



# VERONA SCHOOL



## Verona School information booklet for parents and carers



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## Message from the Principal

Welcome to all prospective students, families and carers to the Verona School Community. Our school, located in Fairfield, is a caring, friendly and warm place for all who enter our doors. We thank you for taking an interest in our school and can't wait to share our school with you.



I took up the position of Principal of Verona School in 2020. With 18 years' experience supporting students with additional needs and a passion for student welfare, I aim to ensure that every student come through Verona's gates has a positive educational experience and achieves success.

Verona will be the backbone to support students and their families navigate school. Our open doors welcome carers, outside agencies, health and other educational services so that we can work collaboratively to develop holistic and individualised learning and support plans that will encourage all of our students to connect, thrive and succeed.

As a mother of two boys and the unofficial "aunty" of many children, I understand the worry and fear many parents face. I encourage the open communication between home and school and looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your concerns and celebrate your child's success.

The staff at Verona school take pride in ensuring we provide quality education with positive and successful support for your child.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Ms Carla Scott

**Principal**

**Verona School**

## School Staff

Verona school staff are supportive, caring, enthusiastic people with a passion for assisting students with additional needs achieve success.

Our University educated teachers are a combination of primary and high school trained and are responsible for delivering engaging learning opportunities to your child.

Each class is supported by a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) who support teachers with curriculum delivery and support students to achieve learning outcomes.

Verona School has a full-time Student Support Officer (SSO) on staff who works in a social worker capacity to link students and families with appropriate services and supports. The SSO also facilitates a number of school-based initiatives.

A school counsellor is available on site two days per week, as are our speech therapist and occupational therapist.

Our administration staff are available to help direct any enquiries you may have. With decades of experience between them in regards to enrolment procedures, health care and medication protocols, assisted school transport applications and emergency response you needs will always be addressed promptly, knowledgeably and compassionately.



## School Leadership

Verona School is managed by a strong, cohesive and experienced Leadership Team.

The Principal is responsible for whole school management including students, staff, wellbeing, discipline and resources. Ms Scott oversees the adherence to Department of Education Policies and the meeting of curriculum requirements.

The Instructional Leader is in charge of curriculum development, student assessment, progress measures and teacher support.

The Assistant Principal's manage various portfolio areas including Personalised Learning Plans, behaviour and risk management, student portfolios, community engagement, student wellbeing and integration. Assistant Principals directly support teachers in the management of their classes.

The Verona School Leadership Team are committed to ensuring that all students are known, valued and cared for as well as provided with ample opportunity to connect, succeed and thrive.

Please contact the front office if you wish to speak with one of the executive.



## **About our school**

Verona School was established in 2002 in Fairfield, NSW. We are a School for Specific Purposes that caters for students experiencing behavioural difficulties that impact on their learning. The school supports over sixty students in Years Five to Twelve.

The Verona School program is designed to support the holistic needs of the student, including social and living skills, the development of academic outcomes across all key learning areas with a particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

Our school is home to specialised professionals including school psychologist, student support officer, speech therapist and occupational therapist. We also welcome and encourage external agencies into our school to support the individual needs of our students.

## **What we offer**

Verona School maintains a strong focus on developing students holistically. We offer diverse learning opportunities for our students including:

- A commercial kitchen
- A gymnasium
- Work/school programs
- Coffee club
- Individualised Education Programs
- Transition Programs and Transition Support
- Community Access Programs

Our school works closely with a range of stakeholders to ensure the success of each student. Our smaller classrooms allow for individual learning and planning to take place with an emphasis on building literacy and numeracy skills. Students are given opportunities to develop work-ready skills and opportunities to access community programs and community events.

## School Times

Verona School follows the same pattern of attendance as all public schools in NSW. For more information on term dates and school holidays, we encourage you to visit the [education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au) website.

Verona School's breakfast program operates 8:30-9 am Monday-Friday. All classes begin at 9 am, Monday to Friday.

For junior students, school finishes at 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. For junior students, school finishes at 1pm on Thursday.



Senior students may be required to remain at school after 2pm. This will be discussed with parents and carers in advance.

Many students at Verona return to their mainstream schools on Thursdays, this will be negotiated between parents/carers, students, mainstream schools and Verona staff.

## Sharing Enrolment

Verona School students maintain their enrolment at mainstream census schools. This allows students the opportunity to access mainstream school resources, equipment and expertise. It further assists in maintaining existing educational relationships, friends and peer groups. Students and parents/carers are involved in decision making processes surrounding mainstream integration and both mainstream schools and Verona students are awarded additional assistance as needed during integration. Students at Verona school with goals of reintegrating to mainstream census schools are supported through targeted interventions, individualised plans, goal setting and support.

## **Pattern of study**

All students at Verona study the school curriculum as outlined by NESA. Our students will participate in English, Maths, HSIE, Science and PDHPE (practical and theory) lessons. In lieu of traditional electives students will undertake cross curricular projects each term. Project Based Learning (PBL) allows students to investigate a real-world problem and utilise future focused learning skills including collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking and connection to develop a response which they will exhibit beyond the classroom. Students will also undertake the practical component of the Food Technology course cooking each week in our commercial grade kitchen.

Social and emotional development is taught explicitly through the PEERS program and through our targeted wellbeing groups. Students will engage in a range of activities to support individual goals and progress. A work readiness course is delivered to all students considering transition to the work force. Work readiness will include opportunities such as white card, barista and first aid training, getting a tax file number and setting up a bank account. Our healthy lifestyle programs including the gym, mindfulness and cooking support the development of independent living skills.

