks)	Amy Gibb
Mental Health in Primary Schools & Disability Inclusion Coordinator	Alice Corcoran
Tutor—Wednesdays	Melanie Daws
Education Support	Melanie Daws and Andrea Tully
Chaplain: Monday	Graham Veal
MACC Art: Mondays & alternate Fridays	Anna Buchanan Old
MARC Library/Science: Alternate Fridays	Anthony Lawler
LOTE—Italian: Tuesday	Maria Rinaldi
Music/Science—Wednesdays & senior class Thursdays	Fenella Elsom
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Coordinator	Kylie McAuliffe
Cleaner:	TBC

Our staff are committed to excellence in teaching and learning and nurturing happy, confident caring students.

We strive to deliver personalised learning, model best practice teaching and be innovative educators.

2024 Enrolments:

- Foundation: 2 students
- Grade 1: 4 students
- Grade 2: 2 students
- Grade 3: 3 students
- Grade 4: 10 students
- Grade 5: 3 students
- Grade 6: 3 students



In 2024 we will operate a junior class from Foundation to Grade 3 of 11 students. Angella Francis will be their teacher and Mel and Andrea will provide Education Support. The senior class, from Grades 4-6 will have 16 students with Alice Corcoran, Pauline McPherson and Fenella Elsom teaching this class with support from Andrea. This group will work together some of the time and on other occasions work in smaller, separate groups. Mel will run the Tutor Program to provide additional teaching support across the school.



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Term Dates:

2024:

Term 1: 29th January (teachers start)
30th January (students start) - Thursday 28th March

Term 2: 15th April to 28th June

Term 3: 15th July to 20th September

Term 4: 7th October to 20th December

2025:

Term 1: 28th January (teachers start)
29th January students start - 2nd April

Term 2: 22nd April to 4th July

Term 3: 21st July to 19th September

Term 4: 6th October to 19th December

During February, Foundation children do not attend school on Wednesdays (except Week 1).

From the first Wednesday in March Foundation students attend full time unless parents feel their child is too tired and needs a further break from school on Wednesdays in March.

SCHOOL TIMES 2024:

7:45am	OSHC Program— Monday—Thursday
8:45 am:	Students arrive at school for outside supervision
9:00 am:	School commences. Assembly on Monday, alternate Thursdays and Friday.
11:00 -11:30am:	Recess.
1:00 - 2:00 pm:	Lunch.
3:30 pm:	Dismissal.

Children are supervised from 8:45am before school, at recess and at lunch time with at least one staff member on duty in the yard at all times. Staff enjoy the chance to eat with students and many of our staff are outdoors even when not rostered to do yard duty. Being present with our students is another way we build relationships and show our genuine interest and enjoyment in being part of every student's life. Music is played five minutes before the end of recess and lunch to signal it is time to put sports equipment away, have a drink, go to the toilet, wash hands and sanitise before going to class when the bell rings. During wet weather recess and lunch breaks are inside the classrooms.

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School Uniform:



Wangaratta Uniform Zone

Opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 8:00am
to 5:30pm

Saturday 9:00 to 12:00pm

Phone us on:

03 57 217 773

Email:

sales@wangarattauniformzone.com.au

Work Locker

120 Murphy Street
Wangaratta 57224 644

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SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

It is expected that all students be in full school uniform on a daily basis.

GIRLS:

Choose from:

- Blue and white checked dress
- Jade green polo shirt with navy trim and school emblem
- Navy zip up polar fleece jacket with school emblem
- Navy tracksuit/navy shorts
- Navy tights or white socks

BOYS:

- Jade green polo shirt with navy trim and emblem
- Navy tracksuit / Navy shorts
- Navy zip up polar fleece jacket with emblem

A navy shell jacket and a navy waterproof hooded rain jacket with the school emblem are available as **optional extras**.

Grade 6 students can purchase a special Year 6 polo shirt and hoodie which is organised by the school.

