

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.

I am incredibly proud to serve as Principal of this remarkable school, a place that holds a special place in my heart. My journey with Anula Primary began in the mid-80s when I was a preschooler here, and it's a privilege to return to lead the school that helped shape my early years. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working in various roles at Anula — from Education Support staff assisting students and teachers, to Senior Teacher, Assistant Principal, and now Principal. Each role has deepened my appreciation and respect for the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that we are fully committed to our school community.

Thank you for entrusting us with their learning and growth. I look forward to building a bright future together at Anula Primary School.



Brian Hyke  
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 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 more than 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 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)

WLA is based on rigorous brain research and child development theory

The philosophy and key principles are –

- 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.





## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.

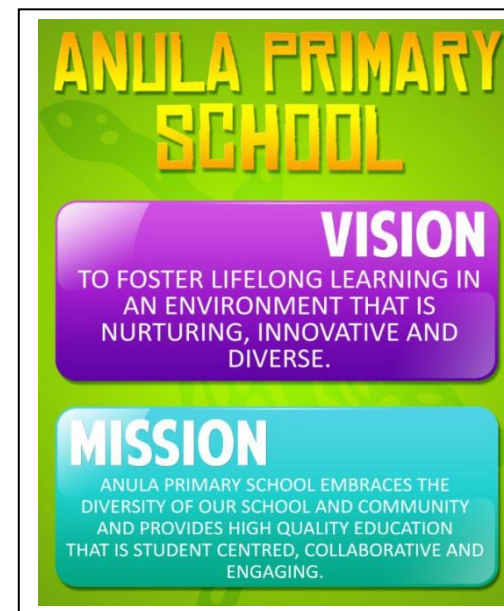
Anula Primary School has been a proud leader in NT education since it opened in 1978. It has a multicultural ethos, backed by the school values of:

- 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.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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. 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



## 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 who is not of primary school age, MUST be present to sign children into preschool in the morning and to collect your child and sign them out of preschool in the afternoon.

GROUP 1 - Odd weeks:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

8:00am – 2.30pm

Even weeks:

Monday & Tuesday

8.00am – 2.30pm

GROUP 2 Odd weeks:

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

8:00am – 2.30pm

Even weeks:

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

---

We ask that you pack a healthy snack and lunch for your child. There are fridges for the children to keep their food in and a microwave is available to reheat food. Please think of healthy choices when packing your child's lunch box. Children need a separate snack box with a piece of fruit and a healthy snack. Please practice opening their lunch boxes at home prior to starting school. We ask that parents do not supply food in single use plastic packaging as we are a sustainable focused school.

Please provide your child with a water bottle each day. There is a cold water tap for them to refill their water bottle throughout the 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.

- Working with children
- Taking home washing
- Sewing
- Donating recycled items for craft (boxes, paper, lids etc.)
- Gardening, cooking, sharing your skills and knowledge

## Support for Children

---

Anula Preschool and Primary School have additional specialist staff to cater for children with a range of learning needs. Some of the many support programs 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
- Inclusion support programs which include tutors and assistance in a variety of ways directed by class teachers
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education Worker
- Enrichment and Intervention programs
- After School Care delivered on site by Child Australia

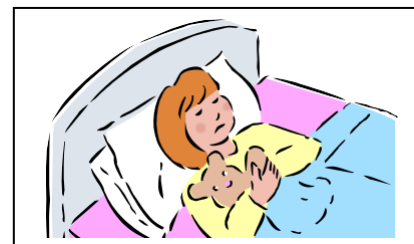


## When to keep your child at home

---

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, please keep your child at home if they are unwell.

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.**



## Medical Conditions

---

**Administering Medication at the preschool:** Staff will not administer any medication without the written authorisation from the parents/guardians and a Health Care Plan. All medication is stored in the first aid cupboard out of the reach of children. All medication should have a pharmacist label, displaying the patient's name, the name of the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, the date of dispensing and the expiration of the medication.

**Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes:** To ensure staff are adequately prepared and informed of your child's needs, children with asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes must have a current action plan from a doctor. This must be provided to the preschool prior to starting.

## Excursions

---

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 can be purchased from the front office with your Back to School voucher. 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 \$200 Back to School Voucher which can be used to purchase uniforms, backpacks and other items at school.

Children need:

- A school bag big enough to fit all school requirements (labelled)
- A **broad brimmed** or **bucket hat** (with name clearly labelled) for outside activities. While most of the playground is 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.
- A library bag. Books are borrowed weekly from the school library. Please see above about library borrowing.
- A spare set of clothes
- **Please label all 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 allowed 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 primary 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.

## Encouraging Independence

---

You can encourage your child to be independent by practicing the following skills:

- Packing and carrying their school bag
- Putting on their own shoes
- Dressing themselves
- Blowing their nose
- Toileting
- Eating without help

## Preschool Swimming & Sun 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).

We provide a program that includes a teacher with recommended qualifications, small student ratio and full supervision.

Children will need to bring:

- a towel
  - swimmers/bathers/sunsuit
  - a plastic bag for wet belongings
- (Please ensure all belongings are clearly labelled)**



## Contact Us

---

### Preschool Teachers:

Catherine Clarkson (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) - [catherine.albert@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:catherine.albert@education.nt.gov.au)

Debbie Ridley (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) (Preschool Teacher in Charge) - [debbie.ridley@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:debbie.ridley@education.nt.gov.au)

### Preschool Assistant:

Penny Kirby

### Principal:

Brian Hyke

### Assistant Principals:

Tanya Harvey

Louise Knights

Anula Primary School

Phone: 8997 7500

Email: [anula.admin@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:anula.admin@education.nt.gov.au)

Website: <https://www.anulaprimarieschool.com/>

