

Our Mission

Our aim is to provide purposeful and relevant learning programs through high quality instruction and evidence based strategies in order to support each individual towards meaningful participation in their community.

An outcomes focussed curriculum delivered in a supportive, safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment ensures the development of academic, social, creative and physical skills while fostering independence in each child.

Our philosophy is to consider the needs of the individual child in every decision.



School Expectations

The Merriwa Schools work in collaboration to ensure that all students are given every opportunity to succeed. We believe that positive behaviour is a key element of an effective school. Both schools utilise programs to teach strategies for resilience and social skills and strive to ensure students meet the school expectations.

Our whole school reward system is focussed around embracing the following expectations:

I am respectful I am friendly
I am positive I achieve

Priority Learning

In addition to whole school literacy and numeracy programs and a thematic approach to integrate the curriculum, we have developed various special programs to provide a rich learning environment to accommodate the diverse needs of our students.

- School Readiness Program: For 2 and 3 year olds with special education needs.
- Alternative, Augmentative Communication: All students are provided opportunities to communicate using various tools and strategies.
- Sensory: A designated room and a covered outdoor learning space are resourced to provide alternative areas for students to engage in their learning and sensory needs.
- Fundamental Movement Program: Students engage in regular sessions to develop gross motor and fine motor skills through play based learning and structured activities.
- Music and Dance / Kidz Aerobics and Yoga: Students engage in physical activities which stimulate creativity and develop self-regulation.
- Hydrotherapy: Students with high needs are able to access the hydrotherapy pool at Butler College.
- Community Access / Life Skills: Students access the local community to practise life skills in an authentic learning experience.
- Incorporating Technology: Learning through iPads and associated apps, communication devices, switch technology, interactive whiteboards, computers, cameras and appropriate academic online programs is widely embraced across the centre.

The Learning Environment

Merriwa Education Support Centre is located on the Merriwa Primary School site. Both schools are Independent Public Schools and work collaboratively as an inclusive campus. Our reputation as a welcoming and inclusive school is acknowledged in the community.

Students are enrolled with disabilities that range from Global Developmental Delay and mild intellectual disability to complex medical and physical disabilities. An increasing number of students with Autism enrol into our school for specialised support to access their learning program.

Collaboration with parents, staff, therapists, school psychologists, support workers and teachers enables each child to reach their potential in a learning environment that is consistent and nurturing.

We believe that all students can achieve when given the appropriate structures, and have the right to thrive. We work with the understanding that every situation provides an opportunity for learning.



Learning programs for students with complex needs and Autism

Staff incorporate a range of learning strategies to engage a diverse range of students and to support them to meet their individual targets.

Programs utilised at Merriwa ESC focus on shaping behaviour and improving social skills towards building independence in each child. Many students also require the creation of clear communication systems, routines and structures to assist them throughout the day.

Merriwa ESC aims to deliver learning programs which are closely aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework, Kindy Guidelines and the Western Australian Curriculum. Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), an internationally recognised approach to support learning, is implemented to support the management of behaviours and develop positive learning habits. ABA incorporates Discrete Trial Training, independent work, small group work and structured play.

Students learn through play-based, hands-on learning experiences while addressing their sensory needs. The resources utilised in the ESC support explicit teaching and activity based tasks to consolidate concepts in early literacy and numeracy. Visual prompts are used extensively to support understanding and communication.



Merriwa ESC

- Caters for the academic and behavioural needs of primary school aged children with disabilities.
- Cares about student achievements and in providing quality programs that are purposeful and authentic to the specific needs of each child.
- Has professional staff working in collaboration with various therapists and agencies to ensure success for all students.
- Expects high standards in teaching, learning and behaviour.
- Designs programs to enable all children to achieve according to their capability.
- Has small classes with a high staff to student ratio.
- Focuses on functional skills, social competencies, independence and self-regulation.
- Develops an individual education plan for each child in consultation with parents and therapists.



An Independent Public School

'Learning for Life'



Dedicated and passionate staff providing learning programs for children with disability

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