

Annandale State Primary School

Parent Handbook

Revised January 2025





Annandale State School
Cnr Oleander and Yolanda Drive Annandale Queensland 4814
Telephone (07) 47295111

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Congratulations on choosing Annandale State School for your child’s primary education. We are thrilled to welcome your family into our vibrant community. As one of North Queensland's largest primary schools, we pride ourselves on providing a holistic, high-quality education through the dedication of our experienced staff, who work closely with families and the broader community.

Our school is a rich tapestry of cultures, with over 30 distinct backgrounds represented. This diversity creates a dynamic learning environment, where students develop an appreciation for inclusivity and community spirit.

At Annandale, education is a partnership. Together, we each have an essential role in fostering a safe, respectful, and nurturing learning environment for our students, families, and staff. This collaborative approach is central to our “Annandale Attitude,” a set of desired dispositions supported through our core values—Be a Learner, Be Safe, Be Respectful—that guide our interactions and aspirations.



Our mission is to provide purposeful learning experiences aligned with the Australian Curriculum, nurturing each child’s love of learning and building their social skills, helping them learn to be friends and active, positive members of the community.

As families, your role as your child’s first educator is invaluable. Supporting your child’s readiness for school includes fostering independence in areas such as hygiene, toileting, self-care, and responsibility for personal and shared belongings. Encouraging respect for peers and adults alike, as well as engagement in sustained learning activities, will help set them on a successful path.

Most importantly, we encourage you to collaborate with us throughout this journey. While our expertise lies in delivering quality education, you know your child best. By working together, we can ensure your child thrives and reaches their full potential.

Our leadership team look forward to meeting you and your child at an enrolment interview, where we can begin the rewarding partnership with you and an exciting journey of learning and growth for your child. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to reach out to our school with any questions you may have.

Trevor Buchanan
Principal

The information contained in this booklet has been listed in **alphabetical order** and is designed to assist you and your child to settle into school life as smoothly as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if further clarification is required.

Table of Contents

School Details	5
Annandale State School	5
School Day	5
Arrivals, Departures and Parking	5
Absences	6
Accidents	6
Assemblies	6
Bike and Scooter Safety	7
Book club	7
Concerns	7
Curriculum	7
Custody Matters	8
Enrolments	8
Excursions/Camps	8
Extra Curriculum Offerings:	8
Head Lice	9
Health	9
<i>Medication</i>	9
<i>Anaphylaxis</i>	10
<i>Asthma</i>	10
<i>School Dentist</i>	10
Homework	10
Leadership	10
Library	10
Lost property	11
Mobile Phones and Smart devices	11
Newsletters	12
Outside School Hours Care	12
<i>Parents and Citizens Association</i>	12
<i>Parent Education Programs</i>	12
<i>Classroom Volunteers</i>	12
Payment of Student Contributions/Excursions/etc.	13
<i>Class Excursions Camps and Activities</i>	13
QParent App	13
QSchools App	13
Religious Instruction	14
Reporting to parents – (Oral Reporting, Semester Reporting, NAPLAN (Yr 3 & 5))	14
Student Code of Conduct (previously the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students)	14
Student Records	15
Sun Aware	15
Support Services	16
Transfers Between Schools	16
Tuckshop – No Tuckshop	16
Uniforms	16
Welcome	17
ANNANDALE SCHOOL SONG	17
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	18

School Details

Annandale State School
Cnr Yolanda Drive and Oleander Street, Annandale 4814
Phone: 4729 5111




Web address – www.annandaless.eq.edu.au

Email – principal@annandaless.eq.edu.au

Principal	- Trevor Buchanan
Deputy Principals	- Samara Koidis (Prep–Year 2) and Jeanette Mudie (Year 3-6)
Head of Department - Curriculum	- Jenifer Lee (Prep–Year 6)
Head of Special Education	- Colleen Carr-Pauline
Head of Department - Student Services	- Lisa Sweeney
Business Manager	- Joanne Reiterer
Administration	- Kerrie Harris, Irene Wellman, Pam Tourle
Student Reception	- Leisel Nordine, Lori Huston

Office hours for Administration: 8:00 am - 3:30 pm and Student Reception: 8:15 am - 3:30 pm.