Uniforms can be purchased through Wangaratta Uniform Zone in Norton Street Wangaratta or Work Locker 120 Murphy Street Wangaratta.

We have some dress up days during the year which are listed in the school newsletter calendar and casual dress days on the last day of each term.

We are a SUNSMART School

Children are required to wear a broad brimmed hat which protects their face, neck and ears whenever they are outside between August to April. Parents are asked to ensure their children have suitable hats at school during these times. Sunscreen is provided in each classroom.

All clothing and other personal items such as lunch boxes etc... must be CLEARLY named. Lost property is housed in a large bin on our back deck. It is much easier to return possessions to students if they are clearly named.

Footwear: Students are required to wear suitable footwear to be able to join in all activities; runners are the most suitable type of footwear. Thongs are not allowed.

Jewellery should be avoided especially rings and dangly earrings for student safety.

Hair: Shoulder length hair should be kept tied back for health and safety reasons.





DAILY TIMETABLE & SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

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Daily timetable:

Although our daily timetable can vary due to our specialist timetable, we usually start each day with Literacy from 9:00-12:00am followed by Maths from 12:00-1:00pm.

Our afternoon program includes Humanities, Science and other important areas of our curriculum.



Specialist programs:

TUESDAY - Italian

Our school has had an Italian program for more than 30 years. Maria Rinaldi has been teaching Italian at our school for many years.

WEDNESDAY Breakfast Club starts at 8:50am.

Every Wednesday morning the teachers and volunteers prepare a delicious breakfast for our students. Most of our food has been donated by Food Share and Coles in Wangaratta.

Music/Science—Fen teaches our Science and Music Program every Wednesday.

THURSDAY Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program Grades 3-6 . This program teaches students to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh seasonal and delicious food. Students cook three times per term. Alice runs this program and welcomes parent and volunteer support.

Bluearth is led on alternate Thursdays by our Bluearth coach. (More details on the next page.)

FRIDAY: Library/Science with Anthony Lawler and **Art** on alternate Fridays with Anna Buchanan Old

STEM Challenges are timetabled fortnightly on Mondays for the whole school to work together.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. A STEM session is based around finding a solution to a real-world problem and emphasizes project-based learning. A variation of STEM is **STEAM**, which includes an 'A' for art and design. Artistic design is becoming an important part of STEM education since creativity is an essential part of innovation. In 2024 we will be using Lego purchased through winning the RCoW Pitcher This Project and our profits from the chocolate trailer at the Village Fair.

Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships learning helps students develop social, emotional and positive relationship skills. This program is complemented by Smiling Minds and You Can Do It keys to success.



Annual Programs:



Whorouly

Primary School



Food at school:

- We encourage healthy eating at school.
- Please avoid sending un-healthy snacks
- We have fruit break at 10:00am
- Fresh fruit platter provided every Friday at recess
- We have recycling bins and compost bins.

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Fruit snack:

Students break for a fruit or vegetable snack at 10:00am. We usually have apples, pears and oranges as part of our Breakfast Club order, which are available if students do not bring their own fruit. We provide a fresh fruit platter on Fridays at recess for children to choose a variety of fruit for their playtime snack. There is always plenty so students should not need other snacks.

Play lunch /Lunch

There is a fridge between the junior and senior classrooms for students to keep lunches cold. Students are required to sit at the lunch tables to eat their play lunch and lunch. We encourage healthy snacks and lunches. Lollies and chewing gum are not permitted.

Hot lunches

During Term 2 and 3 students are able to bring lunch from home to be heated up in the oven. Lunches must be wrapped in foil and clearly labelled with permanent marker (text disappears with heating). Please do not send food to be microwaved.

WEDNESDAY Breakfast Club 8:50am—9:10am

Every Wednesday morning the teachers and volunteers prepare a delicious breakfast for

THURSDAY Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program Grades 3-6.

This program teaches students to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh seasonal and delicious food.

Students get to sample their cooking.

