

Lipson Avenue
Kadina SA 5554
Phone: (08) 8821 1988
Mobile: 0447 674 803
www.walminesps.sa.edu.au



Wallaroo Mines Primary School

School Information Booklet



Welcome to Wallaroo Mines Primary School

Our students, staff, Governing Council Members and school community welcome you and your family to our school.

Wallaroo Mines Primary has a long history of providing high quality, personalised education for all students who enter our grounds. Our student centered and community-based approach to education is an important aspect of our history and provides a great basis for learning and growing together as a school. We have a strong focus on literacy and numeracy, we also prioritise the development of children's social connections and their sense of belonging within our community.

Students gain the most from their education when families and the school work together closely. We believe school staff and parents share a similar aim and that is to provide the best possible educational environment for children to develop both academically and socially. Our commitment to small classes helps to develop connections between staff, students and their families that create opportunities to meet students at their point of need in all learning areas.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child's/children's years at Wallaroo Mines Primary School are both happy and rewarding.



School Values

Learning – Respect – Resilience

Every Child by Name, Strength and Need



Our school values are central to everything we aspire to at Wallaroo Mines. Our first focus is always learning, every activity or interaction that staff have with students should help them develop either their understanding of curriculum or their own personal development as positive members of our community. This is underpinned by students and staff having respect for themselves, respect for each other and respect for the school environment. These three focuses on respect help create an environment where students feel that they belong and are empowered to succeed. Our final value creates success for all students. Learning can be hard, success can take time, and sometimes social interactions go wrong. Having a resilient approach to school helps equip students with the confidence to overcome these setbacks knowing that they are supported by their teachers and peers.

Our vision is to be a dedicated community providing the best start to a child's life at school in a safe, vibrant and supportive environment where Literacy and Numeracy improvement is at the core of all we do. Wallaroo Mines is a community of learners, growing together.

