

Anula Preschool



PRESCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK



Anula Primary School

Welcome from the Principal

It is my pleasure to share with you the wonderful things that Anula Preschool can offer.

Anula Preschool is an inclusive, caring and highly professional environment where children's learning and needs are at the core of our work. We believe that every child can achieve success, happiness and a sense of belonging. With this belief, all staff are committed to working together to make it a reality for every child.

The Early Years are fundamental in building the foundations for future success. The diversity in family life means that children bring to school a variety of experiences, perspectives, expectations, knowledge and skills. It is the craft of the teacher alongside the culture of the school that can embrace the diversity and create a personalised, engaging and innovative learning environment.

The Anula School Community values the partnership between school and home. We recognise that families are a child's first and most influential teachers. We welcome and encourage families into our school and work hard to build strong partnerships and effective communication.

As a school leader I look with kind eyes. I believe every child deserves to feel welcomed, protected and supported at school. I believe every child has the capacity to learn and achieve to the best of their ability when enveloped in a nurturing and driven environment. As a leader I invest authentic time and energy purposefully to the entire school community and demonstrate a sense of urgency towards school improvement and enhanced outcomes for all stakeholders.

I am very proud to be the Principal of Anula Primary School and fortunate to have a dedicated, passionate and quality Early Years team. Our staff engage in on-going current professional learning and continually strive to improve their teaching practice, their environment and their knowledge and understanding of child development.

We look forward to working with you over the coming years and seeing you actively involved in your child's learning.



Melinda Kealy

Principal

Welcome to Parents/Carers



The Early Years are an essential part of the school system. We hope this book will help you understand how we can all work together to give your child a good foundation for future school years.

It is our belief that you are a critical part of your child's education at school. You are your child's first teacher and we encourage you to be involved in the next part of the learning journey with the school. We believe in an open door policy and encourage you to be curious about what is happening in the school environment. There are many ways you can be involved in the school including being part of School Council, helping out with the occasional working bee, fundraising, assisting in

the classroom, excursions or joining our Preschool Committee. Every year we also have a parent fulfill the role of Preschool Representative on the School Council. We would encourage you to get to know your child's teacher to establish the essential learning partnership.

The school has a "zero tolerance" policy for bullying, harassment and serious physical violence and will use a restorative justice approach to restoring relationships and encouraging positive behaviour. There is an expectation that staff, students and parents/carers will respect the rights of others. The active implementation of this policy is essential to maintaining a safe environment which supports the physical and emotional wellbeing of everyone. The school community has developed a clear set of values that underpin school decision making and the basis of our working relationship with each other. The Anula Primary School values are respect, honesty, collaboration, responsibility and doing your best. These values are an integral part of the ethos and operation of Anula School.



We look forward to working with you and your family over the coming year.

Early Years Philosophy

Every class in Anula's Early Years implements Walker Learning Approach (WLA). This approach has been developed by Kathy Walker, an educational psychologist and is based on 15 years of research. The approach is developmentally appropriate for young children combining play with explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy. As WLA moves into the primary years it moves from a play-based approach to an inquiry approach.

Walker Learning engages children in exciting and authentic learning experiences that reflect the particular needs, interests and strengths of the individual child. It ensures a greater level of engagement for boys and helps to reduce behavioural issues within the classroom. Walker Learning also helps to increase rich oral language for all children and integrating literacy and numeracy into all learning experiences.

“The WLA approach emphasises that learning is much broader and richer than just literacy and numeracy and it focuses parents, teachers and children on the ‘whole’ child. WLA is a rigorous approach in education requiring teachers to recognise, plan for and implement a range of strategies that clearly identify learning and developmental objectives.”

(“Play Matters”, Kathy Walker, 2007)



Early Years staff members:

- understand and do not confuse WLA with past programs such as “developmental play” from the 70’s and 80’s or other programs such as “open classrooms” or Steiner or Reggio Emilia approaches
- recognise WLA is based on rigorous brain research and child development theory
- identify the philosophy and key principles
 - the child is at the centre of the curriculum and teaching strategies
 - a balanced curriculum of authentic student interests and engagement alongside teacher scaffolding, direction and explicit teaching
 - student engagement through the children’s investigations and interests
 - explicit teaching and instruction in literacy, numeracy and other learning areas
 - in-depth planning for the development of children alongside learning objectives



We acknowledge
the Larrakia as
Traditional Owners
of the land on which
we work and play
and will strive to
learn about and embed
aspects of Indigenous culture
within our practices.



A photograph of a woman with red hair, wearing a dark t-shirt, sitting on the floor and reading a book to a young girl. The girl is wearing a pink bucket hat and a pink t-shirt. They are in a classroom setting with colorful decorations and other children in the background. The book they are reading is titled "The Little Yellow Digger and the Whale".

Anula Preschool Belongs to All of Us

- The Anula preschool community is enriched by sharing and celebrating our similarities and differences. We embrace and reflect all families' cultural practices, beliefs and values.
- Respectful partnerships are nurtured, valued and enhanced through strong partnerships with family, students and community.
- All forms of community participation are appreciated.