When we have an abundance of vegies in our garden these can be sent home.

Friday Fundraising Lunches

The Senior class organise fundraising activities throughout the year to help reduce the cost of camps, excursions and the swimming program.

Every second Friday (Library week) parents prepare the ordered lunches. A senior student parent is asked to coordinate this fundraising activity. In 2024 Ange will coordinate these lunches. Order forms are provided with the newsletter.

On lunch order day the oven is not available for other lunches in Terms 2 and 3.

Senior students help serve up the lunches when required.





Bluearth & Outside School Hours Care

Bluearth's Mission:

To improve health and prevent diseases of sedentary living by facilitating the development of communities and individuals through participation in physical activity.

Bluearth

My Futures Academy Active Schools Program

We have been a Bluearth school for many years participating in a program with a holistic approach to physical activity and wellbeing. The Approach utilises movement, motivation and learning to support, encourage, enable and challenge active living. It not only teaches children and adults the enjoyment and fun of being physically active, it also draws on their feelings, reactions and thoughts that resulted from their participation and draws key developmental learning back into classroom settings and into their lives.

Our coach, Georgia, delivers the program once a fortnight, and the teachers include Bluearth strategies and activities during their Phys Ed Program the following week.

My Futures Academy, who currently run the program, will lead an Active Schools Program in 2024 with Georgia as our coach.



We are lucky to have the Brown Brothers Trust and our parents' fundraising efforts to subsidise the cost of this program.

In 2023 our **Outside School Hours Care Program (OSHC)** commenced and in 2024 we will be able to include the Whorouly Preschool children who can be included in Before School Care and also picked up from kinder by Kylie at 2:00pm.



WHOROULY OSHC

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK

Monday—Thursday: 7:45am-8:45am & 3:30pm-5:45pm

For casual bookings: Contact Kylie on 0439 366 199

Contact Kylie before 7:00am for before school care and before 3:00pm for after school

Enrolment forms must be completed prior to booking.

OSHC rates (before CCS subsidy)

Mornings \$10.00 & Afternoons \$15.00

Holiday Program \$45.00



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Communication:

The newsletter is given to the oldest child in the family to take home every second Thursday. Newsletters can be emailed if preferred.

Semester reports are sent home in June and December

Formal interviews are held in March, June and December.

If you wish to communicate with staff please speak directly to them before or after school or ring the school. If the teacher is unavailable they will return your call. The Principal can be contacted on the mobile number listed below out of school hours.

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Newsletters:

In 2024 the eldest student in the family will be given a newsletter to take home every second Thursday to keep you up to date with what's coming up as well as what we have been doing at school over the previous weeks. The newsletter can be emailed to you if you prefer. We like to include photos in our newsletters so parents will be asked to sign a consent form if you are happy to have your child's photo included.

Permission/ medical forms for excursions and camps are usually sent out on newsletter day. These must be completed for students to attend excursions and camps. We aim to give you plenty of warning if there is a cost involved in any excursion.

Community newsletter:

We also include information about our school, students and programs in the monthly Whorouly Community newsletter.

Reports and Parent-Teacher Interviews.

In March we hold Parent / Teacher interviews to share your child's Individual Learning Plan and to give parents and teachers the opportunity to address any concerns that may have arisen at the start of the year.

We send home a written report at the end of Terms 2 and 4 with detailed information about your child's progress and where they fit in relation to the Victorian Curriculum Standards. At this time we also offer parents the opportunity to have an interview with your child's teacher to discuss your child's updated individual learning plan and the reports.

Teachers and parents are encouraged to discuss your child's progress throughout the year so you are always welcome to discuss any concerns you may have.

Sign in / Sign Out

Students who arrive at school late are required to be signed in at the office by the parent/carer. If you need to pick up your child early the student also needs to be signed out. Students who arrive before 8:45am will be sent to the OSHC Program for supervision. Students also need to be picked up by 3:40pm otherwise they will be supervised in OSHC.

