

Annual School Report

Aspect South East Sydney School

2024



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All about Aspect

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

I begin by respectfully acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the lands on which Aspect South East Sydney School is located. We honour their Elders past and present and recognise their continuing connection to land, culture and learning.

In 2024, Aspect South East Sydney School proudly provided specialised education and evidence-informed autism intervention for 209 students on the autism spectrum. Spanning 13 campuses, our multi-site school is deeply committed to creating inclusive and purposeful learning environments tailored to the diverse strengths and needs of our students.

Our student population reflects a rich diversity of backgrounds and learning profiles. Of the 209 students, 76 were based at our main campuses in Peakhurst, Loftus, and Marrickville, while 133 were enrolled across our satellite classes. We supported 154 primary-aged students and 55 high school students, with ages ranging from 5 to 18 years. As a special school, we do not assign students to specific year levels, enabling us to focus on individual goals and developmental progressions rather than age-based academic expectations.

Our cohort included 173 boys and 36 girls, with 2% identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, and 38% of students coming from Language Other Than English (LOTE) backgrounds. This diversity enriches our school community and informs our commitment to culturally responsive, inclusive education.

Our three main campuses, Peakhurst, Loftus, and Marrickville, served approximately 40% of our students. Each site has now undergone significant refurbishments designed with autism-friendly principles in mind, including enhancements to both learning and play spaces. These thoughtfully crafted environments support engagement, self-regulation and a sense of belonging - key components of meaningful learning for our students.

Our remaining students were enrolled across our satellite classes in partnership with Sydney Catholic Schools in Maroubra, Caringbah, Leichhardt, Croydon, Hurstville and Belfield, and at a Department of Education school in Kareela. We also proudly offer a high school life skills program located at Menai, Regents Park, and Auburn, supporting students in Years 7 - 12 to build independence and real-world skills for life beyond school.

Our satellite programs provide authentic inclusion opportunities within the host school community while ensuring access to specialised, autism-specific education. This unique model promotes academic, social, and emotional growth, and supports successful transitions for students as they move towards greater independence.

At the heart of our school is a deep belief that every student is capable of growth and achievement. Our small class sizes, high teacher-to-student ratios, and commitment to personalised learning through Individual Plans allow us to target teaching to each student's goals. Across all areas related to learning and wellbeing our students have continued to thrive.

In 2024, our teaching staff engaged in extensive professional development aligned with national curriculum reforms, school improvement parameters and Berry Street Trauma Informed Practices. Dr Sharratt's 14 Parameters provided a powerful framework for driving collaborative professional learning and data-informed teaching practices across our multi-campus setting. Our commitment to evidence-based practice ensures that our pedagogy reflects current research in autism education and high-quality teaching and learning.

A key pillar of our school is our partnership with families - our students' first and most important teachers. Families were welcomed regularly into classrooms to participate in learning experiences, celebrations and co-curricular events. Our vibrant Parents and Friends (P&F) group continues to be instrumental in strengthening community connections and supporting the school through generous fundraising efforts.

It remains an honour to lead Aspect South East Sydney School and I am incredibly proud of the achievements of our students, the professionalism and passion of our teachers, teacher aides, school learning support team and administration staff.



Jo Tisdell
Principal

Message from the Parents & Friends (P&F)

The Parents & Friends (P&F) Committee is an integral part of Aspect South East Sydney School. The P&F supports the school community by organising fundraising events and creating a strong sense of connection. We meet formally at least four times a year, chaired by our Principal, alongside the P&F President and committee members. Parents and carers play a vital role in their child's education, and this ethos is at the heart of all we do.

2024 was a busy year filled with fundraising, social events, and opportunities to come together as a community. While the P&F team is great at planning, one thing we can't control is the weather! Our major fundraiser, the Aspect Walkathon, had to be rescheduled and was instead held at each school site. Despite the changes, it was a big success, and we raised generous funds towards our student's education.

We also hosted our third annual movie evening. It was a wonderful night where families, friends, and staff gathered to enjoy a film and raise funds through our 'wishing tree'.

