

# Annual School Report

Aspect South Coast School

2024



## INSIDE THE REPORT

|   |    |
|---|----|
| All about Aspect                                      |    |
| Aspect's approach                                     |    |
| Message from the principal                            | 5  |
| Message from the Student Representative Council (SRC) | 6  |
| Student outcomes                                      | 7  |
| Staffing  | 8  |
| Student attendance                                    | 9  |
| School policies                                       | 10 |
| Parent, student and teacher satisfaction              | 11 |
| Financial information                                 | 12 |

# All about Aspect

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## Our vision

The best opportunities for people on the autism spectrum.

## Our mission

We work with people of all ages on the autism spectrum, delivering evidence-informed solutions that are person-centred, family focused and customer driven.

## Our values

We are passionate about people, about being positive, and about what's possible.

## Our work

We focus on the strengths and interests of people on the autism spectrum

We work in partnership with people on the spectrum, their families and their communities

We work to understand people on the spectrum from their perspective

Our approach is autism-specific

Our research focuses on best practice

We expect positive change and progress

Together we can achieve positive outcomes.

Our purpose  
**a different  
brilliant®**

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



# Aspect's approach to supporting students on the autism spectrum

Drawing on more than 55 years of expertise, Aspect schools deliver specialised, evidence-informed programs designed for children on the autism spectrum. We take a person-centred approach, learning how each student experiences the world and using their strengths, interests and aspirations to shape tailored supports.

Our practices are guided by the latest evidence, informed by input from the student and their support network, and are continually refined to meet each student's unique needs.

# Message from the Principal

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## Aspect South Coast School: A thriving learning community

Aspect South Coast School is a dynamic and supportive learning environment where students, parents, teachers, teacher aides, the learning support team, and school administration staff work collaboratively to create meaningful educational experiences. With a shared commitment to excellence, we strive to provide a rich, engaging, and rewarding education tailored specifically for children on the autism spectrum.

At Aspect South Coast School, we hold a firm belief that every child has the capacity to learn and grow when provided with the right support, an inclusive educational environment, and the time to develop at their own pace. With this guiding principle, our dedicated staff place a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy as the foundation for lifelong learning and academic success. These essential skills not only empower students to excel across all Key Learning Areas but also equip them with the tools needed to navigate life beyond the classroom.

Our commitment extends beyond the classroom to supporting both students and their families. Recognising the unique strengths and needs of children on the autism spectrum, we provide individualised learning programs that foster confidence, independence, and social-emotional development.

As students progress, many develop the life skills and educational foundations necessary to transition from their Aspect class into their local school or a mainstream learning environment—whether that be a support unit within the Department of Education or another inclusive setting. This pathway enables students to experience a broader learning community while continuing to benefit from small class sizes and specialised autism support that ensures a seamless educational journey.

Over recent years, we have embraced new technologies to enhance student learning, drawing from valuable insights gained through the online learning environment. By integrating innovative tools and teaching strategies, we continue to expand our students' capacity for learning across all subjects.

At the heart of our approach is a deep commitment to nurturing the strengths and interests of every student. Through Aspect's unique methodology and the development of each student's Individual Plan using the Aspect Five Point Star, we gain a profound understanding of each child's aspirations, preferences, and abilities. This personalised approach allows us to celebrate their progress, acknowledge their achievements, and support them every step of the way.

It is a privilege to serve as the Principal of Aspect South Coast School, a distinguished and supportive educational community dedicated to recognising, celebrating, and embracing the unique brilliance of every child.



**Rowena Perritt**  
**Principal**

## Message from the Student Representative Council (SRC)

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In 2022, Aspect South Coast School kicked off its very first Student Representative Council (SRC)! We made sure every site had a student elected to give everyone a voice. SRC members hit the ground running, asking students what would make school better. The suggestions were pretty awesome—everything from waterslides and fundraisers to more play equipment and excursions to help students connect and have fun.

To get a better understanding of each site, the SRC jumped on a bus tour, visiting different locations and seeing firsthand what their fellow council members' schools were like. It was a great way to understand what each site needed and how everyone could work together.