Absences:

For the safety of your child it is a requirement of the Department of Education that parents notify the school **by 10:00am** the reason for your child's absence. Please ring the school or text the school mobile by this time. Please ring the school if there is no response to your text. We are required to contact you if you have not let us know why your child is away.

Students with gastroenteritis are not allowed to return to school until at least 24 hours after symptoms finish. Students with COVID-19 symptoms should also stay home.

Medications

If your child requires medication at school please provide written instructions with the medication. This medication must be handed to a teacher. We are required to record the details of any medication we administer at school.

Asthma and Anaphylaxis Plans

Students with asthma or anaphylactic reactions must have documented action plans. An adrenalin auto-injector must also be provided for students at risk of anaphylaxis. Our staff have Level 2 First Aid training and annually update their anaphylaxis and CPR qualifications as well as updating their asthma management skills as mandated by the Department of Education.

Parent helpers

Parents are welcome to assist the school with reading, sports practice, cooking and other activities. A Working With Children check is a Department of Education requirement if working independently of school staff.





Our Students:

Small Schools

Big Friendships

Huge Possibilities

Amazing Opportunities

Innovative Experiences



Our 2023 Grade 5 and 6 students Leo, Chelsea, Charlotte, James and Owen represented our school as part of the OLC camps program and Civics and Citizenship Education.

Junior Council

We begin allocating responsibilities to our student as soon as they start Foundation. We have high expectations of our students and encourage them to be active participants in all areas of the school from their first year. By the time our students reach the senior grades they are able to lead Bluearth activities, STEAM Challenges and assemblies. They know how to support their Foundation buddy through their first year of school and be role models for our junior students.

Senior students are also involved in a number of fundraising activities throughout the year to help subsidise camps, swimming and excursions as well as raise funds to support charitable organisations such as the Royal Children's Hospital and The Cancer Council.



We actively seek student voice and the opinions, ideas, wonderings and feedback from our students is used in planning and decision making. Our Junior council are elected by their

Our senior students lead ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemoration ceremonies.



Our 2023 bus captains

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Whorouly
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Parents helping Learners:

At
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we value:

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- Research says that reading 20 minutes per day benefits early childhood development and comprehension skills later in life.
- Regular spelling practice will help develop your child's spelling skills.
- For junior students practising sight words

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THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS:

The responsibility for the education of all students must be shared between the school and parents to ensure every child can achieve their best.

The school's role is to teach and guide learning across all aspects of the curriculum by providing expertise, resources, assistance and encouragement, while working with students at their individual point of need. The school also has the role to establish a classroom environment marked by co-operation, friendliness and challenging activities. At our school we teach the importance of our school values of learning, persistence, respect, relationships and teamwork to encourage and assist students to achieve their personal best.

The parents' role is to share in the teaching and learning by:

- Encouraging the children and taking an interest in the learning they are doing at school.
- Daily reading with your child in the early years, including practicing sight words, sharing books or providing a quiet space for independent reading for older children are essential ways to support your child's learning.
- Our 2018 initiative to introduce the SMART spelling approach to learning spelling relies on parent support to ensure children complete the daily homework activities (Monday to Thursday) to enable students to spell words beyond the weekly spelling test.
- Contributing their insights about their children and by complementing the teacher's activities with their own experiences.
- We encourage parents to contact the school at any time if they have any concerns about their child or want specific information as to the best way to assist with their child's learning.
- The Victorian Education Department website has lots of advice and support for parents.

The school actively fosters parent and community involvement in both the educational development of the children and the physical maintenance and improvement of the school.

At different times throughout the year we will seek assistance from parents to participate in educational programs such as reading, and excursions as well as attending our SAKG family welcome barbecue, our Family STEAM Challenge in Term 2, our Library After Dark in Term 3 and our end of year celebrations and presentations.

Parents are also requested at times to assist with school fundraising activities.

We support new parents to our school and aim to make them feel welcome. There will be opportunities to get to know other parents and families beginning with a family barbecue early in Term 1.