School Day

	8:00 am	School Gates are Opened
	8:00 - 8:45 am	Supervision of children in designated assembly points.
	8:45 – 8:50am	Morning briefing and movement to classrooms
	8:50 - 11:00 am	First Learning session
	11:00 - 11:10 am	Supervised eating time
	11:10 - 11:40 am	Play time
	11:40 - 1:20 pm	Second Learning session
	1:20 - 1:30 pm	Supervised eating time
	1:30 - 1:50 pm	Play time
	1:50 - 2:50 pm	Final Learning session
	2:50 pm	End of School Day
		-
		Prep students to be collected from Prep play area

Arrivals, Departures and Parking

Children are asked not to arrive at school before 8:00 am. If your child requires supervision prior to 8:00am, they must be enrolled with the Out of School Hours Care (PCYC) Program. The school will not take responsibility for children who arrive before this time. Children are required to sit in The Shed or CPA until the commencement of the school day. Children are **not permitted to play on the school's play equipment before and after school** unless run as school activity by staff.

It is expected that all children will depart the school grounds by 3:10 pm except for those participating in sporting activities or the Out of School Hours Care Program. The School does not provide after school care. Children still remaining in the school grounds after 3:10 pm will need to wait in the Student Reception foyer. Student Reception staff will attempt to contact parents and children will need to be signed out as a late departure.

Parents are also requested to **park in the designated parking areas** on Oleander Street, Yolanda and Casuarina Drives when dropping off or picking up children. **The car park on Oleander Street is a staff carpark.** Parents are requested not to use this area to drop off or pick up children before and after school unless accessing the OSHC program. Please do NOT park in the Oleander Street car park or across the pedestrian crossing as this endangers children's lives.

Bus supervision is provided until the final bus has departed from Annandale State School.

Absences

Annandale State School is required to maintain an accurate electronic database of student attendance.

Where a child is absent from school it is essential that the school be notified as to the reason for absence. This can be done through one of the following methods:

- sending a message through the QParent app
- the following email address – absence@annandale.ss.eq.edu.au
- phone call to Student Reception on 4729 5111 (option 1)

Unexplained absences will be investigated by the school's administration team every day.

If your child will be absent for a period greater than 10 days, you must apply for an exemption. An Application for Exemption form is available from Student Reception and the school website. This absence must be approved by the Principal.

Accidents

Children who have an accident at school will be given basic first aid in the Student Reception area. Staff have no medical qualifications beyond the basic first aid certificate. As a policy, we err on the side of caution in the treatment of accidents.

In case of serious illness or accidents, the school follows expressed parents' wishes, as indicated on the family record card (completed from the enrolment form).



Whenever the slightest doubt exists, a staff member will contact the parent/carer and/or refer to the appropriate medical personnel. In some cases it may be necessary to call an ambulance.

It is vital that emergency contact details are kept up to date. Please notify the office of any changes.

Assemblies

Assemblies are an important way for our school to share key messages and celebrate student achievement. We hold different types of assemblies over the term, typically on a Monday afternoon from 2:20pm. A calendar of parade dates and types is shared with families at the start of each term.

All parents, carers and families are welcome to attend all our school assemblies.

Bike and Scooter Safety

Many students ride their bike to and from school. A locked bike enclosure, located on Yolanda Drive, is available to store all children's bikes. A smaller non-enclosed area is located between L & D blocks.

All bikes and scooters should be secured with a **personal bike lock** whether in the enclosed or non-enclosed area.



By law all bicycle riders must wear protective helmets. These should be clearly labelled with the child's name and may be left in the bike racks.

