

GOONELLABAH PUBLIC SCHOOL



Innovative Progressive Creative



Education

Goonellabah Public School

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your child/children to the Goonellabah Public School community.

Goonellabah has a long tradition of providing quality education in a nurturing and caring environment.

The school has an excellent staff of very experienced teachers, interested in the welfare of students, and committed to the achievement of high standards in appropriate learning outcomes. With the assistance of teachers, the school conducts a number of special programs to better meet the needs of students (eg: Talented Students, Early Literacy, Support Teacher Programs, and Choir/Band).

The community, through parent organisations, provides strong support for the school.

The School Plan sets priority areas each year and in this way, there is a continual effort to review and improve programs to maintain the high standards required.

As a parent, there are numerous ways in which you can be involved in the school. These can include supporting the P & C, assisting in the classroom and of course attending the various school functions and activities organised throughout the year.

Education is in a period of great change but your support of the school and your child/children will assist in providing the type of education, which is so necessary at present.

I am sure your involvement with this school will be happy and beneficial for your family.

Mark Spencer
Principal

Aboriginal Education

Goonellabah Public School implements a number of programs and initiatives to assist Aboriginal students to access opportunities in a supportive and culturally inclusive learning environment .

- Each Aboriginal student has a Personalised Learning plan developed in consultation with the parents.
- All students in the school have access to the Bundjalung language program.
- Senior girls have access to the Sista Speak program.
- Students K-6 are involved in NAIDOC celebrations.
- Indigenous artists support the school CAPA program
- Students have the opportunity to be involved in Aboriginal Dance groups.
- Norta Norta funding is utilised to support identified students as a means of improving literacy and numeracy skills.

Absences and Attendance

If your child is absent a note explaining the absence is required when the child returns to school.

Absence notes are filed and recorded. Appointments with doctors, dentists etc should be made out of school hours where at all possible. Home School Liaison Officers visit our school on a regular basis to check for high absentee rates. If this occurs without reasonable explanations then the Home School Liaison Officer may contact home for further consultation.

Students arriving late to school are to report to the front office with their parents/ carers to obtain a late pass. Parents/carers are to notify the office as to why the child/children are late.

Accident and Illness

In the event of an accident or illness, it is essential that you can be contacted at all times. For this reason, we ask you to keep your contact details up to date. The school should be notified immediately of any changes in contact details.

First aid will be administered at school for minor problems. If we are unable to contact you, (every attempt will be made) and your child requires urgent medical attention the school's policy is to transport him/her by ambulance to hospital.

It is important to keep sick children home with infectious diseases until the symptoms have disappeared or the school receives written advice from the doctor. Please do not send your child to school if they are not well at the start of the day.

Assemblies

The K-2 assembly is held on Monday (even weeks) from 1:10pm to 1:40pm in the hall. A class hosts this assembly, showcases an item they have learnt in class and student achievement is recognised.

The 3-6 assembly is held on Monday (odd weeks) from 1:10pm to 1:40pm. A class hosts this assembly, showcases an item they have learnt in class and student achievement is recognised.

The K-6 assembly is held on Tuesday Week 5 and 10 of every term. At this assembly, we recognise student achievement in Positive Behaviour for Learning with the presentation of Silver and Gold Awards.



Bell Times

8:45am	Supervision commences
9:15am	Classes commence
11:20am – 12:00pm	Lunch
12:00pm	Middle session
1:40pm – 2:10pm	Recess
3:15pm	Classes dismissed

Before and After School Care: Out of School Hours (OOSH)

Goonellabah Out of School Hours (OOSH) organisation provides recreational care for children from Kindergarten to Year 6, or ages from 5-12 years, before and after actual school hours and school holidays, at an affordable price.

There are full-time and part-time places available and you don't have to be a working or studying parent to use the service. Your child can come along for the fun, or just to meet new friends.

Location

The service is located in the Goonellabah Public School hall which is convenient if your child/children attends our school. If your child/children attend another school, you can usually arrange for a bus from that school to deliver your child/children safely to Goonellabah Public School where they will be met by one of the staff and taken to the hall.

OOSH can be contacted on 6624 4928.

Best Start

Best Start is a state wide initiative and is administered across all NSW public schools. Children will meet with their teacher and participate in some literacy and numeracy activities.

The teacher will observe each child as they complete different tasks and record what their students know and can do. These activities are designed to give the teacher an opportunity to gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

We believe that the Best Start Program will build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

During the first term of school parents are given feedback about what your child's teacher has learnt about your child, which you are welcome to discuss if you wish, in keeping with our usual practice.

