



Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool



PARENT INFORMATION 2026

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Welcome to Warooka

Welcome to Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool. We are very pleased to welcome you and your family to our school community, and we hope your time with us is happy, positive and full of opportunities for your child to learn, grow and thrive.

At Warooka, we want every child to feel that they genuinely belong. Our small-school setting allows us to know our children and families well, to recognise each child's strengths and interests, and to provide the support and encouragement they need. We value children as active participants in their learning and want them to feel safe to be curious, creative, courageous and themselves.

We also know that children do best when school and home work together. Families know their children best, and we value the knowledge, experiences and perspectives you bring. We encourage you to be part of school life, to celebrate learning with us, and to talk with us whenever you have a question, concern, idea or something you would like us to know.

Warooka is strongly connected to the wider community, and those relationships are an important part of who we are. Through our school and preschool, we aim to create a place where children and families feel welcomed, supported and connected, and where learning extends beyond the classroom into our community.

This handbook brings together the key information you may need throughout the year. Please keep it as a reference, and remember that you are always welcome to contact us if you need further information or support.

Kind regards,

Beth Purdy-Dart
Principal

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Our School

Our Values

Belonging – We are inclusive and welcoming. We value connection and we all belong.

Inventiveness – We are curious and creative. We explore ideas and find better ways to grow.

Courage – We are brave and resilient. We step up, take risks and do what's right.

Respect – We value ourselves, each other and our environment. We listen, care and act with kindness.

Compassion – We show empathy and care for others. We support each other to thrive.

Our Vision

At Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool, every learner belongs and is empowered to grow with courage, think with inventiveness, act with respect and lead with compassion.

Together, we create confident learners who make a positive difference in their community and beyond.

Our Belief Statement

At Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool, we believe every child deserves to feel a strong sense of belonging and to be known, valued and supported as an individual.

We believe learning thrives when children feel safe, connected and empowered to have a voice in their learning. All learners can grow, succeed and make meaningful contributions when they are encouraged to be curious, think creatively, persevere through challenges and learn from mistakes.

We believe courage helps us embrace new opportunities, inventiveness inspires us to explore possibilities, respect strengthens our relationships and compassion helps us understand and care for others. Together, these values guide the way we learn, work and live as a community.

Strong partnerships between children, families, staff and the wider community enrich learning and create opportunities for every child to flourish.

We believe education should nurture confident, capable and caring young people who are equipped to make a positive difference in their community and beyond.

Our Staff – 2026

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team working across our school, preschool and community programs. As a small school, our staff work closely together and get to know our children and families well. This strong sense of connection is an important part of the way we support children's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Teaching Team	
Principal	Beth Purdy-Dart
Preschool Teacher	Amy Murdoch
Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 Teacher	Belinda Hickman
Years 3 / 4 Teachers	Karen Ramsay & Julie Aitchison
Years 5 / 6 Teacher	Nelly Bittner
NIT Teacher	Rachael Johnson
Support Team	
Front Office SSO	Jo Piller
Classroom SSO	Harper Davison
Preschool SSO	Zoe Slaby
Preschool SSO	Nikki Murray
Pastoral Care Worker	Kerry Braund
Groundsman	Steven Bunker
Community Programs	
Playgroup Leader	Caillin Lakin
Point Turton Playcentre Leader	Caillin Lakin
Marion Bay Playcentre Leader	Shari Hazeldene

Learning at Warooka

Our curriculum is based on the Early Years Learning Framework in Preschool and the South Australian Curriculum for Reception to Year 6.

Preschool

Our School Based Preschool (SBP) provides a high-quality early childhood education program within a school setting. We work in partnership with children, families and the wider community to create a place where every child feels known, valued, supported and able to thrive.

