



Information Book

LIVING AND LEARNING

Welcome to your friendly local school



Balgownie Public School is an excellent school where quality teaching and learning occurs in a positive, caring environment. The school is highly regarded in the local community where it has provided exceptional public education for over 125 years. Our staff are dedicated, highly skilled, caring professionals who are deeply committed to ensuring that all our students reach their potential. We cater for individual differences through quality educational programs.

Balgownie Public offers inventive opportunities for gifted and talented students both in the classroom and whole school, including public speaking and problem solving. We have innovative technology programs including a computer lab, interactive whiteboards and modern computers in every class, improving our students' learning through using the tools of the future. Wifi throughout the school and a growing bank of iPads and laptops cater for 21st Century learning.

We are a welcoming, friendly school community and have strong relationships with parents and carers. The P & C and parents are actively involved and warmly welcomed in the school. Your role as a parent in the education of your child is valued greatly by our staff.

We provide an extensive variety of enrichment activities to enhance the learning of our students. These include:

- Innovative and engaging programs in the areas of Mindfulness and Wellbeing, Creative and Critical Thinking, Robotics and Coding.
- Environmental Education to foster responsibility including a recycling centre, kitchen garden, composting and whole school recycling of all rubbish.
- Creative and Performing Arts to develop creativity including Southern Stars, Dance Festival, Choral Festival and Keirabald Art Competition.
- Exciting learning through Premier's Reading, Spelling and Sporting Challenges, ICAS testing and Chess competitions. We have excellent excursions and visiting performers.
- Sport for health and fitness. Competitions in cricket, netball, touch football, soccer, AFL, and basketball. Successful carnivals occur and students can participate in Surf Groms and our annual School Swimming Scheme.
- School spirit is celebrated through Family Fun Days, Education Week, Science Days and Grandparent Days. Ceremonies mark important Australian traditions: Anzac and Remembrance Day, NAIDOC, Reconciliation Week and Harmony Day.

At Balgownie Public School we pride ourselves on our excellent programs that promote self-belief, resilience, citizenship, respect and responsibility. Our students have a reputation for outstanding behaviour. Successful life skills are developed through our comprehensive Positive Behaviour for Success program. The School Representative Council and other initiatives foster leadership and decision making in students of all ages. We develop confident, articulate students with skills for life through a comprehensive Kindergarten Orientation program and close links with the local high school.

We are proud of our achievements, our students, our community and our staff. I am very proud to be a part of a wonderful educational team that serves the Balgownie community and happily welcome you and your family to join us.

Aloma Stewart

Principal

BALGOWNIE PUBLIC SCHOOL – focusing on providing the highest quality teaching and learning, a full and balanced curriculum and great care for the wellbeing of children.

For more information about our great school please contact:



Balgownie Public School

220 Balgownie Road, Balgownie 2519

PO Box 192, Fairy Meadow 2519

Telephone: (02) 42 84 4245

Fax: (02) 42 84 3462

School Website: www.Balgownie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

School email: balgownie-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Skoolbag app for your smart phone or tablet.

Download at Safari or Google Play by searching for Skoolbag Balgownie for all your updates.

P and C website: balgowniepnc.com

School Personnel

Principal

Aloma Stewart

Assistant Principals

Jill Hockey

Martin Loxton

Sascha Lynch (Relieving Assistant Principal)

School Administrative Manager

Michelle Thompson

School Administrative Officers

Joanne Oyston

Casey Snow

School Support Learning Officers

Joanne Carrigan

Rae Masters

Elizabeth Scott

Katrina Obayolin

General Assistants

Dave Swan (Tuesday)

Gareth Quinn

Brett Summerfield (Friday)

Teachers

Alison Kerema

Anna Scott

Davina Robson

Carly Rice

Jenna Duffy

Tara Burrows

Breanna McSweyn

Michael Barrett

Heather Sheath

Nicole Shum

Kate Smith

Diane Burns

Emily Grant

Terry McGoldrick

Learning & Support Teacher

Vanessa Cliff (Mon-Wed)

Library

Jacqui Birchall

ESL

Cheryl Phillis (Mon-Wed)

Counsellor

Rhonda Meredith (Tues)

Office Hours:

8.30am to 3.30pm

Class Times:

9.00am to 3.00pm

General Information

Many of our school policies and information are available electronically on the website or the Skoolbag app. Please see them for more details. Other information can be found on the DOE (Department of Education) website www.dec.nsw.gov.au or at www.schoolatoz.com.au.