Each term, a coordinator or teacher led a meeting where students shared ideas and discussed the biggest topics from their schools. These suggestions were then passed on to the Principal for consideration. From event themes to ways to improve school spaces and programs, the students came up with ideas that really mattered to them. Their voices made a real impact!

**Chayse**, Year 6 student 2024

## Student outcomes and results

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At Aspect South Coast School, we recognise that every student has unique strengths, interests, and learning needs. To support their development, each student has an Individual Plan designed to highlight their abilities while outlining the most effective strategies for fostering growth and engagement. This personalised profile includes specific areas for development, with a focus on autism-specific learning domains such as social communication, social interaction, and sensory processing. These key areas are thoughtfully integrated into the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum, encompassing the Key Learning Areas (KLAs).

This year, our school introduced a modified COMPASS pilot program aimed at enhancing the Individualised Planning process. This initiative involved a collaborative approach, with both teachers and families contributing through a structured survey. The program focused on goal setting using a Goal Attainment Scale (GAS goals), providing a clear and measurable framework for evaluating student progress.

The response from families was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of meaningful, well-defined goals that can be applied consistently across both school and home environments. The results from this initial pilot year demonstrated significant success, reinforcing the importance of collaborative planning in fostering student development and achievement.

Our school adopts a multi-disciplinary team approach, ensuring that each student benefits from a collaborative network of educators, support staff, and therapists working in partnership with families. By combining expertise across different disciplines, we strive to create individualised learning experiences that nurture the whole child, helping them to reach their full potential in both academic and personal growth. This collective effort ensures that every student has the support, encouragement, and resources needed to thrive in their educational journey.

### Literacy and numeracy assessments

For NAPLAN results, please refer to My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

At Aspect South Coast School, we are committed to continuously assessing and monitoring student progress to ensure the most effective learning outcomes. Each year, the school administers a range of assessments designed to inform teaching practices and track development in literacy and numeracy. This process includes standardised testing alongside specialised assessments tailored to the individual needs and abilities of our students. By integrating diverse evaluation methods, we gain valuable insights that allow us to refine our teaching strategies and provide personalised support, ensuring that every student is empowered to reach their full potential.

### Senior secondary outcomes

In 2024, the school had one student awarded a Record of School Achievement.

### Post school destination

Upon completing their school education, most departing students transitioned into further study at TAFE, secured employment, or actively sought opportunities to join the workforce.

Throughout the year, three students participated in work experience placements, gaining valuable hands-on skills and industry exposure. Additionally, one student successfully obtained School Leavers' Employment Support funding through the NDIS, further assisting them in their post-school pathways and career development.

# Staffing

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## Teacher accreditation

| Level of accreditation                                | No. of teachers |
|---|-----------------|
| Conditional   | 1               |
| Provisional   | 1               |
| Proficient Teacher                                    | 36              |
| Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation) | 0               |
| Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)                | 0               |
| Total number of teachers                              | 38              |

## Workforce composition

Composition of Aspect South Coast School staff is documented on the My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