Our preschool philosophy guides the way we work with children and families and the learning environments and experiences we create. At the heart of our practice are the following beliefs:

- Play, inquiry and curiosity are central to learning. Through purposeful play, exploration, creativity and problem solving, children develop confidence, resilience, independence and agency. Educators create engaging environments that encourage children to wonder, question, contribute ideas, make choices and take an active role in their learning.
- Relationships are at the heart of everything we do. We value strong, trusting and reciprocal relationships with children and families. We recognise families as children's first teachers and believe that working together strengthens children's learning, wellbeing and successful transitions.
- Every child has the right to belong, participate and succeed. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where diversity is valued and children are supported to develop confidence, emotional literacy, self-regulation and respectful relationships.
- Connection to Country, community and the natural world enriches learning. We acknowledge the Nharangga people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we play, learn and grow. We value opportunities for children to care for their environment, connect with the wider community and develop an understanding of Country, culture and sustainability.
- Children should have genuine voice and agency. We listen to children's ideas, interests, questions and theories and provide meaningful opportunities for them to make choices, contribute to decisions and influence their learning environment.
- Educators are reflective and responsive. We work collaboratively, build on children's emerging interests and ideas, and continually reflect on our practice to create meaningful learning experiences that inspire confident, involved and lifelong learners.

Together we play, learn and grow.

Our work in the School Based Preschool is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standard.

Primary Years Learning Dispositions

The South Australian Curriculum places a strong emphasis on developing the dispositions children need to become successful, confident and engaged learners. At Warooka, we see these dispositions as an important part of learning across every curriculum area.

Learning dispositions describe the ways students approach learning, respond to challenges, work with others and take increasing responsibility for their own learning. They help children develop the confidence and capacity to apply what they know in new and unfamiliar situations.

- **Curiosity** –asking questions, wondering, exploring ideas and wanting to know more.
- **Creativity** –generating ideas, imagining possibilities and approaching problems in different ways.
- **Courage** –being willing to have a go, take appropriate risks, share thinking and attempt something that may initially feel difficult.
- **Resilience and persistence** –staying with challenging learning, responding positively to setbacks and trying different strategies when something does not work.
- **Collaboration** –listening to others, contributing ideas, learning together and recognising the value of different perspectives.
- **Independence and agency** –making choices, setting goals, taking responsibility and recognising themselves as active participants in their learning.
- **Reflection** –thinking about how and what they have learned, recognising progress and considering what they might do next.

At Warooka, these dispositions are developed intentionally through classroom learning, play and inquiry, problem solving, collaborative learning, student voice and opportunities for children to make decisions about their learning. We want students not only to develop knowledge and skills, but to understand themselves as learners and have the confidence to use their learning in different contexts.

These dispositions connect strongly with our school values of Belonging, Inventiveness, Courage, Respect and Compassion and help bring those values to life through everyday learning.

Primary Years: Reception to Year 6

Learning area	Focus
English	language, literature, reading, writing, spelling/word study, speaking and listening
Languages	Spanish
Mathematics	number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability
Health and Physical Education	personal, social and community health, movement and physical activity
Humanities and Social Sciences	Civics and Citizenship, History, Geography, and Economics and Business
Technologies	Design and Technologies, and Digital Technologies
The Arts	Music, Visual Arts, Drama, Dance and Media Arts
Science	Biological, Chemical, Earth and Space, and Physical Sciences

Aquatics and Water Safety

An aquatics program operates in Term 1, with Year 5/6 students attending an aquatics camp. Reception to Year 6 students also attend a local beach for swimming and water-safety lessons.

Sport

Warooka Sports Day is held early in Term 1, with an emphasis on participation and enjoyment for all Reception to Year 6 students. Events include traditional running events and team activities.

Selected students may also participate in the Southern Yorke Peninsula Combined Primary School Sports Day and district sporting opportunities. Students in Years 5 and 6 may have opportunities to represent the Southern Yorke Peninsula district in sports such as netball, softball, cricket, tennis, football and athletics.

Camps and Excursions

Camps, excursions and performances are an important extension of classroom learning. Families are provided with advance information, including times, locations, permission requirements and any additional costs. Our usual camp cycle is:

- Odd years – Year 5/6: Mylor Adventure Camp; Year 3/4: Warradale Urban Camp, Adelaide
- Even years – Year 3–5: Corny Point.

School Day and Routines

Time	Routine
8:00 am	Preschool children may arrive.
8:15 am	School children may enter the school yard. Yard duty begins at this time to coincide with school bus arrivals.
8:50 am	Siren – learning begins.
10:50 am	First lunch – 10 minutes eating time.
11:00 am	Play time.
11:30 am	Siren – learning resumes.
1:10 pm	Second lunch – 10 minutes eating time.
1:20 pm	Play time.
1:50 pm	Siren – learning resumes.
3:20 pm	End of the school day for Reception to Year 6.
3:30 pm	End of the preschool day.

