

Parent Information Booklet



Our school day:

8.30am	Morning play
9am	Class time
11- 11.15am	Eating time
11.15- 11.45am	Play break
11.45 -1.15pm	Class time
1.15-1.45pm	Play break
1.45-3pm	Class time
3pm	School day ends

*Darlington Public School
Abercrombie Street
Darlington NSW 2008*

Tel: 9516 2300

Email: darlington-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Welcome to Darlington Public School

We provide a safe,
nurturing and
innovative learning
environment.

Our learning environments
develop respect,
understanding and
responsibility.

We are safe,
respectful,
learners

Our education delivery
supports the academic,
creative, physical,
social and emotional
development of our
students.

Darlington Public School provides a high quality public education to students in the local area.
We are proud to work in partnership with the local school community and celebrate the difference
and diversity that each family brings.

We warmly welcome you to our Darlington Public School family.

OUR STAFF 2023

Principal: Michelle McCormack

Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction: Lisa O'Brien

Assistant Principal: Rosalind Lee

Preschool: Cindy Treweek and Jane Purdy

Teacher KO: Leanne Farrugia

Teacher KE: Cassie Donaldson

Teacher 1F: Brad Harford

Teacher 2D: John Askew

Teacher 3K: Kharma Greer

Teacher 4P: James McRae

Teacher 5/6F: Rod Thompson

Teacher 5/6G: Cate Kell-Clarke

Learning Support: Sherryl Mourad and Yvette Novak

EAL/Learning Support: Howard James

ICT RFF: Rohan Hills

Library: Trish Munnoch

Aboriginal Education Officer: Adam Ah-See

School Administration Manager: Cathy Robinson

School Administration Officer: Ginger Stephen and Leonie Bruce

School Learning Support Officers: Trish Adams, Mary Kolotas, Rex Li and Mia Anania

School Counsellor: Rebecca Rose (Wednesday)

Cleaner: Ranjin Ponnuthurai

OUR STAFF

Our professional teachers encourage students to develop a love of learning and a desire to succeed. They maintain the highest integrity and concern for your child's wellbeing.

THE PRINCIPAL

The Principal is responsible for the educational leadership and management of our school. If you would like to speak to the principal, please contact us to make an appointment.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Our school administrative staff can answer your enquiries or direct you to the appropriate staff member for help.

KEY LEARNING AREAS

ENGLISH

Students learn to read, write, talk and listen. They learn the English language, how it varies according to context and how to communicate effectively to different audiences.

Children learn to read for pleasure and to gather information. They also learn about poetry, novels and plays.

Students will gain a sound grasp of language structures, punctuation, spelling and grammar.

MATHEMATICS

Students develop thinking, understanding, competence and confidence with numbers, shapes and measurement.

Students will learn to add, subtract, divide and multiply whole numbers, fractions and decimals.

Students will learn geometry, algebra and how to work with data and graphs.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This subject develops student skills in thinking, problem solving and investigating.

Students will develop knowledge and skills in scientific investigation, design and applied technology.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Students learn about history, geography, civics and citizenship.

They will investigate their personal community identity and gain an understanding of their nation and its place in the world.

Students will learn to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment.

CREATIVE ARTS

Students will experience visual arts, music, drama and dance. They will have opportunities to explore their own creativity in each of these areas.

Students will learn and perform drama and dance and will express themselves through visual arts and music.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will develop skills, knowledge and the attitudes they require to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives.

They will learn how their bodies change and grow over time.

Students learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle that encompasses good food and regular exercise.

Summer UNIFORM

BOYS

Black shoes Red

Polo shirt

Navy shorts

GIRLS

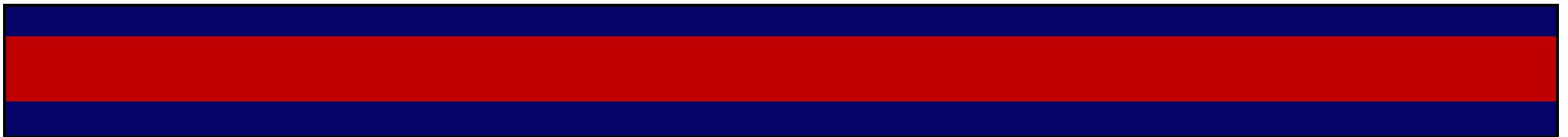
Black shoes

Navy and red tartan dress

Culottes/shorts & red polo shirt

Sport house t-shirts are available to purchase from the P&C.