Absence from School

In NSW students must attend school regularly. This means all children between the ages of six and seventeen are legally required to attend school. Attendance is recorded daily and a 'roll call' is usually conducted before the first lesson of each day. Children are not allowed to leave the grounds without permission or with unauthorised people.

For the benefit of all children, parents or carers should ensure their child attends school regularly. Any absence from school should be explained within seven days of the absence. Similarly, schools are required to inform parents promptly of any unexplained absences or suspected truancy.

If children miss out on school they miss out on vital information, their learning routine is broken, they can lose confidence and they miss out on building up friendships.

All students are legally required to attend school every day, including sports days unless:

- your child has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- your child is required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- your child is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- if your child is sick, or has an infectious disease.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you might like to talk to the school principal or the school counsellor. If you can only arrange your family holiday during school time, you should inform the school principal in advance and request leave. You can ask the school to provide work that can be completed while your child is absent.

Access/Custody of Children

Please keep the school informed about any Family Law papers.

This includes of information about custody orders and current interim orders to keep students safe at school.

Every day counts... because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day.

Every day counts... because going to school means getting a better chance at life.

Every day counts... because school helps children make friends and be happier.

Every day counts... because the law says children must go to school.



After School Care

After School Care is provided by two service providers who collect students by mini bus from the school in the afternoon and take them to the venue.

- OOSH (Out of School Hours) after school care, Building 201 (Nissan Hub), Campus - UOW Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow. P 02 4221 5444
- Fun Club @ Fairy Meadow - Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, Cnr Balgownie Road and Princes Highway. P 02 42854616



Anaphylaxis

Like many schools, Balgownie Public School has a number of students who suffer a life threatening allergy to nuts and other foods. Exposure to even tiny amounts of nuts can cause an anaphylactic reaction, during which the child's face and airways will swell, possibly causing death unless adrenalin is injected. Peanut butter and Nutella are especially problematic as they transfer easily from children's hands to common surfaces such as desks, taps and books.

We ask that all families consider this information and the important role they can play in keeping children healthy and safe by not bringing food products containing nuts to school. Sharing of food is discouraged due to these allergies.

Bell Times

School Times are 9am - 3pm.

The school playground is supervised from 8:30am to 3pm.

Students should not attend before 8:30am as the playground is unsupervised.

9.00am	School Commences
9.00-11.00am	Session One
11am to 11.10am	Lunch with class teacher
11.10-11.50am	Play
11.50-1.50pm	Session Two
1.50pm-2.10pm	Recess
2.10-3.00pm	Session Three
3.00pm	School Finishes

If it is raining between 8.30am and 9am, students assemble under the COLA or other covered areas. The teachers on morning duty will supervise them. Students do not go directly to classrooms unless the 'old bell' is rung.



Assemblies

Whole school assemblies are held throughout the year. Parents and Carers are most welcome to attend. Fortnightly on Tuesday afternoon, we hold a PBS whole school assembly in our school hall. Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 children have an informal assembly each alternate Tuesday where they communicate important messages, share favourite songs and celebrate birthdays and other significant milestones.