Scott Moore
Principal Wallaroo Mines Primary

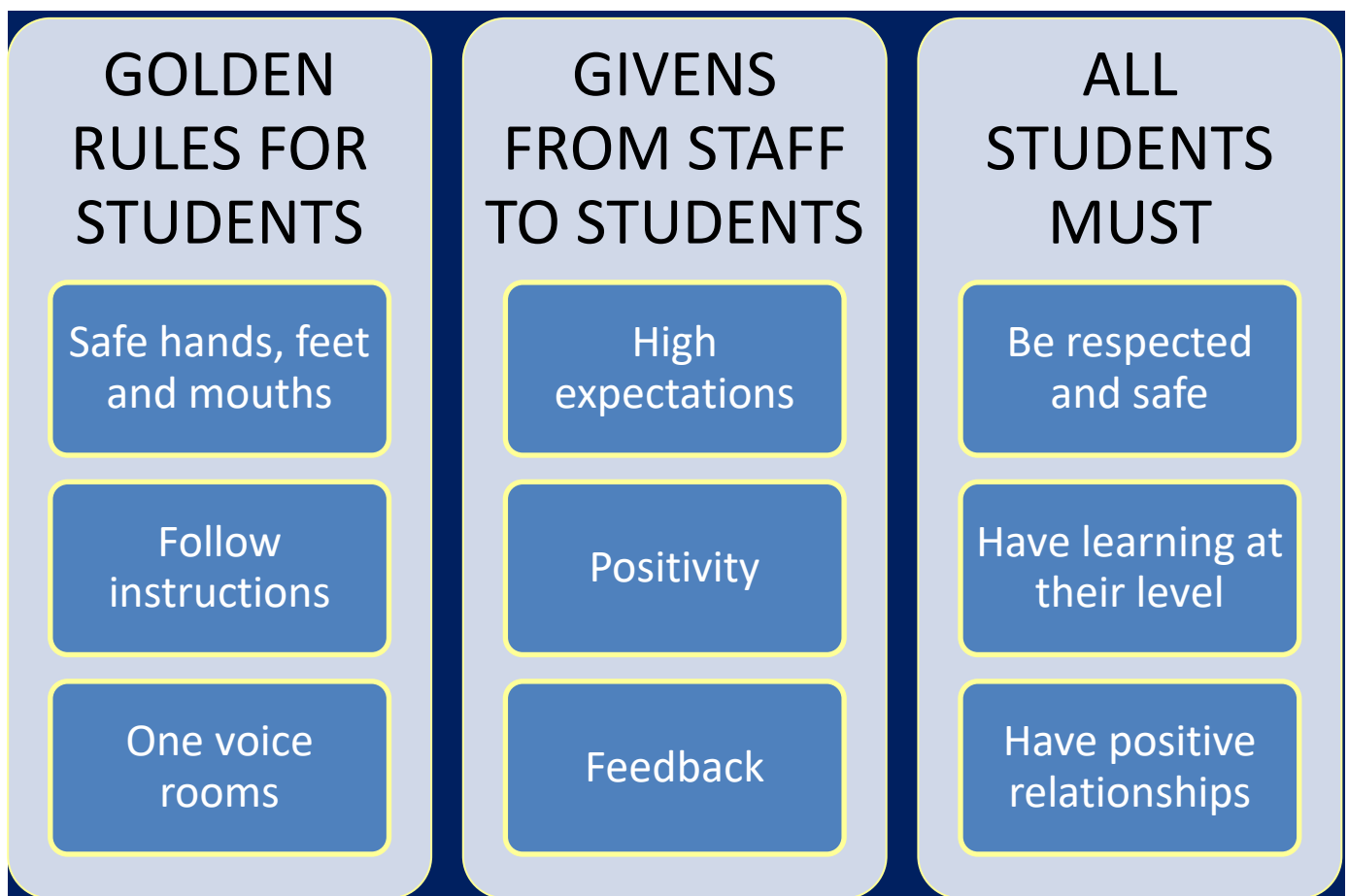
General Philosophy

We believe that children need a solid foundation in basic literacy, numeracy and social skills. By developing these skills and a positive attitude towards learning, children are provided with a sound basis for later learning and for living.

We believe that children learn through a mixture of teaching approaches. We have a strong focus on explicitly teaching and the use of high impact teaching and learning programs. This includes a common approach to phonics teaching and broad small group interventions. We also favour small group inquiry and game-based learning once foundation skills have been mastered.



To help create great conditions for learning Wallaroo Mines Primary has established a common set of school expectations.



We encourage families to:

- Take an active interest in their child's development and school activities, you are always welcome at the school.
- Understand that we are in partnership with their child's learning and the school can't succeed without you and everything you have to offer.
- Communicate openly with teachers so that the child's successes as well as their needs are shared.

Communication

We believe open communication and quality partnerships with families are a key ingredient in students' learning success. Given this, as a school, we are committed to a range of ways of communicating with families, which include:

- EMS – Student information system with all family information, will be used for absences and bulk messaging.
- The newsletter, which is produced several a term and is distributed via Facebook and DOJO. This can also be found on the school's website and a hard copy is sent home.
- Facebook updates and reminders
- ClassDojo
- Class circulars for events, excursions and camps
- Text messages as a quick way of keeping all informed
- Phone calls as required

It is critical we have families' up to date phone numbers, email and home addresses to ensure that when we need to contact you we can do so quickly.

Classes use different written communication methods ranging from communication (memo book style) to published diaries or online apps (ClassDojo). Please check the different styles of communication each day for any messages.

We encourage you to communicate with the school as the need arises. The first point of contact for most matters is the classroom teacher, who you can usually catch before or after school. If a longer interview time is required, please request to make an appointment with them. Early contact with the school can ensure that small worries do not become major problems.

Curriculum

At WMPS we have a strong focus on achievement for all learners which is underpinned by rigorous literacy and numeracy programs.

Students' learning programs ensure they develop skills, knowledge and a positive attitude towards:

- English (Language, Literature and Literacy)
- Mathematics (Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability)
- Science (Biological, Chemical, Physical and Earth and Space)
- Health and Physical Education
- Design and Technology / Digital Technologies
- HASS (History, Geography, Business and Economics and Civics and Citizenship)
- The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts)
- Languages (Auslan and Nharungga)



Detailed information is available from the website <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Home>

Assessment

Assessing the child's prior knowledge and experience as well as monitoring their achievement through their teaching enables teachers to plan and refine their teaching accordingly. A well-designed learning experience provides data on a child's knowledge, skills and understanding and is therefore a vehicle for summative or formative assessment.