SCHOOL HATS Due to the high incidence of skin cancer throughout Australia, the school has adopted a *No hat, play in the shade* policy. All pupils are required to wear a hat while in the playground. School hats are available at the school office.



Winter UNIFORM



P & C SCHOOL UNIFORM POOL

A uniform pool is operated on occasion to enable parents to buy second-hand uniforms for very low prices.

BOYS

Black shoes

Red shirt

Navy blue pants

Red jumper or hoodie

GIRLS

Black shoes

Red shirt

Navy blue pants

Red jumper or hoodie

SPORTS

Sneakers

Navy blue shorts tracksuit pants

Red school polo shirt



A to Z of School Life

ACCIDENT and ILLNESS

If there is a significant accident at school, a parent or an emergency contact person is notified immediately. It is essential that our school database is kept up to date so please notify the office if there are any changes to your details.

If your child is ill and will not be attending school please either:

1. call the school office to notify them;
2. fill out the absent form on the app; or
3. send a note in with your child on their return to school.

ATTENDANCE

The law requires children to attend school within the prescribed hours each day. Students should only be absent from school for exceptional reasons such as illness.

If your child is absent from school for any reason please use procedures described above under *Accident and Illness*. Unexplained absences of over three days may be investigated.

If your children are going to be absent for an extended period of time (greater than 10 school days) an exemption must be applied for in writing prior to the absence. Please contact the Office Manager or the Principal for more information.

ASSEMBLIES

A whole school assembly is held every Thursday in the school hall at 12.45pm.
All welcome.

BICYCLES AND SCOOTERS

Bike racks are provided for students who wish to ride their bikes or scooters to school.

Students must not ride their bikes in the school grounds. By law, students who ride their bicycles and scooters must wear a helmet.

BOOK CLUB

The school participates in the Scholastic Book Club Scheme. Students are able to purchase quality paperback books at a very reasonable price through the school.

Order forms are distributed in class for completion at home if desired. Students can return their completed order to the office by the specified date with their money in a sealed envelope with their name and class written on the envelope.

Alternatively, parents can download the LOOP application from the App Store and order and pay electronically. Books will be delivered to your child at school.

BUSES AND TRAINS

All K-6 students are eligible for free travel from home to school. Bus and train pass forms are available from the office or can be applied for online at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/home.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students at Darlington Public School follow the Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) values and expectations which are:

- ◆ We are Safe.
- ◆ We are Respectful.
- ◆ We are Learners.

These are displayed in every classroom and referred to regularly.

CRUNCH AND SIP

Morning Crunch and Sip allows students to have a quick break each morning at approximately 10.30am. Each child is encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or vegetables to eat during this break.

ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

When seeking enrolment at the school, families must provide:

1. Birth Certificate (Visa if required);
2. immunisation records; and
3. proof of residence.

Parents must also provide full details of home address, phone numbers and emergency contacts.

EXCURSIONS

Throughout the year excursions are undertaken in conjunction with class studies. They complement the learning taking place in the classroom. They may also be for sporting activities. All excursions are thoroughly planned and authorised by the School Principal.

Written parental permission must be obtained before a child will be allowed to participate. This is obtained using a Permission note that is sent home with the student that requires a signature and, at times, a small cost.

FACEBOOK

Please check out our school Facebook page!

[Fb.me/DarlingtonPS](https://fb.me/DarlingtonPS)

HOME READING

Reading with your child at home will help them in all learning areas at school. Often teachers will ask you to listen to your child read at home. This is a good way to support your child's reading. You can borrow books from your school library or your local library.

Home Reading activities are set by the individual classroom teacher.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

If students are ill for more than two days it is recommended that they seek medical assistance. In some cases we will be under instruction from the Health Department Infectious Diseases. Children must be kept at home for:

Chicken Pox – First 5 days and then until the blisters have scabbed over.

Conjunctivitis – Until discharge from eyes has ceased.

Hepatitis A – Until medical certificate has been received. Measles – At least 5 days from appearance of the rash or until a medical certificate is produced.

German Measles – At least 7 days from appearance of the rash or until a medical certificate is received.

Whooping Cough – 14 days after onset of coughing.