Bikes/skateboards/ mini-scooters

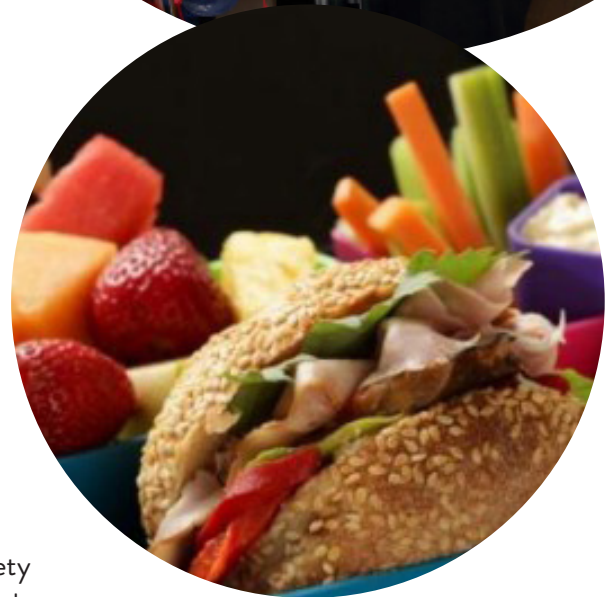
Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are permitted at Balgownie Public. Students are to dismount and wheel all bikes, scooters and skateboards through the grounds.

This is due to safety concerns for all students. All items are the responsibility of the owners. All students must have helmets to ride their transport.

Bus Behaviour

Children wait quietly outside the office until escorted to the bus by the teacher on duty.

Children are expected to behave in a polite and safe manner while travelling on buses. Bus drivers will report unsatisfactory student behaviour to the Principal. If behaviour is of serious concern for the safety of students and the driver, the student may not be permitted to ride the bus for a designated time.

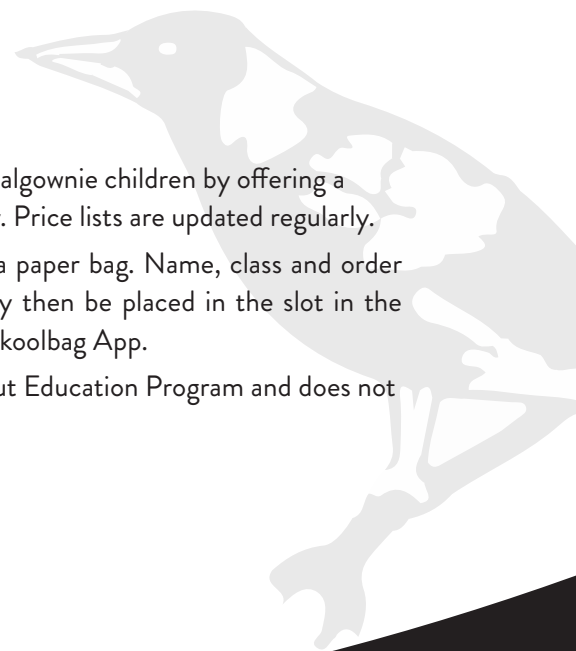


Canteen

The Canteen is operated by MADE FRESH. It aims to provide a service to the Balgownie children by offering a nutritious range of foods. The Canteen is currently open every day for lunch only. Price lists are updated regularly.

Online ordering is available. Children can also order lunch before school using a paper bag. Name, class and order should be written on the outside and correct money placed inside. Orders may then be placed in the slot in the canteen before school. Updated menus are advertised on the P&C website and Skoolbag App.

Our canteen is a healthy canteen and also supports Balgownie Public School's Nut Education Program and does not sell any food that includes nuts in the list of ingredients.



Collecting Children in Cars at 3pm

We want to keep all of our children safe. Parents are reminded to obey all parking and bus signs around the school. There are four entrances to Balgownie Public – Chalmers St (2), Balgownie Rd and Brokers Rd. The staff car park in Chalmers St is “out of bounds” for all students and parents are asked not to drive into staff car parks to drop students off or pick them up. This is for all of our students’ safety. Please obey all the road rules around the school, including the ‘Children’s Crossing’ rules.



Communication between home and school

We have a number of communication methods for our families at Balgownie Public.

- Newsletters – “The Bally Buzz” is put on the website and Skoolbag app fortnightly on a Wednesday. The newsletter contains news about school events, permission notes, important dates to remember, education-related issues and community happenings. It is an important communication between the school, families, interested persons and organisations in the community.
- Notes home – please check your child’s bag regularly and reply promptly if appropriate.
- Skoolbag App- which is available on both android and apple formats. This app once uploaded allows for all communication, including ‘push’ messages of upcoming events or instant alerts.