Breakfast Program – 'Kids Café'.

A nutritional breakfast assists children's physical, mental and emotional development. Children who miss breakfast are less able to concentrate, are more prone to fidgeting and find learning difficult by mid-morning.

With the support of the YWCA, Goonellabah Public School runs a Kids Café from 8.15am to 9.10am each day. The program provides a healthy breakfast and nutrition education at no cost to school kids. All children in the school can participate.



Canteen

Goonellabah Public School operates a healthy canteen which operates daily for lunch and recess. Lunch orders must be placed by 9.30am each morning. It is staffed by Allison Knight (Canteen co-ordinator) and relies on parental volunteers. The canteen menu can be found on our school website.

Captains

At the end of every school year, staff and students elect two School Captains and two Vice Captains for the following school year. Our school also has House Captains and School Parliament.

All Year 6 students are considered leaders within our school community and are expected to demonstrate behaviours that model quality leadership for all students.

Collection of Money

Money is to come to the front office to be receipted.

When sending money to school please place in a sealed envelope and clearly mark your child's name and class on the front and what event the money is for. It is a good idea to wrap any loose coin in glad wrap or foil so it will not fall out of the envelope.

Computer Education

Goonellabah Public School offers up to date technology programs and facilities with all classrooms having interactive whiteboards.

Technology is a vital component of the curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 6. We offer up to date technology programs with a computer lab and multiple computers in each room.

Community Liason Officers

At Goonellabah Public School we greatly value parents as partners in the education of their children. Building strong home/school partnerships is a priority. We employ two community liaison officers who work closely with parents and the community.

Counsellor

Goonellabah Public School has a School Counsellor available two days per week during the terms.

The School Counsellor is part of the school's student welfare organisation and is able to contribute information, understanding and advice on the learning and behaviour of students.



Curricula and Policies

Goonellabah Public School has a strong commitment to delivering high quality, inclusive programs in all subject areas. Our experienced staff regularly engage in professional learning opportunities to enhance current teaching practices.

The NSW Education Standards Authority provides all curriculum documents. Subjects are organised into six key learning areas (KLA's):

English

Students learn to read, write, speak, view and represent language. They learn about the English language and literature through working with a wide range of spoken, visual, multimedia and digital texts. Students learn how language varies according to context, and how to communicate with a range of audiences for different purposes. They learn to read for information and pleasure. Students gain a sound grasp of language structures, punctuation, spelling and grammar. They will also learn to think in ways that are imaginative, creative and critical.

Mathematics

This subject focuses on developing students' mathematical understanding, fluency, communication, reasoning and problem-solving through their study of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. These capabilities enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations, using strategies to make decisions and solve problems relevant to their further education and everyday lives.

Human Society and It's Environment

Students are provided with opportunities to explore the past and present to develop an understanding of their personal and community identity. They investigate the interactions between people, places and environments that shape their nation and world. They learn to participate in society as informed, responsible and active citizens.

Science

Students develop skills in thinking, investigating and problem-solving. It gives them knowledge and skills in scientific investigation and inquiry, design and applying technologies. Children pose questions, test ideas, and develop and evaluate designed solutions.

PDHPE

Students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives. Students learn about the importance of good food and regular exercise and develop positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle.

Students learn how bodies grow and change over time. They learn skills to play individual and team sports, and the values of sportmanship and teamwork.

Creative Arts

Students are given experiences in the visual arts, music, drama and dance. They have opportunities to explore their creativity in each of these areas. Students learn to appreciate the meanings and values that each artform offers. They perform and express themselves through the visual arts, music, drama and dance.



Emergency Contacts

It is a DOE requirement that parents / caregivers can be contacted at all times. It is very important that we are able to contact parents or carers in the event of an emergency. Any changes to telephone numbers, email addresses or other relevant information should be notified immediately to the front office.

Excursions and Cultural Visits

Excursions and cultural visits are part of the schools educational programs and are closely linked to units being studied in particular grades. Overnight excursions, camps and visits to larger cities may also be offered to students.

Home Reading

Home reading is strongly encouraged at Goonellabah Public School and students have the opportunity to select books to take home each night to read to their family members.

Homework Policy

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It strengthens home – school links and allows for practising, extending and consolidating work in class. Further, your child will benefit from your interest in their learning whether it be a discussion about school activities, notes from school, work completed at school and sent home, or assistance with home tasks. Homework is relevant to classroom work, providing practice and reinforcement of skills. It is usually given Monday to Thursday and is followed up by the classroom teacher.