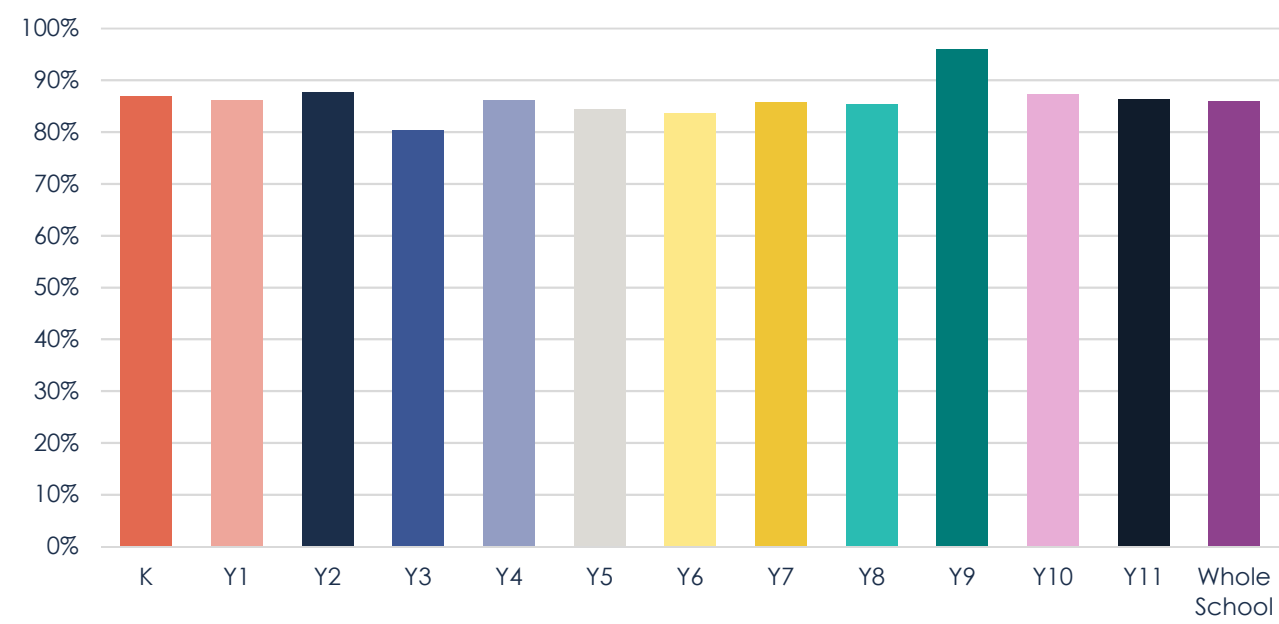
| Workforce composition                                  |      |
|--|------|
| Teaching staff   | 38   |
| Full-time equivalent teaching staff                    | 29.6 |
| Non-teaching staff (including classroom support staff) | 63   |
| Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff                | 30.6 |

At Aspect South Coast School, we embrace diversity and inclusivity, fostering a welcoming environment for students and staff from all backgrounds, cultures, and religions. We are proud to champion neurodiversity within our community, actively welcoming Autistic and neurodiverse staff whose lived experiences provide invaluable insights that enhance our ability to support students in meaningful and effective ways. Their perspectives enrich our educational approach, helping us create learning spaces that are both understanding and adaptive to the needs of our students.

We strongly encourage applications from Autistic teachers and staff, recognising the unique contributions they bring to our school culture and the positive impact they have on student engagement and development.

One of our staff members has identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Aspect South Coast School is deeply committed to fostering an inclusive workplace and encourages First Nations teachers and staff to apply, ensuring that our school community continues to reflect the rich cultural heritage of Australia while providing meaningful learning experiences for all.

# Student attendance



## Student attendance rates

|        |     |              |     |
|--------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Kinder | 87% | Year 7       | 86% |
| Year 1 | 86% | Year 8       | 86% |
| Year 2 | 88% | Year 9       | 96% |
| Year 3 | 81% | Year 10      | 87% |
| Year 4 | 86% | Year 11      | 87% |
| Year 5 | 85% | Whole school | 86% |
| Year 6 | 84% |              |     |

In 2024, 86% of students attended school each school day on average. This marked a modest but positive increase compared to the daily attendance rate recorded in 2023, reflecting a slight improvement in student presence throughout the school year.

## Management of non-attendance

Aspect follows a structured student attendance procedure that is consistently implemented across all schools. Each day, the school administration team actively monitors unexplained absences, reaching out via SMS, email, or phone calls to ensure accountability. If a student remains absent for more than three days without explanation, the matter is escalated to the Principal, who continues monitoring and takes appropriate action to assess the welfare of the student and family. This may include notifying relevant authorities.

To support proactive attendance management, monthly attendance meetings are conducted to review attendance rates and identify students at risk of not meeting attendance requirements. These meetings enable early intervention and tailored support strategies.

Persistent unexplained absences or those deemed concerning may require reporting to the Department of Communities and Justice. When attendance is deemed unsatisfactory, a student attendance improvement plan is developed in collaboration with the student and their parent or guardian. This plan is continuously monitored and regularly reviewed to promote improved attendance outcomes.

