



aspect
Distance Education



Aspect Distance Education NSW

A flexible, autism-specific education program for NSW families

**a different
brilliant®**

Understanding,
engaging and celebrating
the strengths, interests and
aspirations of people
on the autism spectrum.

Acknowledgment of Country

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and live.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present.



aspect

Distance Education
NSW

Aspect Distance Education NSW is
associated with Aspect Hunter School
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Welcome to Aspect Distance Education.

We understand the uniqueness of every child, value their individual strengths, interests and aspirations and we celebrate the 'different brilliant' of everyone.



Meet our Principal

A very warm welcome to the Aspect Distance Education Program. In NSW our program is delivered in collaboration with our Hunter School campus.

We are committed to engaging the strengths, interests and aspirations of our students. Aspect Hunter School is one of ten independent schools across Australia with a shared approach to educational practice underpinned by Aspect's Approach, further detailed on page 5 of this handbook.

Our school currently provides education for approximately 80 students on the autism spectrum in our Distance Education (DE) program. Classes are small with a high teacher to student ratio and a teacher's aide appointed to each class.

Our Distance Education program is especially beneficial for students who may find attending school challenging, as they provide dynamic and engaging learning experiences outside the traditional classroom setting.

Students in the Distance Education program have opportunities to connect and engage with their peers through a series of Connection Days. These days consist of onsite incursions at our main campus at Thornton, as well as offsite excursions, with embedded curriculum links and tailored to meet the specific needs of each class. Parents and carers accompany students during Connection Days. Secondary students are also invited to our Post School Options Expo which provides opportunities for families to explore what is available when our students complete their educational journey.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Distance Education Community.

Kim Maksimovic
Head of Distance Education

About Aspect

Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia), is Australia's largest autism-specific service provider, with one of the biggest autism-specific school programs in the world.

A not for profit organisation, we work in partnership with people of all ages on the autism spectrum, and their families to deliver evidence informed solutions that are person centred, family focused and client driven. Aspect is also involved in leading and being involved in national and international research projects to develop knowledge and improve practice in the field.

Aspect has over 60 years of expertise in supporting students on the autism spectrum with a network of specialised schools and satellite classes. The Aspect Distance Education program was established in NSW in 2020 operating from the Aspect Hunter School. It has been incredibly successful and we are pleased to offer this program as an alternative education pathway for Autistic students.

About Distance Education

At Aspect, we understand that every child on the autism spectrum is unique. Their strengths, interests, and aspirations shape how they learn, connect, and thrive. Aspect Distance Education offers a flexible, online learning program that is designed specifically for students on the autism spectrum and delivered by trusted and experienced educators based at Aspect Hunter School.

Whether your child needs a quieter learning environment, more flexible routines, or simply learns best at home, Aspect offers a high-quality, autism-specific education that meets your family where you are.

Why choose Distance Education?

Aspect Distance Education is more than just remote schooling. It's a thoughtfully designed, evidence-informed program that brings together the best of Aspect's 60+ years of experience in autism-specific education with the flexibility of online delivery.

Students benefit from being part of a physical school with experienced teachers setting the learning goals and following the NSW Curriculum. Aspect's aim is to improve outcomes for all children on the autism spectrum through access to quality autism specific virtual education services.

Here's what makes it different:

- Autism-specific expertise
- Individualised learning
- Flexible and accessible
- Highly skilled staff
- Strong support network

Who is this program for?

Aspect Distance Education is designed for:

- Students with a formal diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Families seeking a home-based learning option
- Students in Years 3 to 12 in NSW
- NSW residents who meet school enrolment eligibility



Our Educational Approach

At the heart of Aspect Distance Education is Aspect's approach. There are 6 key principles that guide the way we deliver services:

- **Autistic partnerships:** We embed Autistic perspectives in everything we do, ensuring our services, research and governance are shaped by lived experiences.
- **Strengths based:** We focus on an individual's ability and interests.
- **Person centred:** We put the person at the centre of everything we do, tailoring supports and services to each individual's unique needs.
- **Evidence informed:** We use research to guide and shape our practices.
- **Collaboration:** We prioritise the views and preferences of Autistic individuals while working with their support networks to gain a well-rounded understanding of their needs, strengths and goals.
- **Continuous improvement:** We evaluate our practices to find ways to improve our supports and services.

What will my child learn?

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	
The Primary Distance Education program follows the New South Wales K-6 curriculum, providing students in years 3-6 with engaging and differentiated educational programs.	The Secondary Distance Education program delivers a NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) approved program that meets the mandatory curriculum requirements for Years 7-10 (RoSA), and pattern of study requirements for the Higher School Certificate (HSC- Non ATAR). Students in Years 7-10 study NESA developed courses in the following subjects:	
Key learning Areas (KLAs)	Years 7 and 8	Years 9 and 10
- English - Mathematics - Science and Technology - Personal Development - Creative and Performing Arts - Human society and it's environment (HSIE) – History and Geography	- English - Mathematics - Science - PDHPE - History - Geography - Technology - Music - Visual Arts - Languages	- English - Mathematics - Science - PDHPE - History - Geography - Food technology - Work education
	Years 11 and 12	
	Students in Years 11 and 12 have the option to study Board Developed Life Skills courses in the following subjects: - English Life Skill - Mathematics Life Skills - Food Technology Life Skills - Visual Arts Life Skills - Agriculture Life Skills - Design and Technology Where appropriate, students may elect to replace of one of the above subjects (excluding English Life skills) with: - an on-site Vocational Education and Training (VET) course (Certificate II Workplace Skills). - a VET course with an external provider, such as TAFE. - a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) where the training component (VET course) contributes unit credit towards the HSC. The decision to engage in VET courses (on-site or external) or an SBAT will be made in collaboration with the school, parent/carer, student, VET teacher/provider and/or employer (for SBATs). As a non-ATAR, non-HSC exam program, each course is studied for the full four terms in each year, ensuring all courses lesson allocations exceed 120 hours per year. For more information, refer to the HSC Policy and Course Handbook.	