Consent to publish name or photograph

In our current enrolment forms, your consent will be sought to allow the school/ Department of Education to publish and/or disclose information about your child for the purposes of sharing his/her experiences with other students. This informs the school and broader community about student activities and participation in noteworthy projects and community service. This information may include your child's name, age, class and information collected at school such as photographs, sound and visual recordings of your child, your child's work and expressions of opinion such as in interactive media.

Please advise the school in writing if circumstances change and you wish to change this consent.

The communications in which your child's information may be published or disclosed include but are not limited to:

- Public websites of the Department of Education including the school website, the Department of Education intranet (staff only), blogs and wikis.
- Department of Education publications including the school newsletter, annual school magazine and school report, promotional material published in print and electronically including on the Department's websites.
- Official Department and school social media accounts on networks such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.
- Local and metropolitan newspapers and magazines and other media outlets.

Parents should be aware that when information is published on public websites and social media channels, it can be discoverable online for a number of years, if not permanently. Search engines may also cache or retain copies of published information. Published information can also be linked to by third parties.

Emergency Procedures

Procedures are in place to evacuate and lock down the school in the event of an emergency. The procedures are available in all rooms and we practise these regularly to ensure student safety.

Enrolment Policy

Our enrolment policy and procedures are available on the website, the Skoolbag app or at the office.



Excursions and Visiting Performers

All excursions are to comply with Department's Excursion Policy and Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activities in Schools. The educational outcomes of planned excursions are linked with the current teaching program. All sporting activities are also classified as excursions.

Visiting Performers and 'incursions' are part of the curriculum and students are expected to attend.

Students who are not attending need to be encouraged to do so and teachers may need to contact parents to ascertain reasons for non-attendance. If it is financial, Student Assistance may be applied for through the Principal. This is in the form of payment plans or subsidies.

All students who are not attending the excursion are expected to be at school. All students are given the opportunity to attend unless their behaviour is of concern for their safety and the safety of other students.

Students must return permission notes and money in an envelope, pay online or with EFTPOS at the office prior to the excursion.

Major Excursions for Stage 3 include:

- Even years - a camp for five days in term 4.
- Odd years - a three day excursion to Canberra.



First Aid, Health and Medication

If a student becomes ill or is involved in an accident at school, he or she will normally be taken to the school's sick bay (in the Administration Block). The school will contact the sick student's parents if it is serious. If this cannot be done, the School will attempt to contact the emergency contact number (given when the student is enrolled). In cases of a serious nature, the ambulance service will be called and every endeavour made to contact the parents.

If your child has a medical condition, please see the office and/or principal so that we can work together for the safety and wellbeing of your child. E.g. Allergies, asthma, epilepsy.

THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE KEPT UPDATED with changes of address, telephone numbers, emergency contact numbers and change of doctor. All Health Care Plans need to be regularly updated by the parents.

As required by the Department of Education and Training medication can only be administered at school with the written authority of a parent or doctor. As a general rule, if a child needs medication, they would not be well enough to attend school.

- Teachers are not permitted to give medication.
- Medicine is not to be kept in school bags or under desks.
- Medication should be labelled with the child's name and dosage and handed in at the office.

A form must be filled in at the office.

- Only the required dosage should be brought to school.
- The child/parent is responsible for collecting the medication at the end of the day.



Hats

The school has a “no hat, play in the shade” policy. Children without correct school hats will not be allowed to play in the playground areas due to the risk of excessive sun exposure and will be required to be in a shaded area during playtime. Bucket hats or wide brimmed hats are the only hats permitted.



Homework

Homework helps students practise and extend work learnt in class. Balgownie Public School supports the role of the parent as a major teacher in the child’s life. By reinforcing school work positively at home through encouragement and promotion of good work habits, parents can help in developing successful learners.

If your child doesn’t understand the work, please let the teacher know. Homework expectations will vary depending on the child’s age, the nature of the work being undertaken in the classroom, and other factors. The Homework Policy has more details and is available on the website and the app.



Kindergarten

Home reading every night is expected and reading to your child is also of great benefit. As the year progresses, students may get sight words and some hands on Mathematics activities for you to do together.