- Summative – summative assessment is the culmination of the teaching and learning processes, giving the child the opportunity to demonstrate what has been learned (assessment of learning).
- Formative – formative assessment provides information about what is required at the next stage of learning. It aims to promote learning by providing regular and frequent feedback (assessment for learning).

Reporting

The Department for Education requires all educators, Reception to Year 10 to report formally twice per year, in writing, to learners and their parents/carers about learners' progress and achievement in relation to the Australian Curriculum. Wallaroo Mines Primary School completes Written Reports in Terms 2 & 4. We also provide Spotlight Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews in Term 1.

Homework

All students are expected to read a minimum of four nights per week. Work set will involve tasks introduced in class that students can complete independently at home. If a child has made a genuine effort to complete homework and has spent more than the time indicated below, parents may choose to stop their children and a note should be sent to the teacher explaining this.

As a general rule, homework is set as follows:

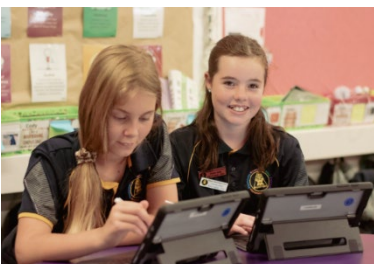
- Reception to Year 3: Reading
- Years 4 to 6: Reading, as well as a maximum of 30 minutes per day

Learner Intervention

Classroom teachers support students requiring extra assistance with an individualised program to facilitate progress. School Service Officers (SSOs) work in conjunction with classroom teachers on these programs with students and/or small groups. We have many literacy and numeracy focused targeted intervention programs to support all learners and school staff are happy to discuss the individual needs of your child with you.



Information Technology



At WMPS we are committed to providing rich learning experiences supported by a variety of technology tools. We believe access to technology should enhance student learning and be available as it is needed. The school has invested heavily, and been supported by the Department for Education, in an upgrade of our IT equipment. In the Upper Primary we have a 1:1 device program and are constantly developing student experiences in e-Learning,

Library

We encourage children to use the library by borrowing books for a two-week period. Parents are welcome to use the library and we especially welcome parents with pre-school children to make use of this facility. Children are encouraged to use library bags to safely transport books between school and home.

Nharungga Program

Each class participates in Nharungga lessons once a week. These lessons focus on the culture, history and language of the of Nharungga People. We are a school dedicated to reconciliation. We have a Reconciliation Action Plan and Committee and are developing strong community links. Our AET is focused on developing data led interventions for all First Nations students to ensure that their achievement at school is equal to all students that attend Wallaroo Mines Primary.



Excursions/Camps/Performances

Excursions, performances and camps compliment the school-learning program. Parents are given notice of these events as soon as possible through letters of consent (if required) or through individual class communication channels.

Swimming

We aim to complete swimming early in Term 1, qualified instructors conduct swimming lessons at the Wallaroo beach. Consent and medical forms are sent home at the beginning of each year. Participation in swimming lessons is expected as it is part of our Health & P.E. curriculum. Children need their own towel, bathers, thongs and goggles if they use them.

SRC

The role of the SRC (Student Representative Council) is to:

- Help make our school better for everyone, student and staff.
- Play an active part in making decisions on school matters for a safe and happy school
- Represent the ideas and opinions of their peers.
- Provide insight into the experiences of students that attend Wallaroo Mines.
- Help with strategic plans and learning improvement strategies.
- SRC members are elected every year from each class by their peers



School Times

8:30am	Teacher on duty, children may enter grounds
8:45am	School learning begins
11:00am	Playtime
11:20am	Eating time
11:30am	Learning continues
1:00pm	Playtime
1.20pm	Eating time
1:30pm	Learning continues
3:00pm	Children dismissed



Teachers are on duty at 3.00pm and are responsible for ensuring all bus students board the bus and that all other students leave the school yard in a safe manner. The after-school yard duty teacher is not responsible for supervising students on the play equipment.

Arrival and Departure

Children attending WMPS will be supervised from 8:30am. Parents are asked to ensure that children are not in the schoolyard before this time as it is not safe for students. At end of the school day, children should depart from school grounds and not play on the equipment unsupervised.

