



# WARRAH

SPECIALIST SCHOOL

## Information Booklet



# Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Warrah Specialist School - let me explain what makes our school inspiring and different.

We are a specialist school for children with moderate to severe disabilities. Our extensive bushland site, which includes a working biodynamic farm and beautiful gardens, provides a natural and idyllic environment where students can thrive.

We have developed an exciting program on the leading edge of special needs education. Rather than using the old sedentary model of learning which focuses on book, screen and desk, we leave the classroom and engage the students in a range of practical tasks in the world outside: tasks such as spinning and weaving, woodwork, harvesting and cooking. Students learn the key academic skills, but learn them through practical, meaningful activities. At the same time this prepares them for a working life beyond school, and develops a sense of pride and independence.

As the only Steiner based Special School in Australia the students, staff and parents are nurtured by a guiding philosophy which treats each person with reverence.

Some of our greatest achievements are seeing our students become independent, achieve outcomes they never thought possible and getting joy from connection. A meaningful purposeful life is our goal for each student – becoming the best they can be.

Please come and visit our school to see our beautiful learning environment and get a feel for the life of our school.

**Anna Wetzel**  
Principal



# Education with a difference

Warrah Specialist School, is based at Dural in Sydney's North West on a bushland campus of 12 hectares. Our school offers *Education with a Difference* for Kindergarten to Year 12 students. The campus also services and cares for adults with disabilities – a living example of how a community supports the life and purpose of each individual from childhood through to adulthood and into the senior years.



Founded in 1969, Warrah Specialist School offers an innovative curriculum and inclusive approach, ensuring all students find their place in the community and reach their full potential. The School is registered with the National Education Standards Authority (NESA).

Our school is supported by a team of trained teachers, classroom assistants, therapists and crafts people. Warrah also offers Remedial Massage Therapy, Music Therapy, Therapeutic Eurythmy as well as spaces for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funded therapists to work with students on site during the school day.

We welcome all regardless of the nature of their disability, for we believe each of our students has a yearning and the capacity for a rich and meaningful life. Our task as educators is to transform these strengths and qualities into capacities that will serve them in the world beyond school.

# Our Curriculum

Warrah Specialist School offers an innovative curriculum on the leading edge of special needs education. The school offers educational and vocational programs in the Rudolf Steiner tradition of learning which addresses three key elements of human development – thinking, feeling and activity. incorporating the connection to and healing power of nature.

Instead of teaching literacy and numeracy through books - a passive approach - students learn the key academic skills through a range of practical and meaningful tasks. Students learn traditional crafts, such as spinning and weaving wool on a loom and turning wood on a lathe to create products of use for the Warrah and local community. They also participate in growing the farm's fruit and vegetables, which they then harvest and learn to cook with.

We work with individual learning plans so students are grouped according to activity and capacity rather than in traditional classes – this ensures their learning is optimised and tailored to each student

Teaching life skills is at the heart of the Warrah School mission. Our goal is to prepare students to live in the community and realise their potential through meaningful, purposeful activity and work.



# How to Enrol

Thank you for considering Warrah Specialist School for your child. Due to increased interest in our school we are currently at capacity. If you would like to apply to join our waitlist, please follow this process (a \$200 application fee will apply).

We endeavour to keep our fees very reasonable, making for an accessible education.

1. Review our Eligibility Criteria, Fees information and Application Form at [warrahspecialistschool.nsw.edu.au](http://warrahspecialistschool.nsw.edu.au).

2. Book in to one of our Open Mornings. We hold one every term. Check dates and book through our website.

3. Interested families can submit an Application Form, along with the application fee, to be added to our waitlist.





# Open Mornings

Come and visit our school to see our beautiful learning environment and facilities. You will have the opportunity to see our school in action, meet our students and highly qualified staff, as well as get a feel for the life of our school and Warrah community.

You can check dates and book through our website.

# School Governance

Warrah Specialist School is part of a larger organisation, known as Warrah Society. Warrah Society is a not for profit (and registered charity) providing services and supports for adults and children with disability. Warrah's vision is to be known for its unique approach, innovative delivery and outstanding results in the provision of supports that serves the needs and aspirations of individuals with disability.

The school is accountable to the Warrah Board of Directors who are responsible for providing leadership, management and strategic direction for the school. For more information on Warrah's organisational structure see [www.warrah.org.au](http://www.warrah.org.au)

# After-Hours School Program

The After-Hours School program for senior students is an important component of transitioning older children to adulthood. The program has a focus on building independence and social inclusion through a diverse range of fun and educational activities.

The program currently operates two afternoons a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 3.00pm – 6.00pm, during school terms.

## Transition to Adult Services

During the final year of school, students participate in an individually designed transition plan. This varies according to the student's interests and goals, and can include social activities, participation in adult day programs and courses. Furthering all skills developed at school, work experience and supported employment are amongst the options offered.

We encourage Warrah students to join the waitlist for Warrah's Discovery Program, which is our program catering for young adults. Discovery has been designed to deliver individualised programs that support the transition to adult life while maintaining and building upon all skills developed at school. We encourage each participant to maximise their independence and work towards vocational goals.



# Facilities

Warrah Specialist School is located on a unique bushland campus which provides a range of opportunities for our students to learn through practical activity. The peaceful setting offers formal and informal learning, and life skills development through farming, gardening, outdoor classrooms, cooking and social programs.

The school has a fully equipped kitchen, break out spaces, a sensory playground, a music room, engaging play equipment, a large hall student performances and a heated swimming pool. The working certified Biodynamic Farm and onsite Farm Shop is woven into the student's learning through meaningful activities.



# Community

Warrah students participate in a rich social and cultural life with the entire school and greater Warrah community.

Students participate in whole-school activities such as excursions, drama performances and sport; along with festival celebrations with Warrah's Adult Disability Services. The school has strong links with the local community and students have the opportunity to visit and interact with other local schools, participate in community service and work experience.







# WARRAH

## SPECIALIST SCHOOL

### **Education with a Difference**

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