A core value of education in all government schools is that all students can improve in their learning with appropriate support.

Like all schools, here at Woongarrah, we have students with special needs who require additional support.

Our school enjoys an excellent reputation for the way we support students with special needs.

What are special learning needs?

Children with special learning needs refers to children with learning difficulties, a behaviour disorder and/or a disability. These children have diverse abilities and learning needs.

The term disability includes children with an intellectual disability, physical disability, vision impairment, hearing impairment, language disorder, mental health conditions or autism.

Children with learning difficulties experience difficulties with learning in one or more areas of the curriculum. These difficulties may vary in cause, nature, intensity and duration.

What do we do at Woongarrah?

We have a range of programs and strategies in place to meet the needs of all students.

We provide whatever adjustments or accommodations required. You may have noticed some of these things in classrooms or around the school, for example:

- an allocated quiet space to use
- specialised furniture or desks
- wheelchairs
- visual timetables, personal timers, rewards charts, special games
- pillows, teddy bears, listening mats, comfort toys or bean bags
- specialised equipment like a slope board, posture wedge, or laptop
- a reader or scribe
- alternate activities for students who are sensitive to light, or noise, texture, or smell
- sharp objects in storerooms
- closed gates if needed
- Aides helping students in the classroom, playground or with health needs
- different ways of communicating
- special programs such as Engine Room occupational therapy, life skills, social skills, grief and loss.

You might also notice, or hear from your children that there are changes made to:

- the learning environment, or
- the learning program, or
- the teaching program, or
- the playground, or
- all of the above

We have a highly qualified and dedicated teaching and support staff. School counsellors, support teachers behaviour, home school liaison officers, student welfare and disability program consultants are also available to support schools working with troubled or difficult students.

Contact Us:

Woongarrah Public School
63-73 Mataram Road
Woongarrah NSW 2259

Phone: 4392 7493
Fax: 4392 7807
Email: woongarrah-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web: www.woongarrah-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
At Woongarrah PS, we have explicit **Individual Education Plans** in place that show the accommodations and / or adjustments that are made. These plans are constantly reviewed with parents and carers to make sure we are meeting needs.

**What are accommodations and adjustments?**

Accommodations are changes to an environment that will allow students with additional needs to participate fully in the **same** learning, working towards the same syllabus outcomes and content, as all other students of the same age/stage.

Accommodations could include sign language, Braille, a reader or scribe, access to technology, personal carer support or modifications to equipment, furniture and learning spaces.

Learning adjustments are measures or actions taken that enable a student to access and participate in achieving syllabus outcomes and content that are **different** from those for the age/stage group and that meet the student’s personalised learning needs.

**How do we deal with difficult behaviour?**

We use all of the measures possible to maintain a safe environment for all students.

We have excellent behaviour management and risk management processes, health care procedures, student welfare policies, serious incident and crisis management procedures in place that we follow with care and diligence.

At times, when we are dealing with difficult behaviour, we also have plans in place to eliminate or minimise triggers, manage the behaviour safely and respond safely if behaviour escalates.

This might look slightly different in each classroom, depending on the age and needs of the students, but there will also be common strategies used.

One such strategy, for example, is to make sure that students and staff know how to leave safely from the room in case of an outburst.

Another common strategy is to talk to students and staff after incidents occur to reassure students that the school will continue to be a safe environment. Students are given the opportunity to talk about their feelings and reminded that they can approach the school counsellor or other staff if they are worried or upset. Support is offered to any student who needs it.

Parents are contacted if a child is hurt or upset as a result of a serious incident at school.

Keeping everyone safe while supporting all students to achieve their full potential is our primary purpose.

For more information about our great school, contact our Principal, Leonie Clarkson, on 4392 7493, send us an email, or visit our website.

**Further Information**

For more information about supporting students with special needs, contact **Disability Programs**:

Phone: 9244 5085
TTY: 9244 5085
Fax: 9244 5012

Email: disability.programs@det.nsw.edu.au