If you are unable to collect your child at the arranged time, please contact the school. Children are to report to the teacher on duty if their parents have not arrived to collect them as arranged. It is essential that all children are clearly aware of their 'after school' arrangements.

Car Park

Parking on the school side of Lipson Avenue is prohibited between 8:30am and 4:00pm.

The car park is the safest way of dropping off and collecting children from school. Please drive slowly and keep clear of the fence line.

The Kiss and Drop off zone at the front of the school is available for drop offs and quick pick ups. Do not park in the Kiss and Drop zone please.

Attendance

Laws require regular attendance at school for all school aged children unless they have a valid reason for absence (i.e. illness, appointment, family crisis). Consistent attendance is vital in ensuring your child makes the most of their time at school.

The school must be notified of all absences and lateness by the parent/carer. A student explanation is not sufficient. Unexplained absence and/or lateness will be followed up by classroom teachers. Please sign students that are late or that need to leave early in/out at the front office.

Messages will be automatically generated and sent to parent phones if a student is absent and an explanation has not been provided by 10:00 am.

Behaviour

Students, staff and parents work together to make school a safe place where we can all learn. The school's Learner Wellbeing and Behaviour Policy encourages students to be responsible for their own behaviour and at the same time support the rights of all to be and feel safe and cared for.

Our Behaviour Education Policy has been endorsed by our Governing Council as an accurate reflection of the standards of our school community. There is an expectation that all families will support the school in upholding these standards with their children.

The school's Anti Bullying Policy was developed in consultation with students, parents and staff. Extra copies are available in the front office or on our website.

Mobile Phones

While students are at school, or attending school activities, they must comply with any reasonable directions given by school staff in line with this policy regarding their personal devices.

The Department for Education's policy requires all students at all department schools to keep personal devices 'off and away' between the start and end of each school day, and while they are attending school activities off-site, such as camps and excursions.

Students will not be able to access their personal devices at any time during school hours, unless they have received an approved exemption from the school to use the device for a specific, agreed reason. This means both physical access and remote access (e.g. connecting with the personal device via hotspot or using paired headphones).

Where students use a personal device at school without an approved exemption, or use it inappropriately, a response will be provided in line with the school's behaviour support policy.

- In the first instance, students will be verbally reminded to put their personal devices 'off and away'. If the student continues to use their device without permission, the teacher will ask the student to go to Front Office and hand in their personal device(s) to be securely stored by staff.
- Where a student repeatedly and intentionally breaches the requirements of this policy, or refuses to follow a staff member's direction to hand over a personal device that has been used inappropriately, a member of the school leadership team will contact home.

Where a student's misuse of personal devices is serious, it may be necessary for the school to consider responses in line with the department's suspension, exclusion and expulsion of students procedure, or to contact South Australia Police if the behaviour is suspected to be illegal.

This policy has been implemented by the school in line with the Department for Education's 'Student use of mobile phones and personal devices policy'. You can find more information about this policy, and links to further resources for parents about personal devices and online safety, on the department's website: [Mobile phones and personal devices at school \(education.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.education.sa.gov.au/mobile-phones-and-personal-devices-at-school)

Health

Children attending school should be sufficiently fit to take part in all school activities, including physical education. If a child is genuinely ill then we encourage parents to keep them home to rest until they are well enough to participate in daily school activities. Your child's teacher should be made aware of any health problems that may affect your child at school. As part of the 'Eat Well, Be Active Strategy' each week all students participate in a variety of activities designed to increase fitness levels.

Medication

If your child requires medication at school, please ensure the following guidelines are followed. Parents must provide the school with a management plan for any child with allergies, which **MUST** be signed by both the doctor and parents. Children on any medication (prescription or over the counter) must have a medication plan signed by the Doctor before staff will administer.

Medication plans must be reviewed annually. It is vital that all medications are brought to the school office in their original containers. Chemists will supply a second container if asked when filling the script. A note with relevant dosage details needs to be provided for staff. Long term medication kept at the school needs to be checked and kept "in date".

The school needs to be advised of any changes to your child's medical conditions. It is now advised that a student needing medication 3 times a day has a dose at breakfast, after school and then at bedtime negating the need for medication to be taken at school.