For safety reasons, no bicycles are to be ridden in the school grounds. All riders must dismount and walk their bikes along the footpaths in front of the school and across the supervised crossings. Motorists, please take care and watch out for our bike riders.

Book club

Our School participates in Scholastic Book Club. Up to twice a term, during the school year, each student will receive a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages.

It is easy to order. The Book Club Loop platform for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to the school safe and sound and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at scholastic.com.au/Loop or using the Loop app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. All orders are due on the Tuesday following the receipt of the Book Club catalogue.

Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our classroom, however there is never any obligation to order.

Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact his/her classroom teacher in the first instance. If this fails to answer your questions or resolve the issue, the next point of contact is the Deputy Principal responsible for each year level.

Staff in these roles are:

Deputy Principal Prep – Year 2: Samara Koidis

Deputy Principal Year 3 – 6: Jeanette Mudie

Curriculum

The school provides quality instruction following the Australian Curriculum. Students in each year level study the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Music, History and Social Sciences and Technology. Mandarin Chinese is offered as a Languages program with exposure from Prep.

The school endeavours to cater for the individual needs of each student through initiatives in the curriculum program.

Custody Matters

The school must be informed of any parent custody orders or arrangements (whether informal or formal). These should be kept current to ensure the school is able to support you and your child/ren. The student enrolment forms have a section which allows parents/carers to comment on specific custody arrangements and a change of details form is available at Administration or Student Reception to update existing or new arrangements.

The school is required to hold a copy of any relevant custody orders for reference. The school staff will follow the relevant directions within each relevant custody order and parents are encouraged to ensure that the school holds a copy of the most current and relevant order.

Enrolments



Annandale State School caters for students from Prep to Year 6.

Enrolments in Prep to Year 6 can be organised by contacting the school office. Birth Certificates are required for all enrolments. Students need to be enrolled under the name indicated on the Birth Certificate.

Prep is deemed the first compulsory, full-time year of schooling.

Children must be aged five by June 30 in the year they enrol. Children must be enrolled no later than the year they will turn six by 30 June.

Excursions/Camps

During the year your child will have the opportunity to participate in excursions and/or camps. Excursions and camps are an integral part of the school curriculum and all children are encouraged to participate in these activities.

Excursions/Camps may involve a day trip or an overnight stay. Overnight camps are conducted at Education Facilities (such as Paluma, Daradgee, Magnetic Island, Echo Creek and Mungalli Falls) and usually have an environmental or leadership focus.

Extra Curriculum Offerings:

Learning Technology - Classes have access to multiple computer labs throughout the school and mobile class sets of technology devices. Each classroom has a data projector or Digital Display to support classroom teaching.

Physical Education – All students participate in a weekly instructional program with the Physical Education specialist teacher.

Once a year, all students participate in the school's inter-house athletics carnival. In addition, once a year all students 7 years old and above are invited to nominate for the school's swimming carnival.

Interschool sport is available to students in Years 5 and 6. Students may nominate to participate in season sports such as hockey, tennis, rugby league, basketball, AFL, soccer, rugby union, cricket or netball. Participation in these teams is at a nominal cost and students will be invoiced by the school.

Music - Students in every class participate in a weekly music lesson.

The school offers Instrumental Music lessons for interested and eligible students in Year 3 and above. These programs are offered by visiting specialist teachers in brass, woodwind, strings and percussion. Information sessions for instrumental music are conducted in October/November each year.

The school has a Junior and Senior Choir. These choirs participate in a number of public performances throughout the school year.

Participation in all non-classroom music programs by interested students incurs an annual fee. You will receive an invoice for this fee.

STEM – A range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics challenges are available for students to participate in throughout the year.

Head Lice

The problem of head lice is continuously with us, particularly in the summer months. Regular checking (weekly) of children's hair may help to prevent an outbreak. If you should detect evidence of head lice two steps are necessary.

1. Immediate treatment of the entire family.
2. Notification of the outbreak to the school.

Suspected cases during school hours will be referred to a member of the administration team who will contact parents.