Children as Life Long Learners

- We recognise that children are capable and ambitious learners. We value and build on their existing knowledge and expertise and respond to their ways of knowing.
- Children are valued as a dynamic community of teachers and learners.
- We understand that play, learning and children's development are inter - connected and co - dependent and play is at the heart of all that we do.

Educators as Life Long Learners



- We are a team of educators dedicated to creating a culture of professionalism, supportiveness and collaboration.
- We are reflective and committed to ongoing professional development.
- Our practice is guided by relevant early childhood research, frameworks, guidelines and pedagogies.

Environment



- Children are encouraged to explore their inherent connection with nature.
- We promote and implement 'reduce, reuse and recycle'.
- We draw on children's interests and stages of development and educator expertise to design learning environments that spark curiosity, creativity and joy.

Anula Primary School Values and Mission

The first years of school are important steps in your child's learning journey and we welcome you to our school and the school community.

Anula Primary School has been a proud leader in NT education since it opened in 1978. It has a multicultural ethos, backed by the school values of:

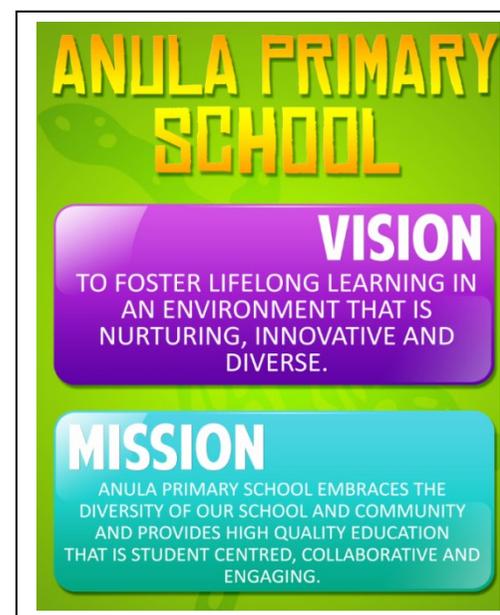
- Respect – Treat yourself, others and property with care.
- Doing your best – Try hard to always do the best that you can.
- Collaboration – Work together as a team.
- Honesty – Be truthful in what you say and do.
- Responsibility – Think before you act and make the right choice.

These values were revised and updated through the collaboration of children, staff and parents in 2010.

MISSION STATEMENT

Anula Primary School embraces the diversity of our school and community and provides high quality education that is student centred, collaborative and engaging.

Anula Primary School parents, students and staff share a commitment to our Mission so that students can achieve their full potential and love learning. It is important that students are able to respond creatively and ethically to the challenges of a global society.



Preschool Entry Requirements

Children who are turning 4 years of age before 30th June can begin in Preschool at the beginning of the year. As children are not yet 6 years of age, Preschool is not compulsory, but provides a strong base and valuable experience in educational skills such as effective interaction and communication, the ability to collaborate, problem solving skills and play based learning. Once parents have made the commitment to enrol their child, the expectation is that they will attend daily.



An interview is held with parents to discuss each child's abilities and needs. Important areas such as independent toileting may mean later entry to Preschool. Parents are asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their children, including their interests so they may be used to help plan for the first weeks of school.

To enrol at Preschool, parents need to arrange for an enrolment interview which is conducted by the principal or one of the assistant principals. During this informal meeting, you will be guided through the preschool and school, providing you with the opportunity to learn more about the school. Enrolment forms can be completed at this stage so please supply a copy of:

- the child's original birth certificate or immigration papers
- record of up-to-date immunisation from health clinic or doctor
- visa details if arriving from overseas

Children enjoy their Preschool experience if they are able to:

- independently use the toilet
- experience little stress when apart from familiar adults
- interact with a range of adults around them
e.g. carers, neighbours, extended family members
- show curiosity in new activities and enjoy new experiences



Preschool Times

There is a sign in/out book in the Preschool that needs to be completed every day your child attends. An adult, or an approved sibling, **MUST** be present to sign children in and out of preschool.

GROUP 1 Week 1: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
 8:00am – 2.30pm
 Week 2: Monday & Tuesday
 8.00am – 2.30pm

GROUP 2 Week 1: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
 8:00am – 2.30pm
 Week 2: Thursday & Friday
 8.00am – 2.30pm

If you wish to collect your child earlier than the official finish time, please notify the Preschool staff so your child is ready with his/her bag at the nominated collection time.

Food Requirements

Parents need to provide lunch for their child. There is a fridge for the children to keep their lunch in and a microwave is available to reheat food. Please think of healthy choices when packing their lunch box. It is advisable to give them practise at opening glad wrap, sandwich bags, lunch boxes etc. at home prior to starting school. They will need a water bottle; both lunch box and bottle need to be clearly named.

Children are asked to bring from home a piece of fruit or a healthy snack (e.g. dried fruit) each day which is cut up to share. We appreciate family help to cut the fruit. A menu is displayed at the end of the day, communicating exactly what fruit was available that day.