## School policies

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The following school policies and procedures are publicly available on the [website](#):

- Suggestions, compliments and complaints
- External whistleblowing
- Enrolment
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Discipline & Positive Behaviour Support
- Anti-bullying

# Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

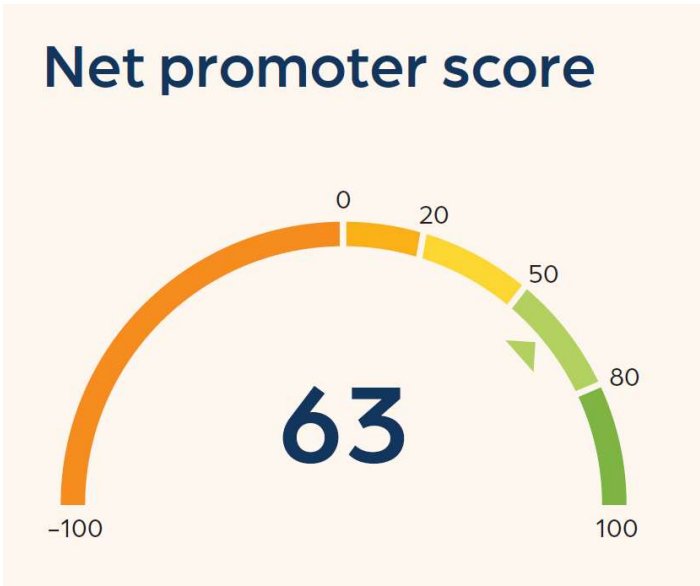
Aspect South Coast School values the perspectives of staff, students, and parents, recognising their insights as a vital part of celebrating the school's strengths and identifying areas for growth. Feedback is actively gathered through various avenues, including student enrolment and exit surveys, net promoter scores (NPS), the *Perspectives Survey* as part of the Association of Independent Schools NSW, parent testimonials, and meaningful family engagement in school events.

The 2024 Perspectives survey revealed that the majority of parent participants strongly agreed on several key aspects, including Vision, Mission and Values, sense of safety, physical environment, designing learning, quality pedagogical practices, inclusive learning, and inclusivity and equity. However, parents identified social and emotional learning as the area where they faced the greatest challenges.

This year, parents and staff participated in a refreshed Individual Planning process. A modified COMPASS survey allowed families and teachers to independently complete a questionnaire about the student. The collected responses were then compiled by the teacher and presented at the parent IP meeting, fostering constructive discussions to establish aligned goals. These conversations played an essential role in shaping objectives that could be effectively implemented both at school and in the home environment.

Aspect delivers specialised educational services tailored for school-aged children on the autism spectrum, equipping them with the skills and support needed to transition into environments that are not autism-specific. Facilitating successful student transitions remains a key focus, ensuring each individual moves toward the next, less specialised setting that best suits their learning needs. This transition process is a collaborative effort, bringing together students, families, and educational systems to create a seamless and supportive experience.