Check Dept recommendations for any change.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Darlington Public School and is forwarded home every second Wednesday.

The Bulletin is sent home electronically (to email addresses).

This is our preferred method of communication however, we appreciate that some families prefer to receive a hard copy. This is sent home with each family who requests a hard copy, on a Wednesday.

LIBRARY

Our library is a modern facility that can be used flexibly for a range of activities, classes and groups. The Library is the information centre of the school. All classes have designated library days where they can borrow and return books. A library bag can be purchased from the school to protect the books or you can borrow with any library bag you may already have at home.

LOST PROPERTY

It is important that all items of clothing be clearly labelled. Whilst every effort will be made to locate owners of lost property, the school cannot be held responsible for any item lost. All lost property will be stored until the end of term. After that it will be donated to the school's clothing pool.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The school actively encourages parent involvement in school activities.

- ◆ Accompanying students on excursions
- ◆ Assisting with classroom activities
- ◆ Acting as a volunteer at sports days
- ◆ Sharing your talents and interests
- ◆ Assisting the P&C
- ◆ Assisting in the canteen

Any assistance you may be able to provide is always appreciated. Volunteers may be required to complete a WWCC check. Please contact the Office for more information. All volunteers must sign in and out at the Office.

PERFORMANCES

At times cultural experiences are arranged for the students. Students are given the opportunity to visit or be visited by approved groups who perform in dance, music or drama. Details of these visits are sent home together with a permission note and cost of attendance (if any).

Each year students at Darlington Public School participate in our annual Talent Quest which is held towards the end of Term 4. We also hold whole school performances and an art show on alternate years.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

There are supervision rosters in place for the protection, welfare and safety of students in school grounds commencing from 8.30am and finishing at 3.15pm. In the interest of safety, parents are requested to see that students do not arrive at school before 8.30am as there is NO supervision prior to that time. During recess and lunch, students are supervised in designated play areas.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEBATING

All students are encouraged to be actively involved in public speaking and debating. We participate in the Multicultural Public Speaking and the Premier's Debating Challenge.

P & C ASSOCIATION

The P & C Association meets in the staffroom at 6.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Membership is open to all parents and interested citizens at a cost of \$2.00.

P & C Meetings are forums for parent/teacher information exchange.

Should you wish to be part of this energetic and vibrant committee please come along.

The Darlington Public School P&C Association can be found and liked on Facebook.

The current P & C Office Bearers

President: Tamara Ogilvie

Secretary: Kate O'Donnell

Treasurer: Belinda Davey

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and ETHICS

Ethics and religious education classes are provided by lay teachers each Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm to 3.00pm. Students are placed into these classes according to the information given on the student's enrolment form unless otherwise requested by parents.

REPORTS

Reports are sent home at the end of each semester. Parents are provided with additional information about how their child is progressing in literacy and numeracy throughout the year. In addition, Parent/Teacher Interviews in terms 1 and 3, provide an opportunity to speak more directly about your child's academic growth and wellbeing.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

At the end of each year staff and students elect the Leadership Council for the following year. The Leadership Council comprises of six Year 6 students.

House Captains and class SRC representatives are elected at the beginning of each year.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 9.00am to 3.00pm. First break is from 11.15am to 11.45am. Second break is from 1.15pm to 1.45pm.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School Photographs are taken every year. Parents may elect to purchase school photos. An individual envelope with your child's name is sent home approximately 4 weeks prior to the photos being taken. You can either complete the online payment using instructions that are printed on the envelope or you can enclose payment in the envelope and return to school. Either way, the envelope must come back to the school office. Every student will have their photo taken.

SPORT

Sport sessions are held each Friday during class times. Selected students can also represent the school at Zone, Regional and State Levels in various sports. Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals are held annually.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

A School Counsellor is available each Thursday upon referral from a teacher or at the request of a parent.

The School Counsellor can provide assistance in times of adversity or in assessing learning difficulties experienced by children.

SPORT HOUSES

Pemulwuy, Yagan and Truganini

Students are automatically assigned to a house upon enrolment. Elected House Captains and Vice Captains organise activities throughout the year including relay teams at sports carnivals, conducting sports assemblies and encouraging participation in school activities.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

The student council is elected by students and staff. The elected students are to act as role models for other students and reflect the high standards required of students at our school. They organise fundraising activities such as discos, morning teas and other events.