If your child has any dietary requirements, please talk with the preschool staff about this.

Parent Helpers

We greatly value parent help. There are a number of different ways you can help in the Preschool.

Ways to help include:

- Cutting up fruit
- Working with children
- Taking home washing
- Sewing
- Donating recycled cardboard boxes for craft
- Laminating/cutting out resources
- Selling icy poles at the end of the day

Support for Children

As well as classroom teachers of excellence, Anula Preschool and Primary School have additional specialist staff to cater for children with a range of learning needs. Some of the many support programmes available at the school include:

- Intensive English School (IES) classes throughout the school led by experienced teaching staff and supported by Bilingual Officers for students arriving in Australia with little to no English
- Learning Support Team comprising of a Special Education Assistant and Transition Support Assistant, working across the school supporting students and teachers, working collaboratively with families and caregivers
- Inclusion support programmes which include tutors and assistance in a variety of ways directed by class teachers
- Aboriginal & Islander Education Worker
- Enrichment and Intervention program
- After School Care delivered on site by Child Australia



When to keep your child at home & school excursions

There are times when children should stay home. If your child is kept home for any reason, including illness, please ring, email or text the school to inform staff on the day. Each child's attendance is marked twice daily. While regular attendance is strongly encouraged, if a child is ill, that child needs to stay at home.

If a child becomes sick while at school, parents/carers will be contacted. It is important that the **emergency contact on the enrolment form is current and up to date.**



As a general rule, standard medication is not given to a child while at school. If a child has asthma, which is controlled with medication such as an inhaler or “puffer”, it is important that all staff are aware of this, the child has a current asthma management plan and appropriate permission notes signed by the parent/carer for use of the puffer while at school. It is also important that a puffer be kept at school for emergency use.

Similarly, if a child has allergies, the school must be informed and appropriate medical protocols discussed with both the class teacher and first aid staff in the school.

When excursions are planned a permission note is sent home to be completed, signed by a parent/carer and returned to school. Parent help on excursions is always appreciated.



School Library Visits

The children will visit the school library each week to borrow books. To be able to borrow a book, they will need to bring a library bag to school. Library bags will be available to purchase as part of the book pack at the beginning of the year, or you can supply your own. Children are only able to have one book out at a time.

Preschool Uniform Requirements

Anula Preschool strongly encourages children to wear a school uniform each day. We ask that Preschool children do not wear the Primary school uniform.

The Preschool uniform is a t-shirt with a logo and is available for purchase from the front office of the school.



Every school year NT students receive a \$150 Back to School Voucher which can be used to purchase uniforms, backpacks and other items at school.

Children need:

- a school bag (labelled)
- a **broad brimmed** or **bucket hat** (with name and class clearly labelled) for outside activities. While most of the playground is fairly shady, a hat is required for outside play. **Caps do not meet** our school Sun Safe Policy. Each child will have a pocket at school to store their hat, thus ensuring that they will always have a hat available, reducing the need for sharing hats, which also can mean sharing nits.
- a cloth bag for library books. Books are borrowed weekly from the School library.
- a spare set of clothes (in case of accident)

Please label your child's possessions including shoes and socks.

As children learn through all of their senses and are developing understandings about the world around them, children at Preschool are encouraged to take their shoes off. This makes climbing safer and encourages whole body sensory experiences. Children will be asked to keep their shoes on if they have cuts or sores on their feet. All children will be required to wear shoes when visiting the school. At Preschool each child has a locker to store their bag, artwork and shoes. Children are encouraged to empty the locker when they leave each day.

Fundraising

The Preschool sells 99.9% fruit icy poles at the end of each day as an ongoing fundraising venture. Icy poles cost 50c each and we ask for parent support in selling them.

Preschool Swimming & Safety

Anula Preschool has a Sun Safe Policy, so whilst all care will be taken to keep children in shady areas, under shade cloth or inside the classroom, we ask you to apply sun block before your child arrives at school. You will be asked to sign a permission form for children to have sunscreen reapplied prior to going out for lunch. There is sunscreen available at preschool for you to apply, should you require.

Anula Preschool has a fenced wading pool. On Preschool swimming days it is filled with fresh water (Terms 1 & 4). At times vegetable dye may be used to colour the water.



We provide a program that includes an instructor with recommended qualifications, small student ratio and full supervision by a staff member.

Children will need to bring;

- a towel
- swimmers/bathers/sunsuit
- a plastic bag for wet belongings

(Please ensure all belongings are clearly labelled)

Children are not allowed to swim in spare underwear. Staff may exclude some children when necessary for health or safety reasons.

If you send your child with sunglasses, please ensure that they are labelled clearly with their name.

Victorian Cursive Script

Northern Territory Preschool and schools use Victorian cursive script when teaching children to write. It would be helpful if you could attempt to use this script when writing for your child at home. Please teach them to only use a capital letter at the beginning of their name or for proper nouns.



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Anula Preschool

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