Years 1 to 6

Children are expected to do home reading and to complete any other set work that the teacher sends home for them. Homework in Years 3 -6 will be varied and students will be expected to work more independently.



Kindergarten Enrolments

Children may commence school provided they turn 5 years by 31 July in the year of enrolment. Parents are encouraged to advise the school as early as possible about intended kindergarten enrolments. We have an extended orientation program and this is complimented by the parent-led School Starters Playgroup which begins in Term 3 of each year.

Labelling of Clothing and Personal Belongings

Please make sure that all your children's clothing and personal belongings are clearly marked with their name. This helps us to return lost property.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Children arriving late (after 9am) must get a late arrival slip from the office for their class teacher. These will be recorded as partial absences. If students have to leave the school during the day for an appointment, parents need to obtain an early leaver slip from the office before collecting the child from the classroom.

Immunisation

The New South Wales Department of Health recommends that all children entering school be fully immunised. Your child will be in contact with many other children and infections spread easily in these circumstances. Any unimmunised students may need to be excluded from school during periods of contagious infections.

Internet Access and Email

The NSW DoE provides your child with an internet and email account. Your child will have an individual username and password to login to the internet at school. This means while at school, their access to the internet or World Wide Web will be filtered to help stop inappropriate sites from being accessed.

Your child will also have an email account, which lets them send and receive written messages. Students can access their email account from the Student Portal.



Learning and Support Teacher (LAST)

'LAST' teachers support students who are having difficulty in learning. They work with regular classroom teachers to help them make the classroom work differentiated to meet student needs. They also help students to be more confident and independent in their learning. School Learning and Support Officers (SLSOs) also work in classrooms with individual students.

Learning and Support Team (LST)

Teachers respond to the learning needs of every student. Teachers can also refer students to the Learning Support Team for advice and support to help students reach their potential. The LST consists of the Principal, School Counsellor, Learning and Support Teachers, School Learning and Support Officer, Assistant Principals and Teachers. It assists teachers to plan programs to meet the needs of all students, helps develop Individual Learning Plans and plan effective use of the support teacher time

Class teachers write Individual and Group Learning Plans for those needing extra support in learning or behaviour. The LST supports them in planning, writing, implementing and reviewing the plans.



Library

The Library is a focal point in the school. As this school has a strong commitment to development of literacy in our students, we continually endeavour to build up our resources and to help the children to develop a love of reading. Each class has a weekly lesson with the Teacher-Librarian.

The Library is open from 8.30am to 8.55am on Monday to Wednesday, for parents who wish to assist their children to choose books as long as the librarian is present. We ask that parents use this time only, and not during lesson time as it disrupts the class using the Library. This is one way you can demonstrate to your child that you value books and reading as a worthwhile activity.

All students must have a library bag to borrow a book. Library bags are available from the uniform shop. If books are damaged or not returned, the Teacher Librarian will notify you about the replacement cost.

The librarian Mrs Birchall also operates the Book Club where students can buy good quality books at very reasonable prices. Money must be the correct amount and can be placed in a fully sealed envelope.

Lost Property

Please ensure names are on all items including lunch boxes, drink flasks, hats, etc. Lost items can be easily identified and returned if marked. A lost property basket is situated outside the canteen. Unclaimed property is donated to charity several times a year. Students who bring personal items to school must remember, that while all care is taken, the school cannot accept responsibility for any items that go missing or get broken.

Mobile Phones and Technologies

Please see the Mobile Phone and Internet Policies for further information about the appropriate use for these devices.

Money Collection

Money for excursions and other events should be sent to school in a sealed envelope with the child's name, class, reason for money and amount. Children are to put the money into the slot in the office counter. We also accept payment online and by credit card at the office.

Museum

Balgownie Public School opened in 1889. Approaching the centenary year, former students spent endless hours collecting, editing and displaying memorabilia donated by many community members. The school's centenary celebrations were a huge success and not wanting to lose what had been collected, it was decided to utilise the former air raid shelter under the original school classrooms and establish the Balgownie Heritage School Museum.