SUNSAFE

Darlington Public School has a Sun Safe Policy which means that caps or broad-brimmed hats must be worn in the playground and during outside activities. If a student does not wear a hat, he or she will be required to stay in designated shade areas.

School hats can be purchased at the school office.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Darlington Public School is one of the main feeder schools for Alexandria Park Community School and the new Inner City High School on Cleveland Street.

TRANSITION PROGRAMS

Darlington Public School has developed successful transition programs in conjunction with Alexandria Park Community School and with our preschool to prepare children for the commencement of the next stage in their lives.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Outside bodies are welcome to use the school's facilities for meetings etc, provided that there is no interruption with the normal running of the school. A small fee may apply to cover the costs of gas and electricity if the school is being hired to operate a business and a Community User Agreement will need to be filled out.

Business operators will be asked to complete a contract at the beginning of each year.

VISITORS

All parents and visitors must come to the office first when they arrive at school to sign in before heading to the classrooms or into the playground. This is to ensure the safety and protection of our students. This also ensures that in case of emergency we are aware of those people within the school grounds.

All external visitors to our school must present at the office to sign in and provide details of their visit. This includes providing Working With Children details. They will also be provided with a location specific safety induction.

WEBSITE

The school website is another valuable source of information. You can find the latest newsletter, the School Strategic Directions and Annual School Reports to understand the vision for the school. You will also find photos and classroom information here.

<https://darlington-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Student Wellbeing

Darlington Public School has a whole school approach to Student Wellbeing that combines creating strong, positive relationships between students and teachers, creating a safe, nurturing environment in which students can flourish with developing clear, consistent messages about our values and expectations.

OUR VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS

At Darlington Public School:

We are safe

- ◆ Give people personal space;
- ◆ Follow adult directions; and
- ◆ Leave devices off, and in the office drawer.

We are respectful

We expect each other to:

- ◆ Use polite words and actions;
- ◆ Treat others the way we like to be treated;
- ◆ Look after property.

We are learners

We expect each other to:

- ◆ Cooperate;
- ◆ Try your best; and
- ◆ Wear your uniform with pride.

Students learn about each of these values and expectations in class.

School signage and classroom posters support their learning.

MAJOR AND MINOR BEHAVIOURS

If students do not follow the Darlington Public School values and expectations in the classroom or playground, additional actions may be required by the teacher.

Students learn about minor and major breaches of the school's values and expectations in classrooms.

- ◆ If a student displays a minor behaviour, teachers speak with the student regarding behaviour and work to resolve the issue while referring to values and expectations. If students receive 3 minor records in a week it will result in a reflection room visit.
- ◆ If a student displays a major behaviour, teachers refer the student to the reflection room to resolve the issue. If students receive 2 major records in a 5 week period, parents are called in to speak with the Principal and to develop a personalised contract with their child. Please refer to or ask for a copy of the Discipline and Well-being Policy for further information.

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

We appreciate the positive behaviours that students display that strengthen the safe and harmonious environment at Darlington Public School.

We recognise and celebrate students' ongoing dedication by:

Assembly Awards

Blue Roo's at the beginning of each term, that lead to the award of two in class prizes.

Gold Points – accumulate and lead towards students receiving bronze, silver, gold and school medal awards.

Extra play – when our animal card jar fills up, all students receive an additional 10 minutes' play.

GROWTH MINDSET

At Darlington Public School, we support students to develop a growth mindset when learning. In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and resilience in students when facing new challenges.

ANTI-BULLYING

Your child needs to know they are being heard. Their feelings matter and their concerns should be taken seriously. Encourage your child to talk about what happened. Explain to your child that reporting the bullying is okay.

Please make the time to let the school know if this is happening to your child. Bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated at Darlington Public School. Please refer to or request a copy of our Anti-bullying Plan.

School Price List



All these items available at the front office:

Short sleeve polo - \$20

Long sleeve polo - \$25

Jumpers - \$25

Hoodies - \$30

Tunics - \$32

Wet weather spray jacket - \$30

Broadbrim Hats - \$12

Legionnaire caps- \$6

Baseball cap- \$15

Reversible sport hat- \$15

Library bag - \$12





our students are encouraged to play, **lead**, create, be active, get involved,
celebrate successes and to be an active participant in the local Darlington Community.