## **Individual Education Planning**

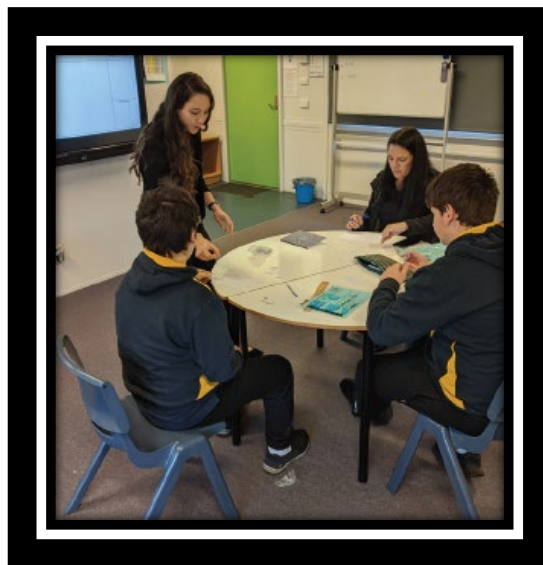
At Verona School, we understand that all students learn differently. All students at Verona have targeted individualised education plans, created in consultation with families, carers, school staff, external stakeholders, service providers and mainstream schools.

Individual Education Plans include goal setting and are maintained regularly.



## Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy

Verona School works closely with external service and support providers. We offer specialist support through our speech and occupational therapists. Our speech and occupational therapists work closely with classes and individual students to develop individualised goals and assessment. Students work closely with speech and occupational therapists on a needs-based basis.



We also welcome external support at Verona School. With multiple meeting rooms and technology for telehealth appointments, we welcome individual student support. If your child has external support services (speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioural therapy, psychology, etc.) that would like to support at school, please contact the front office to arrange a suitable meeting time.

## Parent and Carer involvement

Parents and carers are encouraged to be active stakeholders in their child's education.

Communication between classroom teachers and parents/carers will be negotiated at the beginning of the year and may be in the form of communication diaries, emails and/or phone calls. This negotiated approach tends to be more successful than a 'one-size-fits-all' policy.

Parents and carers are encouraged to be involved in the goal setting process of Personalised Learning Plans and be active in all planning reviews (PLPs, Behaviour and Risk Management). Verona School implements a 'round table' approach to planning and highly values the voices of all stakeholders.

At the end of Term 2 and 4 each year, all parents and carers are invited to attend parent/carer/teacher interviews. School reports are distributed at these meetings and discussions are held regarding progress and future planning.

Starting in 2021, a newly established 'School and Home In Partnership' (SHiP) group will meet twice a term. During these meetings, parents/carers have an opportunity to have a voice in school governance, be supported through a range of adult learning programs, gain deeper understanding of what is happening within the school and most importantly connect with other parents and carers who also have children with additional needs.

Verona prides itself on open, honest and regular communication with parents and carers. Please contact the front office if you have any questions or concerns and they will best direct your call.

## **Travelling to and from our school**

Verona School is located at 135b Fairfield Street, Fairfield, NSW. Students at Verona travel to and from school in a variety of ways. Students may wish to catch the 906 bus to school, catch the train to nearby Yennora Station, walk, arrive by private transport or apply for Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP). ASTP provides free specialised transport to and from school where parents and carers are unable to provide or arrange transport for the student. Eligible school students may apply for free or subsidised travel on public transport between

home and school through the School Student Transport Scheme. For more information about travelling to and from school, please contact our front office staff.

## **Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support**

Verona School is proudly a Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support (PBIS) school. PBIS is an evidence-based educational process that brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. PBIS is a process that assists students in improving social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes.

## **PART training**

Verona School advises that selected staff have been PART trained in proper procedures for physical intervention and restraint. Verona School has a duty of care to all students. This duty requires us to take reasonable steps to protect students from foreseeable risks of injury. Under some circumstances, it may be necessary to physically restrain a student if there is no other reasonable way to keep a student or others safe.

## **Closed Circuit Television**

Verona School advises that the premises are under constant video camera surveillance. Recording will only be made when an incident occurs and viewing of the recordings will be restricted.

## Uniform

All students at Verona School wear the Verona School uniform. All students must wear the Verona School Polo shirt, black trousers, pants or skirt and enclosed shoes.



Students are encouraged and supported to wear

appropriate uniform. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will either be lent an alternative for the day or asked to return home. All lent or borrowed clothing must be returned to the school at the end of the school day. For those with sensory requirements around clothing, please discuss with front office staff to order sensory appropriate polo shirts.

## School Bags

Upon arrival at school, all students check their school bag and technology in with staff.

Students are asked to take any food, books, integration cards or other necessary learning equipment with them into school. All bags and technology are stored safely at the school and returned at the end of the school day. All learning equipment (pens, subject books, etc.) is supplied by the school and any property brought to school is brought at your own risk.

Verona School does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to personal property in accordance with DET policy.

## School Mobile Phone and Technology Policy

Upon arrival at school, all students check their school bag and technology in with staff.

Mobile phones and personal technologies are not permitted in the classrooms or

playground at Verona School. If your child requires a mobile phone or technologies to travel safely to and from school, this must be handed into the staff before entering the school. All mobile phones and technologies are stored safely at the school and returned at the end of the school day. In the instance you need to contact your child, please contact the front office.

## **Breakfast and Lunch Program**

As a smaller setting, Verona School does not have access to an on-site canteen. Students are encouraged to bring lunch and recess to school. Students are supplied with a water bottle for classroom use. From 8:30 till 9am, students are offered breakfast through our daily breakfast club. Students are also offered lunch, which is organised daily. If your child has dietary requirements, please ensure this has been communicated with the front office staff.

## **Department Policy**

Verona School is bound by various policies and requirements as set out by the NSW Department of Education. For further enquiries, please contact our front office staff.



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