We will follow up with parent teacher meetings to discuss the well being and progress of all students, and communicate often and in many ways with parents.

Your questions, ideas, feedback and expertise is welcome.





School Council:

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Currently the School Council consists of 6 elected parents, a community member and 1 Department of Education employee, the Principal. Councillors serve for two years, half retiring each year. The School Council meets each month on the third Tuesday of the month with a total of eight meetings for the year. The meetings are open for all parents to attend and we encourage parents to consider nominating for School Council when nominations open in February and elections at our AGM in March.

The School Council represents the school and its community and plays a major role in the operation of the school.

Responsibilities of School Councils include:

POLICY:

Determining and endorsing the educational policy, goals and priorities.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:

Approving the school budget and supervising its implementation.

School Council approves the Parent Payment Policy asking parent to contribute to essential supplies and programs for our students which are not funded by the Education Department. School Council endeavours to keep this to a minimum to make it affordable for families. This information is provided in February and November each year.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:

Maintaining and improving buildings and grounds.

REPORTING:

Reporting annually to the school community and to the Department of Education, Employment and Training.

School Council currently operates one sub-committee - the Finance Committee
In 2024 the school will undertake its major four-year review of all programs and policies.

School Council Fundraising:

The school leads fundraising activities and hopes all families can help in some way. All funds raised go directly to supporting programs and resources for students.

In 2024 we have a special project to raise funds for a new sports shed near the basketball court for the students to use. We are laying a commemorative path as part of our 150th celebrations and funds raised through this project will go towards this sports shed. School Council fundraising will also subsidise programs such as camps, swimming, Bluearth, and computer programs including Reading Eggs and Mathletics.

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Transition and Enrolment:

Know us.

Know the school.

Know a buddy.

Know you're important.

We are a 'Better Buddies' school through the Alanah and Madeline



Foundation.

Every Foundation student will have a Grade 5/6 Buddy to help them throughout their first year of school.

Whorouly Primary School is always welcoming new enrolments from Foundation to Year Six. Your child is welcome to start with us at any time of the year and there will always be a place for your child here at Whorouly Primary School. Enrolment forms are available at the school office or can be downloaded from the school website.

In 2024 Whorouly Preschool children are eligible to attend our OSHC Program on kinder days.

We value and respect each child as an important member of our school.

For a personalised tour of the school with our Principal, or enrolment forms please contact us:

Pauline McPherson—Principal

Amy Gibb —Admin support

Our 2023 Foundation class with their Grade 5 and 6 buddies.



Transition Days:

We like our new Foundation students to feel as if they already belong when they start at our school. For this reason, we have a comprehensive transition process for our students.

During the year, we coordinate regular visits between the Whorouly Primary School and Whorouly Pre-School, both at the school and at the kindergarten.

We also run several transition sessions that lead up to starting school the following year. These sessions will include school tours, meeting an older buddy, eating and playing outside and participating in junior classes and some specialist classes. There are also information sessions for parents.

The Ovens Learning Community Cluster activities provide many opportunities for our Grade 5 and 6 students to be together before secondary school. The local secondary schools also timetable transition days in preparation for Year 7.

We also really love our past students coming back to visit us and give us feedback on their new life at secondary school or return to us as part of work experience or secondary school programs.





The Ovens Learning Community:

- Each term we have a Cluster Day held at a different school each time.
- Camps are a great opportunity for our students to develop independence and new friendships

The Ovens Learning Community (OLC), provides vital links between seven local schools. Our partnerships within the OLC enables greater learning, sport, cultural and social links to be developed amongst a broader group of students and staff.

The OLC is important in developing friendships and forging relationships for older student preparing to transition into high school.

We also combine for camps, excursions, incursion and events such as our athletics carnival and cross country and Arts performances.