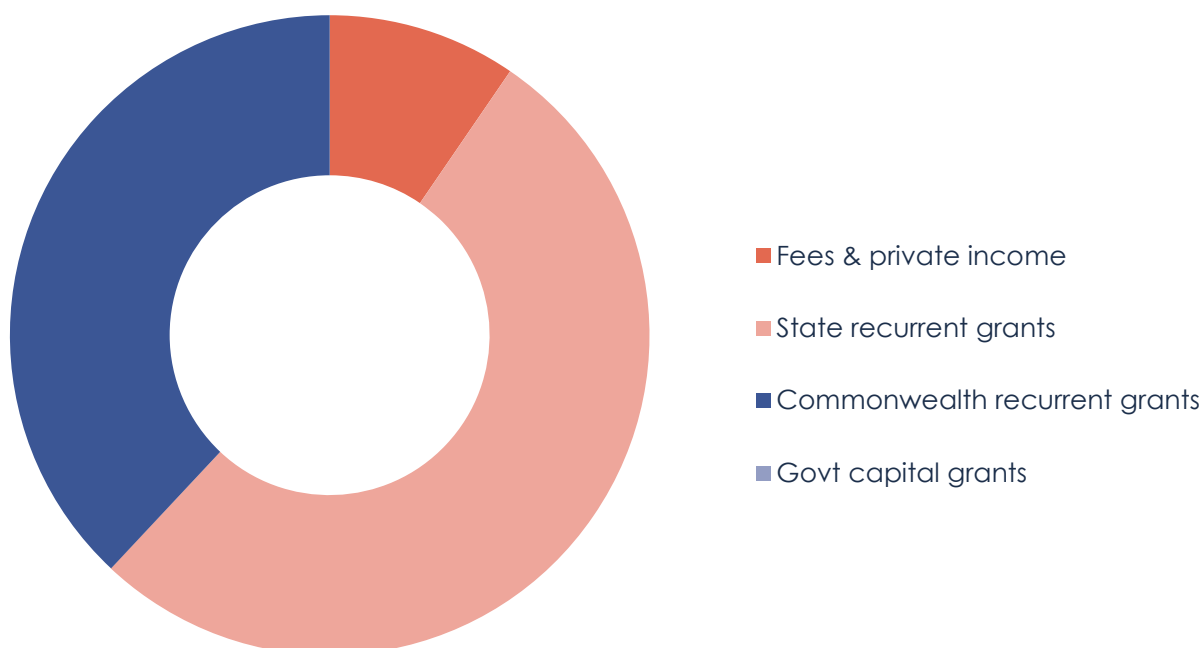
In 2024, the NPS was 63, which indicates the majority of families would highly recommend Aspect South Coast School because the school provides a high-quality education that meets families' expectations and makes them feel proud and confident in their choice of school.



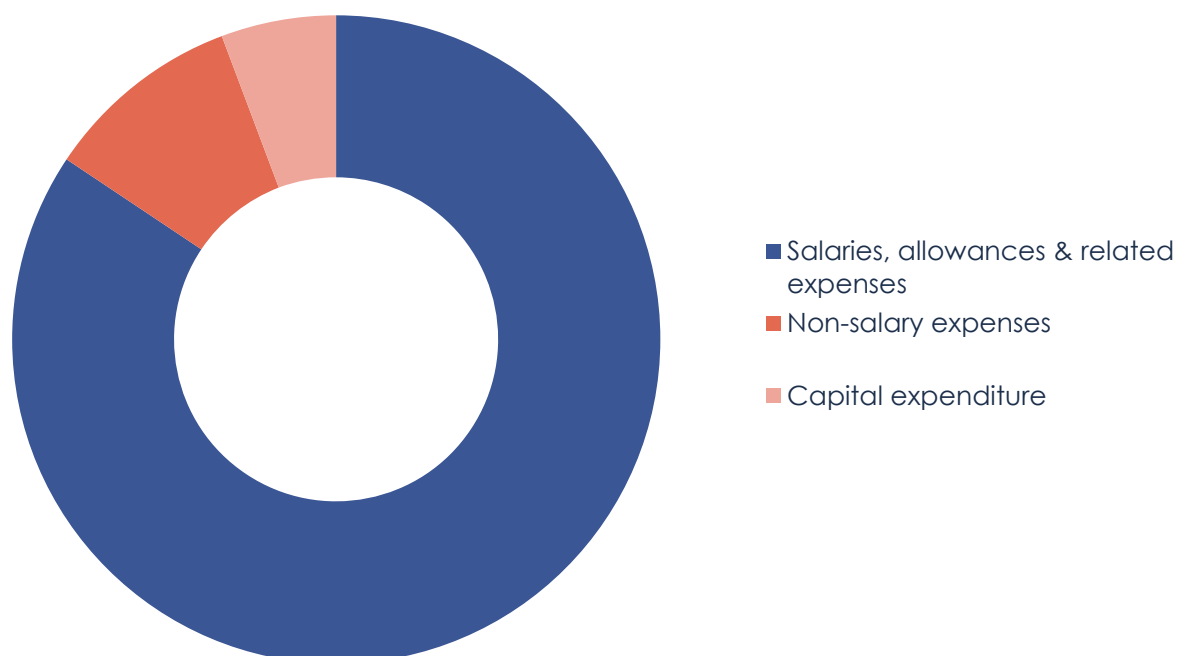
## Financial information

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### Recurrent/capital income



### Recurrent/capital expenditure





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