Over the past twenty five years our school museum has grown to become one of the finest local history museums on the coast. Managed by a handful of local volunteers, the museum caters, by appointment, to visiting tour groups and is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month from 11.00am to 2.30p.m.

The objective of the museum is to keep the spirit of living in Balgownie Village alive. With over 1000 photos, the museum provides a rare pictorial record of the story of Balgownie Village and its school. However, the museum is not just about the past, it is also very involved with the promotion of the village and the school as they are today.

Learn the history of your school, be proud of what we have, support the staff and give your children some memories that they will recall and treasure in the future. We look forward to meeting new parents to the school and guiding them through the years their children will be creating history in the museum.

Music Bus

This is a private company that is available before school for our students for small group and private lessons. Telephone: 1300 168 742

Performance Opportunities

Stage 1 participate in the Illawarra Dance Festivals, Stage 2 have the opportunity to perform in Wollongong Schools Music Festival and Stage 3 can be part of Southern Stars. These performances are with other schools and are at a high level in local venues. We also have special end of year K-2 Christmas concert.



NAPLAN– National Assessment in Literacy and Numeracy

These tests are conducted on a national basis for all students in Years 3 and 5. These tests are held over three days in May each year.

Parents and Citizens Association

The P&C meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Library. The P&C meeting is a great place to meet new parents and to receive current information about your school. It costs \$1 to join. It is for parents and community members and endeavours to bring parents, teachers and community together. It provides an active support system for the school, through parents being able to help. e.g. working bees, canteen, uniform shop, fundraising, personal expertise, reading tutors and educational decision matters.

Please feel welcome to join. All parents are urged to come along, meet other parents, make suggestions and help us to plan interesting and worthwhile activities in line with the school's goals.

Parent Involvement and Visitors

The establishment of strong links between the home and the school is highly valued. Parent assistance is appreciated for a variety of things including: listening to reading, school excursions, helping in classrooms, sport and social events.

Any visitor, including those helping at school, must sign in at the office at the time of arrival and sign out when you leave. This allows us to know who is in our school in case of an emergency.

Under the Child Protection Act 2012, all helpers must complete a “Working with Children Check - Declaration for Volunteers and Contractors” at the office.

Playground

Our extensive playground features modern climbing and playing equipment for students to use during breaktime. Teachers supervise playground areas and students need to play in designated areas.

Policies and Procedures

Our policies and procedures follow requirements and guidelines from the Department of Education and Communities. Please see our website, Skoolbag app or the DoE website for details.

Positive Behaviour for Success

PBS is our whole school approach to teaching students good behaviour choices through our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Real Learning. Students can earn rewards through demonstrating our core values in classrooms and the playground.



RFF (Release from Face to Face Teaching)

Classroom teachers are released from their class for two hours per week, usually in one hour blocks. During this time another teacher takes the class for specific lessons. Teachers use this time to plan, prepare and mark work and interview parents.

Religious Education and Ethics

Religious Education is usually called “Scripture”. Scripture lessons are held on Tuesdays for thirty minutes. Balgownie has Catholic, Protestant and Islamic scripture taught by volunteers from the churches. Should you not want your child to attend Scripture, a written note is required.

Our school also offers ethics classes taught by volunteers as an alternative to scripture.

Reporting to Parents and Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent information sessions are held early in the year where parents are invited to meet the teacher and be informed of curriculum content to be taught, homework and other organisation. Parents can ask general questions.

At the end of Term One, all parents and carers are invited to meet with their class teacher. Parents may also make an appointment at any time to have an interview with a teacher. Please ring the office or see your teacher to make an appointment. Remember that teachers cannot have long conversations with parents when they are with their class.

If after discussion with the teacher you still have some concerns please feel free to contact the stage coordinator (Assistant Principal) or the Principal.

Parents will receive a written report twice each year at the end of Terms Two and Four. Keeping parents informed of their child’s academic and social progress is an important function of the school. Reports are based on continuous assessment and evaluation. Judgements on individual progress will be based on the knowledge, skills and understanding that each student should develop at each stage of primary school as outlined in the syllabus.



School Requirements

School supply lists are sent home at the end of each year with our school reports. These lists are also available online and we ask that parents supply their children with all the items on the list.