Health



If your child is sick, it is best to keep him/her at home.

Please consider your child's well-being, as the school has limited facilities and personnel to care for sick children. If your child becomes sick at school, the parent or emergency contact, as detailed on the enrolment form, may be contacted or a note will be given to your child to take home, advising of the action taken. Please ensure that all contact details are kept up to date. If the parent or guardian is contacted they will need to sign the student out before leaving the school.

The school is governed by the Department of Education regulations. Under these regulations children may be excluded from school if they contract a number of illnesses. A list of infectious diseases and exclusion periods is available on the Queensland Health website.

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/cdb/timeout_poster.pdf

Medication

It is occasionally necessary for a child to have **prescribed medication** whilst at school.



The following procedures must be followed:

1. A “Consent to Administer Medication” form must be submitted. These forms are available at Student Reception. Children are responsible for arriving at the office at the time their medication is due. A member of the Student Reception staff will administer medication.
2. All medication including over the counter medication must be prescribed by a doctor with the full name of the child clearly printed on the label by the Pharmacist including time and dosage to be given. Regular medications are to be brought to the school in the original packaging. Please check with the school for current guidelines.

Non-prescribed medication, such as analgesics and over the counter medication, **cannot be administered** to children.

Anaphylaxis

Children who are anaphylactic to an irritant must have a completed Management Plan and provide their own Adrenal Auto-Injector. The Management Plan will confirm whether this is maintained at the office or in the classroom, dependent on the risk of reaction.

Asthma

Children who suffer from asthma may keep puffers in the classroom provided a letter is forwarded to the school by the parent, giving permission for the child to administer his/her own medication, when he/she finds it necessary. Each student must have a Asthma Management Plan completed by their doctor and provided to the school.

School Dentist

The School Dentist visits once each year and conducts a screening service only on all children. Parents are notified of their child’s treatment needs. You will then be able to seek private dental treatment or take your child to a designated oral health facility – within a specified time frame.

Homework



Refer to separate Homework Policy booklet.

Leadership

We encourage leadership in students through the election of a two school captains, two vice captains, four sporting house captains, two Music captains, Indigenous Leaders and Student Council members. These elections take place in Term 4 of the previous year. The student council has members from Year 5-6. They arrange activities to raise student morale and to raise money for school improvements or charities.

Library

Children are encouraged to borrow books from the school library but are responsible for returning them in good condition. Each child should be provided with a school library bag which can be purchased from School Locker.

Children may borrow books for two weeks.

- Prep students - One junior fiction book (Term 1). One Fiction and Non-fiction book in Term 2 onwards.
- Years 1 to 2 - One fiction and one non-fiction book.
- Years 3 to 6 - Two fiction and one non-fiction book may be borrowed.

Each class will have borrowing time each week so that students can select and exchange books. As well as this the library is open at most lunch breaks and before school for students to borrow. Parents are welcome to come to the library before school to assist students with book selection.

As with home readers, parents will be asked to reimburse the school for the cost of a book if it is lost or damaged while borrowed. If a book is lost or damaged, please contact the library staff on (07) 4729 5186 or via a note or email, so that a bill can be prepared.

The library also has a bank of computers that students can access before school and during lunch breaks for the following activities -

- Searching the library catalogue.
- Working on school tasks that do not involve internet use.
- Completing Lexile tests.
- Playing educational games stored on the school server.

Library Website

The Library has its own website hosted by "Softlink" that provides students with access to the **Library catalogue**. As it is internet based it can be accessed from home as well as school. Students can search for books or topics they are interested in to see if the items are in the Library collection or currently on loan. The homepage also has links to **Digital books** that can be downloaded on devices at home. Information about competitions and events in the Library can also be found on the homepage.

Digital Books

Thanks to our school's subscription to the Department of Education's eLibrary students have free access to hundreds of digital books that can be downloaded on their own personal device. You can now access over 40,000 eBooks and audiobooks by visiting the [Sora website](#), or downloading the free [Sora app](#) on a mobile device, searching for the school 'Education Queensland', and logging in using the student's **MIS ID**. Links on the school website provides videos to explain more about the app.

Lost property

Baskets for lost property are located outside Student Reception. Any items left in the baskets at the end of each school term will be taken to a charity bin. Please label all property to assist in its return.

Valuable and or fragile items are held for safe keeping inside Student Reception.

Students are not to bring their own toys, sports gear or games to school. If a special item is needed for presentations, these items are held by the teacher during the day and sent home with students the same day.

Mobile Phones and Smart devices

It is a preference of the school that mobile phones and smart devices be left at home. Students wishing to contact parents in an emergency are able to do this through the main office.

If parents feel the need to provide their child with a mobile phone for safety reasons, students are permitted to bring it to school under the following strict guidelines:

Mobile phones are the sole responsibility of the student. The school will not be held accountable for its security.

Mobile phones must be handed to student reception for safe keeping throughout the school day and collected at the end of the school day.

Students found using their mobile phones during school hours, will have the phone confiscated. Confiscated phones can be collected from Student Reception at the end of the school day.

Newsletters

The school electronic newsletter is sent by email on the Fridays of odd school weeks (1, 3, 5, 7 & 9).

The newsletters contain information, which will keep parents informed about school activities. Please assist in this avenue of communication by checking with your child if a newsletter has been forwarded that day. Email addresses should be kept up to date to ensure that you receive your weekly newsletter.

The school newsletter may be accessed from the school website www.annandalesseq.edu.au or on your mobile phone via the QSchools apps.

Outside School Hours Care

The Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program is run independently by PCYC and is not part of the school's operations. The program operates each weekday from 6:30 am – 9:00 am and 2:50pm - 6:00 pm. Children from Prep to Year 6 are invited to attend. Vacation care is also available. Childcare rebates apply. Car parking is available on Oleander Street.

For more information, please contact the co-ordinator (during opening hours) on 0448 904 495. Alternatively email: Annandale.sac@pcyc.org.au

Parent-School Partnership

The importance of parents and teachers working together is strongly supported throughout the school.



When parents express confidence in the school and are involved with it in some way, their children are likely to be happier and perform better in the classroom. If children see their parents and their teachers sharing common beliefs, attitudes and goals they feel more secure. The following are some of the ways that parents can become involved in the school.

Parents and Citizens Association

The P&C Association meets on the first Tuesday of each Month (in a school terms) in the staffroom from 6:30pm. The P&C Association forms an important role in parent advocacy and fundraising support for items and projects not funded by the Department of Education.

Parent Education Programs

Throughout the year the school runs a number of parent education programs/information sessions (e.g. Support a Talker, Support a Reader, Speech Sound Pics, 1-2-3 Magic). All parents are welcome to attend these. Keep a close watch on the newsletter for details. A large number of parents participate each year in programs designed to support their children's language development, reading and writing.

Classroom Volunteers

Many classes benefit from the assistance of volunteers in reading, art or other curriculum areas. Parents are encouraged to assist if possible. All volunteers are required to complete annual mandatory training to be able to support in the classroom, tuckshop or school activities. The mandatory training takes no more than 30 minutes and sessions are offered each term. Volunteers must sign in at the office as a visitor on each day they attend.

Payment of Student Contributions/Excursions/etc.

Class Excursions Camps and Activities

Class excursions, camps and activities may occur throughout the year. Students are expected to meet behavioural expectations to attend. Information letters and permission slips for your child to participate in these activities will be sent home via your child or by email if you have supplied us with your current details.

When you receive an invoice from the school to pay for sport, music, excursions, camps, etc. the easiest way for you to pay is by BPOINT. You can do this at a time convenient for you, by website or phone:

- www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete OR
- by IVR (Interactive Voice Response) Phone: 1300 631 073

Further details on these options can be found in the newsletter, or drop in to see the friendly staff at the Cash Collection Window or Student Reception.

To keep costs low, we do not include contingency costs. This means that the school cannot provide a refund if payment has been made and your child is unable to participate in part or all of the activity (absences, transfers, etc). We are unable to accept late payments, including online payments received after the closing date, as bookings and payments often need to be made before the activity/event. Progressive payments are also accepted by the school, especially for large amounts like camp costs. If you have any concerns regarding payment details, please contact the Business Services Manager or a Deputy Principal well before the due date, as it may be possible to make some alternative arrangements.

Book Club, School Photographs and Life Education payments are collected directly by the companies themselves, and payment details will be provided when these activities are offered at the school.

QParent App

QParents application provides a more convenient, easier way for parents and legal guardians to interact with the school. Parents have secure, online access to your child's student information through a smartphone, tablet or computer. QParents allow you to access and manage information including:

- Attendance and absence details as well as the ability to notify the school of an absence
- Academic report cards
- Invoice and payment details
- Viewing and updating personal student details including medical conditions and address
- Enrolment details

QParents will assist both staff and parents in sharing and responding to information in an efficient and effective way. More about QParents can be found at <https://qparents.qld.edu.au/#/about>

QSchools App

QSchools application is a convenient way to share up to the minute information with the school community. The app is designed to integrate with Websites for School and benefits parents, carers and families following multiple schools. When a school publishes content to their website the app is automatically updated with the latest news, events and newsletters. Emergency announcements and push notifications such as information about natural disasters and school closures can be published by the department.

Religious Instruction

Religious Instruction is not compulsory. An opportunity for students to participate in Religious Instruction will be advised early in the school year.

This information will include:

- the year level participating
- the cost of the resources
- the day and the time of the lessons

Ministers of Religion or lay personnel will take the class. Students not participating in Religious Instruction will continue with the school program.

Religious Instruction is not a guaranteed program each year and relies of volunteers from local churches.

Reporting to parents – (Oral Reporting, Semester Reporting, NAPLAN (Yr 3 & 5)

Written semester reports are sent home twice yearly – at the end of Term 2 and end of Term 4. Report cards are provided digitally through email and are available through QParents.

Oral reporting takes place at the end of Term 1 and at the end of Term 3. Students are encouraged to attend these meetings with their parents.

Parents are always welcome to arrange meetings with class teachers at any time throughout the year to discuss their child's progress.

NAPLAN Tests for Years 3 and 5 are in Term 1. Reports are provided to parents in accordance with QCAA (Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority)

Student Code of Conduct (previously the Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students)

The Student Code of Conduct is based on the principals and guidelines of the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework. The goal of the Code provides guidelines for students and staff to enable students to accept ownership of their behaviour and to develop a realisation of the effect their behaviour has on others.

Our school has 3 Positive Behaviour for learning expectations:



Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be a Learner

At Annandale State School we believe that:

- All children can learn

play under covered areas – **NO HAT NO PLAY** outdoors. Students must wear a broad brim or bucket hats, no caps.

Support Services

Annandale State School provides a range of services to support a student's learning. The initial concerns regarding student learning are discussed between the class teacher and the student's parents. The class teacher may also discuss his/her concerns with their Deputy Principal.

Where concerns continue, the student's circumstances are referred to the Student Support Team for consideration and further action. Members of the Student Support Team are: the Principal, Deputy Principals, Guidance Officer, Head of Special Education and Head of Student Services.

The school is fortunate to have a **Defence School Mentor** (DSM) who is available to support children of families employed by the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

This support may be the provision of strategies to classroom teachers, formalised testing and assessing, or face to face intervention over a long or short term or a recommendation for a referral to outside agencies.

Transfers Between Schools

If your child is to transfer to another school, a week's notice, for the office preparation of student records would be appreciated. Academic records will remain at Annandale State School until requested by your child's new school.

Tuckshop

A Tuckshop will be re-opened in 2025, with expanding service times and menu offerings.

The Tuckshop is run as a service to families, keeping costs minimal to cover operational expenses and service enhancements.

The Tuckshop is only functional with the support of families and volunteers. Volunteers are always being sought to assist regularly. If you are able to assist with the Tuckshop, please contact the principal or the Tuckshop Convenor.

Uniforms

A Uniform Policy is available from the School Website and is expected to be complied with as part of enrolment at Annandale State School. Students are to be in the school uniform as outlined in the Uniform Policy each school day, unless it is a planned special event.

Uniforms and accessories can be purchased from The School Locker located at Domain Shopping Complex, Shop 1B, 161 Duckworth Street, Garbutt, Townsville 4814. Phone 4430 8500.

Welcome

We once again repeat the welcome offered to you at the beginning of this book. We hope the association you and your child have with Annandale State School is a long and happy one. We hope that together we can be successful in creating the future.

ANNANDALE SCHOOL SONG

CREATING THE FUTURE

VERSE 1

Creating the future
Lift your Spirits high
If we walk as one, in friendship
The limit is the sky
From the past are lessons learnt
Make the most of them as you go your way
For the past and future greet us
In each and every day.

CHORUS

*Together, we can climb the highest mountaintop
Together, we can cross the flowing river
If we do our best and work as one
We will shine like the rising sun
Together.*

VERSE 2

Creating the future
Lift your Spirits high
If we walk as one, in friendship
The limit is the sky
Though the mountain may be high
From the top, we can view afar
And into the new millennium, you and I
Walk hand in hand.

CHORUS

*Together, we can climb the highest mountaintop
Together, we can cross the flowing river
If we do our best and work as one
We will shine like the rising sun
Together.*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

An Acknowledgement of Country is a way of showing awareness of and respect for the traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held, and of recognising the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to their Country.



We would like to acknowledge that this school is located on the traditional lands of the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people, and pay respects to the elders both past and present.

The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia. It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people during the land rights movement of the early 1970s.

The symbolic meaning of the flag colours (as stated by Mr Harold Thomas) are:

Black: Represents the Aboriginal people of Australia

Red: Represents the red earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relation to the land

Yellow: Represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector

Welcome to Bindal and Wulgurukaba Land

The traditional custodians are the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people, and the language of the traditional custodians is the Birrigubba language. "Wadda Mooli" is Birrigubba language meaning greetings such as "hello, goodbye, or welcome". When Europeans first arrived in Townsville, they assumed that no one occupied or owned the land because there were no boundaries marked by fences and farms. But the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people had already been living here for many years—hundreds of generations. Archaeological sites near Townsville have been dated over 10,000 years ago.

The Bindal People

The Bindal people call their country Thul Garrie Waja.

An important symbol for the Bindal people is the shooting star. They believe that wherever the star fell or the direction the star fell there was either danger coming from that direction or someone from the direction was in need of help or in danger.

The Wulgurukaba People

The Wulgurukaba people call their country Currumbilbarra. Wulgurukaba means "canoe people". An important symbol for the Wulgurukaba people is the carpet snake. The creation story tells of the creation snake that comes down from the Herbert River (Ingham area), went outside to sea creating the Hinchinbrook channel and down to Palm and Magnetic Islands. His body broke up leaving parts along the coast. The tail of the snake is at Halifax Bay; his body is at Palm Island; and his head rests at Arcadia on Magnetic Island.



We would like to acknowledge the contribution the Torres Strait Island people, and pay respects to the elders both past and present.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was created as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples, designed by the late Bernard Namok from Thursday Island.

Each part of the flag is designed to represent something about Torres Strait Island culture.

Green: Represents the land

Blue: Represents the sea

White: Represents peace

Black: Represents the Indigenous peoples

The dhari (headdress) represents Torres Strait Island people and the five pointed star represents the 5 major Island groups. The star also represents navigation, as a symbol of the seafaring culture of the Torres Strait.