Our teachers benefit from regular professional learning team meetings with our OLC colleagues to ensure we are all implementing best teaching practice within our schools and achieving the goal of ensuring our small schools are vibrant places of exceptional learning. Our Principals also meet each term for planning and professional support.

OLC schools and Principals:

Carraragarmungee PS
Marie De Prada

Everton PS
Kevin Hill

Glenrowan and Winton PS
Karly Duncombe

Milawa PS
Bronwyn Wright

Oxley PS
Tim Seal

Whorouly PS
Pauline McPherson

OLC Camps:

Queenscliff Camp
Grade 5/6—even year

Canberra Camp
Grade 5/6—odd year

Fifteen Mile Creek Camp
Grade 3/4—when bookings are available —even year

Snowy River Camp
Grade 3/4—odd year

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Our Commitment to Child Safety:

- Safety
- Inclusion
- Diversity
- We Care

Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

The Whorouly Primary School Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy demonstrates our school's commitment to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation, where children and young people are safe and feel safe.

This policy provides an overview of our school's approach to implementing [Ministerial Order 1359](#) (PDF, 363KB) which sets out how the Victorian Child Safe Standards apply in school environments. It informs our school community of everyone's obligations to act safely and appropriately towards children and guides our processes and practices for the safety and wellbeing of students across all areas of our work.

Statement of commitment to child safety

Whorouly Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our school environments.

We promote positive relationships between students and adults and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.

We take proactive steps to identify and manage any risk of harm to students in our school environment. When child safety concerns are raised or identified, we treat these seriously and respond promptly and thoroughly.

Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated at our school, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

Child safety is a shared responsibility. Every person involved in our school has an important role in promoting child safety and wellbeing and promptly raising any issues or concerns about a child's safety.

We are committed to regularly reviewing our child safe practices, and seeking input from our students, families, staff, and volunteers to inform our ongoing strategies.

The complete Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy is available on the school website or a printed copy is available from the office on request.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation:

The staff and volunteers of Whorouly Primary School encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

Our Wellbeing Program, Respectful Relationships and Cyber Safety Programs support our students to develop positive relationships and develop strategies to keep safe. Our chaplain has an important role in working with the teachers, students and families at our school.

Contact Us:

18 Church St,

Whorouly, 3735

whorouly.ps@education.vic.gov.au

[au](http://www.whorouly.vic.edu.au)

Ph: (03) 5727 1363

Mob: 0467 793 905





Our Commitment to Child Safety:

- Safety
- Inclusion
- Diversity
- We Care

OUR MISSION:

To provide a safe and inclusive learning environment for our students to become the best version of themselves socially, emotionally and academically .

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Mob: 0467 793 905

Inclusion and diversity

Whorouly Primary School is committed to creating a school community where all members of our school community are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

Whorouly Primary School acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community and we will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others. At Whorouly Primary School we value the human rights of every student and we take our obligations under anti-discrimination laws and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities seriously.

Recruiting Staff and Volunteers:

Whorouly Primary School will apply the most thorough and rigorous standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all staff and volunteers and require police checks /Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for staff and volunteers. Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements will be included in all advertisements for staff and volunteer positions.

Supporting Staff and Volunteers:

Whorouly Primary School provides support and supervision to all staff and volunteers so people feel valued, respected, affirmed in their work and fairly treated.

The Principal, as the Child Safety Officer has the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or students in relation to Child Safety.

Risk Management:

Risk management is an approach that minimises the potential for child abuse or harm to occur. Our Emergency Management Plan outlines and details all aspects of risk across our whole school environment (on-site and off-site school activities) with specific activity risk assessments. In addition to our general Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risk management, we proactively manage risks of abuse and harm to our students.

School Policies

Our school policies are updated as required and presented to School Council for endorsement. These policies can be found on the school website:

<http://www.whorouly.vic.edu.au>

Further information:

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact: Pauline McPherson, Principal.

Any suggestions for information to be included in this booklet in the future are most welcome.



**Book Week
Dress Up
Day**



Whorouly
Primary School