Educational Resources

At our school, Educational Resources are part of our school. In our ever increasing digital age, there are subscriptions to online resources and resources like School Magazines. This is the way of the future where traditional textbooks may be replaced with subscriptions that are a more engaging and interactive way to help students both at home and at school.

These are not part of the Voluntary Contributions. We ask parents to pay for these as you would for any ‘textbook’ levy.

School Welfare and Fair Discipline Policy

This is designed for our students to be safe and happy at school and grow into being responsible citizens. It is linked to our Positive Behaviour for Success Program, PD/Health/PE Curriculum and Anti-Bullying Policy. It can be downloaded from our website.

School Counsellor

School Counsellors are experienced teachers who are also psychologists. They have been specially trained to assess and diagnose children in order to overcome problems encountered at school. Such problems may be with behaviour, learning or social and psychological development. Parents are contacted before a child sees the school counsellor.

Parents or caregivers may ask to make an appointment to discuss matters of concern with the School Counsellor. These referrals are made through the Learning Support Team and Principal.

School Song – to tune of ‘Ode to Joy’

Balgownie is our school; we live and learn in friendship here.

Balgownie our own school, we value honour and courtesy.

One pure clear light that will shine, we shall do our best at all times.

So when at last we leave here, bright memories will remain.

Special Days and Extra Curricula Opportunities

Extra curricula activities vary each year. These can include learning, sporting, social or environmental opportunities. Special days make school life a rich and interesting place. These events may include; sport, swimming, carnivals, in school performances, guest speakers, excursions, Premiers Reading, Spelling and Sporting challenges, public speaking, Men’s Shed, P&C Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day stalls, P&C BBQs, P&C Fete (every second year), Education Week activities, Book Week activities, Athletics Carnival, Presentation Day and Year Six Graduation.

Mufti Days are sometimes held as fundraisers. A mufti day is where students do not have to wear school uniform. For this privilege they usually make a gold coin contribution to a selected charity.

Student Leadership Opportunities

There are four School Leaders who are elected each year. They represent students and consult about some decisions.

Our Year Six students have leadership opportunities as members of the Student Representative Council (SRC), Information Technology (IT), Environment and Sports Leadership Teams. These teams all have responsibilities within the school. The SRC members are also our school Peacekeepers who help younger students in the playground. All of our Year Six students are also ‘buddies’ for our Kindergarten students and play an important role in supporting our youngest students as they settle into school.



Sport includes:

- Fitness is held two mornings per week for approximately 30 minutes and involves children in aerobic activities.
- All students also participate in sport or PE every week within our school which varies across the year.
- All children participate in a gymnastics program called Gymsports in alternate years for one term.
- SOCCAJOEYS (K-2) and DANCE 2BFIT (3-6) In odd years all K-2 students participate in the Soccajoeys program and all 3-6 students participate in a dance program.
- PSSA – Primary Schools Sports Association This is conducted by teachers in local schools. Our local PSSA area is called 'Brokers District'. PSSA Gala days are held several times a year with all children participating in sporting activities such as Oz Tag, AFL, cricket and soccer. The Brokers District also runs Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals for students 8 years and over.
- School Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals are held each year.
- State Knockouts School Teams are provided with additional opportunities to represent the school by competing in State Knockout competitions run by the NSW PSSA. Our school generally enters teams in soccer, netball, touch football and basketball but may at times choose to enter in other sports.
- Special Swimming Scheme. This is conducted for two weeks by the Department of Education and is aimed at mainly Year 2 students and other students in Years 3 through to Year 6 who are not strong swimmers. Numbers are limited. Parents need to pay a small cost, which is needed for bus transport to take students to and from the pool and pool entry.



Student Wellbeing

We provide a number of programs to promote student wellbeing through our PD/ Health/PE syllabus. For example; Child Protection, anti-bullying, social skill training, resilience and drug education including the Life Education Van. We also provide some small group and individual assistance for those students who need extra support.

Teaching and Learning

The children have a balance of experiences across the six Key Learning Areas. The Australian Curriculum is being phased in over the next few years.