Learning and Support

Our Learning and Support team meets each week and is a key committee linked to the learning and engagement of all students at Goonellabah Public School. Children are identified and placed in key programs or allocated specific personnel at these meetings for the purpose of remediation or extension in educational, social, emotional and behavioural programs. The key focus is to ensure all students are provided with educational opportunities that maximise their potential in learning.

Library

Goonellabah Public School has a strong library program that provides resources and services to support teaching and learning in the school.

To become lifelong learners, students must develop their ability to identify the information they need and the skills to locate and process it. The library celebrates Book Week each year using quality literature to help foster a love of reading. The relaxed environment also provides a quiet place at break times for independent activities including reading, drawing, research, passive games and homework support.

Additionally, Ashton Scholastic Book Club offers a wide variety of material for children to read at very reasonable prices.

Medication

No medication will be given to a student without written permission from a parent/caregiver including Panadol.



Newsletter

A newsletter is sent home with the youngest child in the family each Tuesday. It is also available on our school website or can be emailed to you each week.

Notes

Notes for specific events are sent home as required. Please be observant about these events and complete and return them as soon as possible as this helps with school organisation.

A copy of all notes sent home can be found on our school website.

Opportunity Class

The Opportunity Class is a district resource that caters for the special needs of gifted children in Years 5 and 6. In this environment, it is okay to be clever and children with similar ability are able to work together on tasks that are designed to challenge them.

The class is based on the philosophy that each student should have the opportunity to develop to his/her potential in all areas of endeavour. The class provides opportunities for gifted children to work on a program that is appropriate for their needs.

High achievement, originality, problem solving, higher order thinking and creativity are important elements of the learning program. Children learn to justify their ideas and point of view, to listen and accept the good ideas of others and work co-operatively. They often comment that they find other children just like themselves.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Goonellabah Public School encourages regular contact between parents and teachers. To arrange an interview with your child's teacher, a phone call to the school office to arrange a convenient time is appreciated.

Parking

Street parking is available on Ballina Road and Jubilee Avenue.

A Pick Up/ Drop Off Zone is available in the staff car park off Jubilee Avenue.

Professional and Caring Educators

The emotional, social and intellectual wellbeing of all students is extremely important to our teachers. We believe in providing programs that cater for the "whole child". Developing each child's emotional intelligence and resilience is paramount at Goonellabah Public School.

Goonellabah Public School takes pride in delivering an excellent education in warm and nurturing environment. The teachers are highly trained, caring individuals who are committed to helping all students reach their full potential.

Goonellabah Public School is an innovative school community where staff and students are continuously evaluating and changing approaches to learning to ensure that the programs are progressive.

Across all teaching programs, there is a strong commitment to Indigenous and environmental perspectives. The commitment to individual needs of students from diverse backgrounds is demonstrated by students, parents, teachers and the community working together to foster an understanding of different cultures and values.



P & C Association

P & C meetings provide a forum for informal discussion of issues and sharing of ideas. Parental input is an integral and important part of education. Our P&C generally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the staff room. However meeting dates may change due to holidays. Dates for meetings are advertised in the weekly school newsletter and on the Ballina Road Sign.

Reporting to Parents

All school within the DOE are required to formally report to parents twice yearly. School reports are issued at the end of Semester 1 and at the end of Semester 2.

School Fees

Payment of the voluntary contribution is a matter of decision by individual parents and caregivers. Our school welcomes your contribution as this significantly enhances the resources made available to students.

Scripture

Scripture classes are conducted each Friday morning. Please notify the school in writing of the required scripture class you would like your child to attend. If you do not wish, your child to attend scripture a note to the office is required.

Sport

The students at Goonellabah Public School are given many opportunities to represent our school at all levels of sport. They are involved in many summer and winter team sports as well as the vast array of individual sports that Goonellabah and Lismore has to offer.

During Term 1, we develop skills and learn rules for cricket, basketball, tee ball and baseball. Towards the end of the term, the students use the new skills they develop to play against peers.

In Term 2 and 3, students learn and develop skills in preparation for the Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals.

Term 4 'Out of School' sports are offered to students with activities like Ten Pin Bowling, Skating, Gym/Swim and Futsal.

In addition to individual sports, Goonellabah Public School has team representation across many sports. Students from Year 3 to Year 6 represent our school in cricket, netball, hockey, rugby league, touch football and soccer.

Sport Houses

Each year students are placed in a sporting house according to their surname to participate in swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals. At Goonellabah Public School our sport houses are:

- Wattle.....Yellow
- Banksia....Red
- Jarrah.....Green



Student Parliament

The Student Parliament is a group of Year Six students elected by the students and staff. It aims to promote leadership and communication skills allowing students to experience democratic processes and effective problem-solving skills.