How the program works – at a glance

Online learning environment

Lessons and resources are delivered through secure digital platforms such as Google Classroom where students are able to access their weekly timetable, learning materials, and important updates all in one place. Students meet with their teachers and peers daily, via video conferencing within the Google Classroom platform. Students and families are able to download work, content, resources and documents through this platform as well as communicate with teachers and submit completed tasks. Students also engage in set tasks using other online learning platforms.

Personalised curriculum

- The program follows the NSW Curriculum.
- Once enrolled, each student's learning is tailored to their individual strengths, interests, and support needs.

Live and flexible teaching

- Teachers run live lessons using video modelling and digital content.

Interactive and engaging activities

- Learning includes a mix of online and offline activities.
- These may include video lessons, interactive tasks, worksheets, creative projects, and more – all designed to suit different learning styles.

Ongoing support and communication

- Students and families can upload completed work and stay connected by sending messages via Learning Management Systems (LMS) and email.

- Teachers also communicate with families and provide updates via the LMS app and email.
- One-on-one check-ins can be arranged if needed, to discuss learning progress or any challenges.

The role of the Onsite Supervisor

Every student will need the support of an Onsite Supervisor who supports daily learning and liaises with teachers. An Onsite Supervisor is either a parent or an approved adult who is available during the school day. Their main role is to guide, encourage and support the student in developing independent learning skills.

Support for students and families

A school Learning Support Team (LST) is available to provide support to teachers with their teaching and learning programs and individual planning for students, and to families where needed.

Aspect Distance Education families can be referred to access supports from the following specialists:

- Occupational Therapist
- Speech Therapist
- Family Support Officer
- Social Worker

Support includes:

- Weekly 1:1 Check-In Sessions
- Access to Aspect's Learning Support Team
- Optional Social Groups
- Connection Days



"The Aspect Distance Education program has allowed my daughter to continue with school at home. The teachers are experts in autism education and they really know how to support her to learn at her own pace. She has made tremendous progress since joining the program." – Parent

How our enrolment works:

1. Submit an enquiry form via aspect.org.au/distance-education or contact us via distanceed@aspect.org.au
2. Attend an information session
3. Submit a registration form
4. Family interview
5. Receive an offer



Technology requirements

Families will need:

- A laptop or desktop computer (running either Windows 110, ChromeOS or MacOS)
- Reliable internet connection (at least 1.2Mbps download and upload)
- Webcam, microphone, speakers
- Printer and scanner or camera

Required software, including Google Classroom, Zoom Video Conferencing, and others as provided for you to download and install. Other resources, such as a tablet (iPad, for example), smartphone or camera will be useful as well for students to film and photograph their work.

Fees

Aspect Online Learning is a fee-paying program. Fees are set annually and invoiced three times per year. Current fees are available on our website.

Eligibility criteria

- have a formal autism diagnosis
- they are geographically isolated or
- their individual circumstances prevent them from regularly attending school
- are Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or hold an eligible Australian visa

What Parents Say

"We absolutely cannot fault the teachers at Aspect Distance Education. They've been like family to us and provide the most loving and professional support to our child in her education. We trust their expertise and advice in everything to do with our child's education and development." — Parent of Year 6 student, Aspect Distance Education.

"The transition was unbelievable. Aspect was so holistic and supportive from the start. They reassured us every step of the way." — Parent of Year 3 student, Aspect Distance Education.

Aside from our educational program, Aspect provides a number of services that may come in handy for students and families, now or down the track.

What else does Aspect offer?

Assessments

Aspect offers autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and cognitive assessments in person and via telehealth. Children diagnosed early can access services that will significantly improve their prospects for a meaningful life. An assessment provides teachers and schools with information that will allow them to more effectively support your child, and you will gain a better understanding of how your child processes the world.

Aspect also offers review assessments for those already diagnosed. These assessments provide updated information about their strengths and differences, and include recommendations to assist with support planning. Such an assessment can be useful at times of transition (e.g. when commencing primary school, high school or postschool planning) or to assist in applications for funding for autism (e.g. NDIS, Disability Support Pension, school supports, etc.).

Therapy

Aspect Therapy is a registered NDIS provider with a large team of allied health professionals (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers) and educators.

Together, we develop and deliver individualised and small group autism-specific therapy and positive behaviour support.

Workshops

Aspect offers a broad range of autism-related workshops and webinars for parents, carers, educators and health professionals. We deliver practical, real-world solutions to benefit families, communities, professionals and organisations.



For the full range of Aspect services, please scan the QR code or visit aspect.org.au



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