In NSW these areas are;

- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Science
- Creative and Performing Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

Sun Safety

Our school is a Sunsafeschool. NSW public schools run programs designed to make students aware of the damaging effects of the sun. The P & C provides sunscreen for student use.

Uniform

All students are expected to be in school uniform. All clothing is to be marked with your child's name. Uniforms can be purchased from the P & C school uniform shop through an order form given to the canteen or online ordering through the P & C website. See the end of this booklet for the full uniform requirements. There are a small number of good quality second hand uniforms available.

Variation to Normal Routine

Unless a request to vary routine is received by the class teacher in writing, the normal routine of the child will not be varied.

Examples of this would be

- change of bus or a request to walk home
- change of medication
- child collected by a different adult.

Values Education

Students in NSW government schools are provided with a high quality education so that they may learn to the best of their ability and become self-disciplined, tolerant, enterprising and contributing members of the school and community. Schools in NSW share with families and the community the responsibility for teaching values.

Public schools teach values, that underpin learning. Public schools also provide students with opportunities to explore the values that lie behind diverse community attitudes to political issues and social concerns. Values are taught explicitly in classrooms and through the activities and relationships of the school and its community.

Values guide student welfare and discipline, how the school communicates with parents and the opportunities for staff, students and parents to participate in decision - making. Our core values are integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness and democracy.

Voluntary Contributions

Our school also has a voluntary school contribution set at:

- \$35 for First child
- \$50 for 2 children and
- \$70 for 3 or more children.

This money helps us to ensure that our school can provide a quality education to our students. Much of the voluntary contribution money last year went to building our reading resources for the new Australian Curriculum. Please pay these as soon as possible at the front office.



Uniform Requirements

Girls Uniform

Summer Uniform

- Black and white check dress or black culottes
- White polo shirt with school crest
- Short white ankle socks
- Black shoes
- Black and white hair accessories only
- Black school hat

Winter Uniform

- Dark navy/bottle green tartan pinafore with a long sleeved white shirt or white skivvy or
- Black pants with a short/long sleeved white polo shirt with school crest
- Black tights or short white ankle socks
- Black shoes
- Black and white hair accessories only
- Black school hat
- School jacket or jumper with school crest

Sport Uniform

- Black culottes, shorts or black tracksuit
- School sports polo shirt
- Short white ankle socks
- Joggers- any colour
- Black school hat

Boys Uniform

Summer Uniform

- Black shorts
- White polo shirt with school crest
- Short white ankle socks
- Black shoes
- Black school hat

Winter Uniform

- Black pants with a short/long sleeved white polo shirt with school crest
- Short white ankle socks
- Black shoes
- Black school hat
- School jacket or jumper with school crest

Sport Uniform

- Black shorts or black tracksuit
- School sports polo shirt
- Short white ankle socks
- Joggers- any colour
- Black school hat



Notes

- Black shorts, trousers or tracksuit pants worn by boys and girls should not have any logos or any colour other than black. That includes white piping or stripes. No leggings are to be worn on their own.
- No ¾ pants under dresses or on their own.
- Jumpers and jackets are to be Balgownie School jumpers only.
- All hats are to be Balgownie School hats only.
- From 2015, all students are required to wear a 'Sun safe' Balgownie Public School broad brim or bucket hat. No beanies as they do not offer sun protection.
- Shoes are to be plain black without coloured laces or any colour other than black. Boots or high tops are not part of our school uniform. Sports shoes may be worn on Friday. It is recommended that canvas shoes are not worn as they provide limited support for growing feet. Shoes should have non slippery soles as they are worn for outdoor activities.
- Socks to be visible above shoes.
- Hair accessories – black and white only. Ribbons and hair bows should be restricted to a minimal size.
- Minimal jewellery only to be worn e.g. small studs, watch etc. Safety of students is the focus. E.g. no large earrings. Jewellery worn at own risk.
- Sun glasses- optional. Must be black or white and meet Australian Standard 1067:2003.
- No makeup
- Performance uniform is defined by the performance director.

PLEASE PUT STUDENT'S NAME ON ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING

