



WARRAH

SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Information Booklet





Principal's Welcome

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

We have developed an exciting program on the leading edge of special needs education, which weaves key academic skills, such as literacy and numeracy, into an engaging, creative and practical curriculum.

Practical and meaningful activities, such as weaving, woodwork, farming and cooking, help our students to develop a sense of pride and independence, as well as equipping them for a working life beyond school.

As the only Steiner based specialist 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, able to achieve outcomes they never thought possible and experiencing joy from connection. A meaningful, purposeful life is our goal for each student. We aim to always encourage them to become the best they can be.

Please make the most of the information on our website, and if you wish to make contact or ask any questions, we will be very happy to talk with you.

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 and crafts people. Warrah offers various therapies, including music, as well as spaces for your child's therapists to work with them 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

In addition to classroom work, our students engage in a range of practical tasks. Through our outdoor classroom curriculum our students gain a valuable understanding and appreciation of their natural surroundings.

Students develop their sense of place within the Warrah landscape and community. We place a deep focus on activities such as weaving, nature craft, bushwalking and farming, which we consider necessary companions to literacy and numeracy. We believe that it is not just WHAT is taught that it is important, but HOW and WHERE children learn. Children learn about the rhythms of the seasons and nature in all its forms.

Class groupings are made according to activity and capacity with Individualised Learning Plans (ILPs) playing a key role in student development. Learning is optimised and tailored to each student.

Integrated units are developed from the Science and Technology syllabus and incorporate other key learning areas to make learning more meaningful for the student and to develop a deeper curiosity for the subject. These units would typically have the arts as well as literacy, numeracy and life skills woven within their framework.



How to Enrol

Thank you for considering Warrah Specialist School for your child.

We warmly invite you to submit your application. Every submission is carefully assessed.

Enrolment is a simple process.



To enrol, families are invited to:

1. Review our eligibility criteria, fees information and application form on our website.
2. Submit an application (Application fee applies).
3. We will carefully assess each application and will contact you as soon as a place becomes available.







Transition to Adult Services

During the final year of school, students participate in an individually designed transition plan. This varies according to the students' 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 school leavers to apply for *Discovery*, which is our program catering to 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.

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 living with a 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

Facilities

Our peaceful setting offers formal and informal learning, as well as life skills development through farming, gardening, outdoor classrooms, cooking and social programs.

The school has a fully equipped kitchen, break out spaces, a sensory garden, engaging play equipment, a large hall for student performances and a heated swimming pool. The working certified biodynamic farm, bakery and onsite organic Farm Shop are woven into the students' learning and also provide work experience opportunities for our older students.



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.



Eligibility Criteria and School Fees

We endeavour to keep our fees as low as possible, making for an accessible education. For our latest fees, please visit our website.

Evidence of eligibility as required by the NSW Department of Education is based on the following:

To meet criteria for moderate or severe intellectual disability, students must have a full-scale IQ score of approximately three to four standard deviations below the mean on an approved individual test of intelligence. There must be information on the assessment of adaptive skills and school performance (where applicable) consistent with, or below this range of scores.

Students with autism must have a current report from a specialist medical practitioner or registered psychologist with appropriate clinical experience.

The report must detail the nature of the student's disorder. Documented evidence must indicate a developmental disability affecting verbal and non-verbal communication and social interaction, which significantly affects the child's ability to learn. There must be information of a functional assessment consistent with the student's disorder. The report must have a DSM-5 diagnosis. The DSM-5 essential diagnostic features of autism spectrum disorder are now: persistent impairment in reciprocal social communication and social interaction, and restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests, or activities. These symptoms are present from early childhood and limit or impair everyday functioning.

Please visit our website for more extensive eligibility criteria details.







WARRAH

SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Education with a Difference

20 Harris Road, Dural, NSW 2158

PO Box 357, Round Corner, NSW 2158

P: 9653 7253 E: admin@warrahspecialistschool.nsw.edu.au

warrahspecialistschool.nsw.edu.au