For student safety, school children should not enter the school grounds before 8:15 am unless they are directly supervised by a staff member. Students should leave promptly at the end of the school day unless they are participating in a supervised activity.

School Closure and Pupil Free Days

Department schools may schedule school closure and pupil free days during the year. The school is closed to students on these days. Families will be notified in advance wherever possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

Student Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Uniforms

Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool has a preferred school uniform, approved and supported by Governing Council. We ask students to wear the uniform to support a sense of belonging and make school clothing practical and easy to manage.

- Red polo shirts, zip-up jackets and hooded jackets with the school logo can be ordered through the Front Office.
- Track pants, shorts and skirts should be navy or black. School dresses are red-and-white check.
- Governing Council provides a school hat for each student. Hats remain at school and are worn for outdoor activities. Families are asked to purchase a replacement if a hat is lost.
- We continue to build our second-hand uniform pool. Please contact the Front Office if you would like to access or contribute to it.
- Children should wear comfortable, manageable clothing and safe footwear. Thongs are not suitable for school.
- Please label all removable clothing with your child's full name.

Hats

Students are expected to wear a hat outside throughout the year, including at break times and during outdoor lessons. Students without a hat will remain in a shaded area.

Hot/Wet Weather

Classrooms are air-conditioned. Students are therefore expected to attend and remain at school during hot weather unless they are unwell or another authorised reason applies. During wet weather students will have access to supervised lunch play in the school gym.

Medication at School

If your child requires medication at school, please contact school staff so appropriate arrangements can be made. Students should not carry or use medication at school without prior arrangements, except where this has been specifically agreed as part of their health support.

- Medication for conditions such as asthma or severe allergies must be supplied with the required medical instructions or health care documentation.
- Long-term medication must be accompanied by medical instructions outlining administration requirements and any relevant side effects.
- Medication must be in its original packaging, clearly labelled for the child, within its expiry date and supplied in accordance with the required health care documentation.
- Where appropriate, staff will work with families and health practitioners to support a child's health care needs at school.

The school cannot provide general pain relief medication such as paracetamol unless it has been supplied and authorised in accordance with Department medication procedures.

Mobile Phones

We recognise that some families provide children with a mobile phone for safety and communication outside school hours. Students are encouraged not to bring phones to school unless they are needed for this purpose.

If a student brings a mobile phone to school, it must remain switched off and stored in their bag during school hours. Students are responsible for their phone in the event of loss or damage. Students should not use mobile phones during school time. Urgent communication between families and students during the school day should occur through the Front Office.

Getting to School and Student Support

School Bus Service

Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool is serviced by three main bus routes: Marion Bay, Corny Point and Point Turton. Students who meet Department eligibility requirements may access the school bus service.

Students from Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool, Yorketown Area School and St Columba's Memorial School may use these services where eligible. Please contact the Front Office for current route and eligibility information.

Bus passes may be issued if children need to travel on a different bus or to a different stop. Please contact the front office for further information if required.

Preschool children may travel on the bus with the written consent of the Principal. The required form is provided during enrolment.

Bikes

Students may ride bikes to school. Bikes should be walked once inside the school grounds and stored in the bike racks near the Year 3/4 classroom or main bus gate.

Student Support Services

A range of specialist services can support students, families and staff, including psychology, behaviour support, special education, speech pathology and social work. Access to these services is coordinated through the school according to student need and Department processes.

Families and Community

Playgroup and Playcentres

Warooka Playgroup is held at Warooka Primary School each Wednesday during the school term, except on pupil free or school closure days.

Families with young children up to five years of age may also attend local Playcentres:

- Marion Bay Hall – Mondays, 9:00 am to 11:30 am
- Point Turton Community Hall – Thursdays, 9:00 am to 11:30 am.

Governing Council and Parents and Friends

Families are an important part of life at Warooka Primary and School Based Preschool. We value the knowledge families bring and welcome involvement in ways that work for each family.

The Governing Council supports the governance and direction of the school. Membership is generally for a two-year term, with the Annual General Meeting held early in Term 1. Meetings are held approximately monthly and are open to the school community.

Parents and Friends provides another way for families to connect, contribute and support school activities. All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

Volunteers

We greatly value the contribution of volunteers. Opportunities may include:

- Resource Centre support
- Sports Day
- Sports teams and district sporting events
- Working bees and school activities.

Volunteer involvement is subject to Department requirements and any required screening or induction processes.

Resource Centre

The Resource Centre supports teaching and learning across the school. Students and families are encouraged to make use of its books, information and learning resources. Children will have access to a weekly library session where they will borrow books throughout the year.

Communication, Attendance and Reporting

Communication

Education is a partnership between children, families and educators, and open communication is central to that partnership. We encourage families to contact us whenever they have a question, concern or information that may help us support their child.

We communicate in a range of ways, including:

- Seesaw and classroom communication
- parent–teacher discussions and meetings
- school newsletters
- telephone calls and emails
- letters and notices
- assemblies, special events and informal conversations.

School assemblies are hosted by classes throughout the year. Dates and times are advertised through school communication.

Newsletters are generally published on Thursdays in Weeks 3, 6 and 9. Community groups are welcome to submit suitable notices. Please provide items to the school by 9:00 am on the day before publication.

Assessment and Reporting

Written student reports are provided at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Parent–teacher interviews are held around the end of Terms 1 and 3.

Student Absences

Families are required to provide a reason for a child’s absence from school. Where an absence is unexplained, the school will follow up with families in line with Department attendance requirements. Please refer to the school Attendance Policy for further information.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Students who arrive late or leave early must report to the Front Office and be signed in or out using the school’s digital sign-in system. If a child needs to leave before the 3:20 pm dismissal time, families should notify the school in advance wherever possible.

Changes to Student Information

Please keep the school informed of changes that may affect your child or our ability to contact and support your family. This may include changes to:

- name, address, phone number or emergency contacts
- family circumstances or care arrangements
- medical or health information
- significant events that may affect your child's wellbeing or learning.

Raising a Concern

We want families to feel comfortable raising questions or concerns. Most issues are best resolved through respectful, direct communication with the staff member closest to the matter. The appropriate pathway may vary depending on the nature of the concern, and families may choose to have an advocate or support person with them.

1. Contact the relevant teacher and arrange a suitable time to talk. Making an appointment allows the teacher to give the matter their full attention.
2. If the issue is not resolved, or if the matter is more appropriately addressed by school leadership, make an appointment with the Principal and provide the Front Office with a brief indication of the nature of the concern.
3. If you remain dissatisfied after the school has responded, you may contact the Department's Customer Feedback Team on 1800 677 435.
4. Further information is available through the school's grievance information and the relevant link on the school website.

We ask that concerns are handled respectfully and with appropriate confidentiality, particularly when children or other families are involved. Our aim is to work together to resolve concerns while protecting the dignity and wellbeing of everyone involved.

Enrolment and Fees

Preschool Enrolment

Three-year-old preschool children are eligible to attend after they turn three, with entry points occurring at different times during the year. Please contact the school for advice about your child's entry date and enrolment process.

Eligible three- and four-year-old preschool children attend four full days per fortnight for four terms directly before starting school. Preschool sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Transition to School

Preschool children have regular opportunities to connect with the school and Reception class. Children preparing to begin school are also offered additional transition visits to help them become familiar with their new learning environment, routines and staff.

Reception Enrolment

There are two Reception intake points each year: the beginning of Term 1 and the beginning of Term 3.

- Children who turn five before 1 May can start school in Term 1.
- Children who turn five between 1 May and 31 October can start school in Term 3 as part of the mid-year intake.
- Children who turn five after 31 October can start school at the beginning of the following year.

Children who start Reception at the beginning of the year complete four terms of Reception. Children who start in the mid-year intake complete six terms of Reception.

Materials and Services Charges

Materials and Services Charges are set each year in accordance with Department requirements and Governing Council processes. Families will be advised of applicable charges before the new school year.

The South Australian Government has committed to abolishing school fees for public primary school students from 2027.

Current preschool fee: \$200 per year for full-time preschool.

Questions? Please contact the Front Office on (08) 8854 5034 or email dl.0467.info@schools.sa.edu.au.