Daily Needs

Each day your child needs:

- A named water bottle (the school has a refrigerated drink fountain for use during breaks)
- A lunchbox containing a healthy snack, lunch and recess
- To be wearing full school uniform, including suitable footwear
- Their reading diary and books read the previous night
- Homework (if set)

Stationery

Children are supplied with their initial stationery on the first day of the new school year as part of their school fees. Extra stationery can be supplied from home. Individual teachers have different preferences for the items that can be used in the classroom. Please check with your child's class teacher about the sorts of items that can be supplied.

Uniform

WMPS has a school uniform, which all students are required to wear. You are able to purchase uniforms from the front office or on the Qkr! app under the uniforms tab.

Food/Lunch Orders

Healthy eating and drinking is encouraged at school. Lunch orders are available on Thursdays and Fridays. Lunch orders are placed online through the Qkr! App. We use the lunch/recess approach with the main eating of the day, including lunch orders, occurring at 11.20am. At 1.20pm recess is eaten in classrooms. Students are encouraged to drink water during the day and we ask that water bottles only contain water. Each classroom has a small fridge for students to store perishable foods in during warmer months.

Breakfast Club

We have a breakfast club in the morning that provides students with a great start to the day. Breakfast Club runs from 8:30am until 8:45am.

Policies

The school has a range of policies that are available for reading on our school website.

Shuttle Bus & Access to OSCH

A shuttle bus operates from the rear of the Kadina Community Library to Wallaroo Mines Primary School in the morning and the reverse in the afternoon. All students who use this service will be required to have an Agreement Form signed by their parents outlining expected behaviours and appropriate consequences.

Students are able to access an OSCH Service provided by Wallaroo Primary School, there is a bus available to transport students between the schools. Please speak to front office staff for further information.

Qkr!

You are able to place orders and we encourage you to pay on the Qkr app for:

- Canteen
- School payments
- School uniforms



School Card/Fees

The School Card scheme is administered by the Department and provides financial assistance towards the cost of educational expenses for full-time school students of low-income families. Information is available from the school front office.

Fees are set by the Finance Committee, Governing Council and submitted to Central Office for approval. These include: Printed electronic materials related to the educational program, initial stationery items, student consumables, performances and library use.

Fees can be paid in full or part payments as negotiated with the school. Children beginning during the year pay a pro rata amount.

Governing Council & Volunteers

Governing Council meets twice a term, their role includes:

- Providing advice and support to the Principal
- Keeping a general oversight on the well-being of the school
- Improving school facilities

Governing Council membership is as follows:

- Parent members are elected at the Annual General Meeting
- A staff representative
- The school Principal
- Governing Council may elect sub-committees to advise, plan or implement decisions, e.g. Finance Committee, Playground Committee

Wallaroo Mines Primary School welcomes parent volunteers as an important and productive way of creating strong partnerships between the school and families. There are many ways to become involved with volunteering at the school and this can be organised as a once off activity or an ongoing involvement with the school.

Community and Family Events

Each year there are a range of family and community events that occur throughout the year, these include;

- Regular Assemblies (2 a term)
- Meet the Teacher Night
- Parent Teacher Interview
- Sports Day
- Open Classroom Evenings
- SRC Events
- Cross Country
- End of Year Presentation and Year 6 Graduation

These events are a great way for students to develop their sense of belonging at the school and an opportunity for social celebrations of the learning that occurs every day at the school. Information for these events is communicated in the newsletter and on our Facebook Page.

Catastrophic Fire Danger Days

If the CFS gives advance notice of a forecast catastrophic fire danger day, schools and preschools in the relevant fire ban district(s) that have a bushfire risk rating of R1 or R2 will be directed to close automatically, Wallaroo Mines Primary School is an R1 Rated School and will be closed on these days.

No persons are permitted on site, this includes students, families, staff, contractors and non-departmental services.

The closure of schools and preschools on days of forecast catastrophic fire danger enables families in the district to enact their personal bushfire survival plan more easily. It is important that you have arrangements in place if your child's school or preschool is closed, even if your own plan does not involve leaving the area. It is not advisable for children to be left at home on days of catastrophic fire danger.