Additionally, the school parliament creates a shared ownership of school functions and events and helps to raise funds to assist charities such as Stewart House.

Supervision

Supervision at school commences at 8.45am and continues until the last bus leaves at 3.45pm. No parent or carer is permitted to take another child home without written permission from the parent to the teacher.

The class teacher and front office must be notified of any change in the collecting routine.

Should you wish to collect your child early from class you must obtain a leave pass from the front office first.

Travelling to and from school

Goonellabah Public School students are expected to maintain our high standard of behaviour whether they are travelling by bus, walking or riding a bike. Students catching the bus will utilise the Jubilee Avenue bus bay.

Children's behaviour on buses is the responsibility of parents/carers and the bus company. Unacceptable behaviour may result in a child not being able to use the bus service.

Students at Goonellabah Public School are permitted to ride bikes with the following conditions:

- Only students in Years 3-6 are allowed to ride their bikes to school.
- Proper bike helmets must be worn.
- Bikes, scooters and skateboards must not be ridden in the school grounds.

Uniform

At Goonellabah Public School we take pride in the wearing of our school uniform. The staff believe it encourages the students to feel part of the school community.

The uniform is designed so students feel comfortable and enables them to participate in all of the school activities.

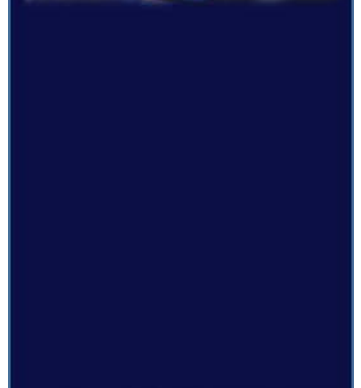
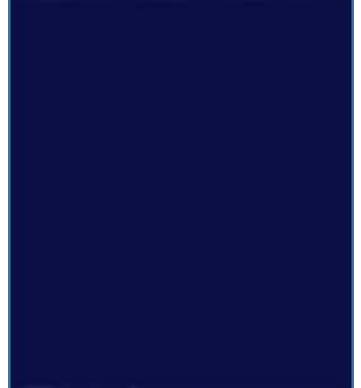
Girls

- Blue check shirt with navy tie, navy shorts, skirt or skorts, white socks and black shoes.
- Blue school shirt, navy shorts, skirt or skorts, white socks and black shoes.
- Blue school shirt, navy track pants, navy jumper.

Boys

- Blue school shirt, navy shorts, grey socks, black shoes
- Blue school shirt, navy track pants, navy jumper.

All uniforms except for socks and shoes may be purchased from the school office.



School Hats

As part of the Sun Smart Policy children are required to wear a hat in the playground and for all outdoor activities. Children without a hat will play in designated areas.

Wellbeing and Discipline Programs

Goonellabah Public Schools' welfare and discipline policy aims to establish a sense of dignity, a sense of personal and social responsibility, an ability to communicate effectively, a caring attitude towards others, an ability to form satisfying and lasting relationships and a sense of enjoyment and satisfaction from learning.

To encourage these values in our students we provide:

- a positive learning environment
- appropriate teaching methods
- caring and consistent staff
- effective use of positive reinforcement
- liaison with parents

The Positive Behaviour for Learning program underpins Goonellabah Public School's discipline focus with students encouraged to Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible.

Students receive Bonus Awards as recognition for displaying these qualities in the classroom and in the playground. For commendation and positive acknowledgement, we use the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Children receive 'Thank You' awards from their classroom teacher.

Five Thank You (Blue) awards equate to a Bronze Award. Three Bronze Awards earn a Silver Award and three Silver Awards earn a Gold Medallion.

The Bronze Awards are given out at the K-2 and 3-6 assembly and the Silver and Gold awards are presented at a K-6 assembly.

The 'You Can Do It' program is also implemented as part of the Positive Behaviour for Learning program to support the wellbeing of all students. This program teaches children specific social and emotional skills (Confidence, Persistence, Organisation and Getting Along with others) to help them take responsibility for their learning, behaviour and emotional wellbeing.

It aims to increase children's motivation for and engagement in learning and achievement as well as help children develop positive relationships and behaviour.



GOONELLABAH PUBLIC SCHOOL



595 Ballina Road, Goonellabah NSW 2480
www.goonellaba-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 6624 1444

Fax: 6625 1072

Principal: Mr Mark Spencer

Bell Times:

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