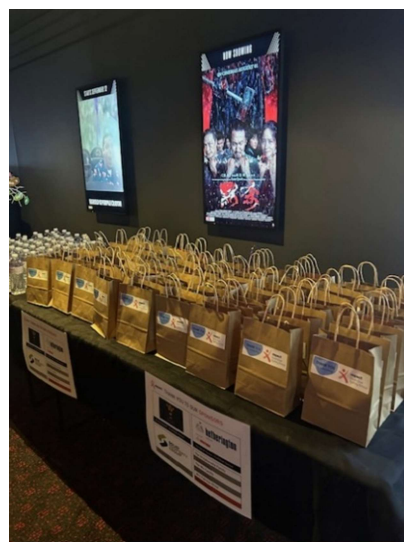
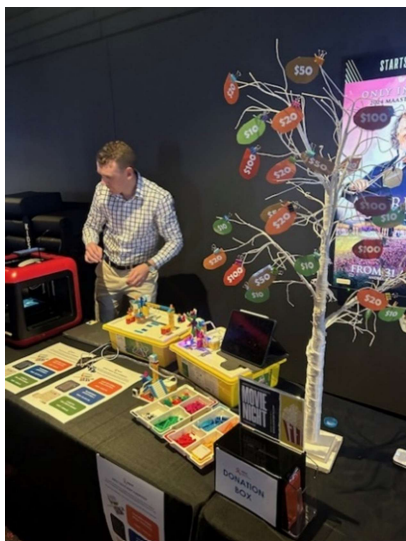
Other highlights included celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day with morning teas across all sites, offering parents and carers a special chance to visit classrooms and connect with staff.

Importantly, the P&F continues to give back directly to students by allocating \$50 per student to support a wide range of excursions and incursions. Now in its fourteenth year, this initiative remains a valued part of what we offer, along with funding for educational programs and resources.

We are grateful to our Principal, dedicated staff, volunteers, and the whole school community for their continued support. We look forward to welcoming new faces and fresh ideas as we plan for a successful and connected 2025.

Najwa Sawan and Diane La Malfa

P&F Presidents



Message from the Student Representative Council (SRC)

At Aspect South East Sydney School each campus has an SRC Representative or several members depending on the size and number of applications from the student body. Site-specific initiatives are co-planned with the aspect SES Executive Team.

I was a Student Representative member in 2024 and I had an awesome time being involved in school matters and decisions. I'm so proud of everyone and I will continue to be proud of people who do the right thing at Aspect South East Sydney School.



Natalie
SRC 2024

In 2024 I was voted to represent Regents Park as their SRC member. My teacher presented me with my badge and I took my job very seriously and helped all my Regents Park students by being a good role model.

On 25th March 2024, I spoke to our host school students at Trinity Catholic College about World Autism Understanding Day. Everyone congratulated me and the students asked me lots of questions. I loved being an SRC member.



Isaac
SRC 2024

Student outcomes and results

Each student has an individual plan that outlines their strengths and interests as well as information about how to provide effective support. The profile includes areas for development, particularly related to autism-specific areas of learning: social communication, social interaction, and sensory processing which are integrated into the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum - the Key Learning Areas (KLAs). Students are encouraged to co construct individual plans and attend Individual Planning meetings.

The school has a multi-disciplinary team approach which sees teachers, support staff and therapists working collaboratively with families to develop the best possible outcomes for the students.

Literacy and numeracy assessments

For NAPLAN results, please refer to My School website www.myschool.edu.au

The school administers assessments each year to help inform practice and monitor students' literacy and numeracy progress. This includes some standardised testing as well as assessments tailored to the needs and abilities of our students.

In 2024, Aspect South East Sydney School introduced the Roadmap of Communicative Competence Assessment at our Main Sites in order to track student's progress over time as they move along a continuum towards increased communicative competence. The results were used to both inform individual goal setting and to help guide learning. Additionally, much work was undertaken in reviewing literacy assessment tools that align with the Science of Reading and an assessment schedule was developed and refined overtime for implementation in 2025. Numeracy assessment in 2024 was based on the taught curriculum.

Formative and summative assessment results informed teaching and reporting.

Senior secondary outcomes

Records of School Achievement	Higher School Certificate
13	8

In 2024, 100% of year 12 students (8 in total) received a Higher School Certificate (Life Skills). The school offered six Stage 6 Life Skills NESA-developed courses.

Post school destination

11 students attended work experience during the year and 10 students on completion of school education joined NOVA employment or enrolled in TAFE. One student joined a day program fostering specific strengths and interests.

Staffing

Teacher accreditation

Level of accreditation	No. of teachers
Conditional	2
Provisional	5
Proficient Teacher	53
Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Total number of teachers	60

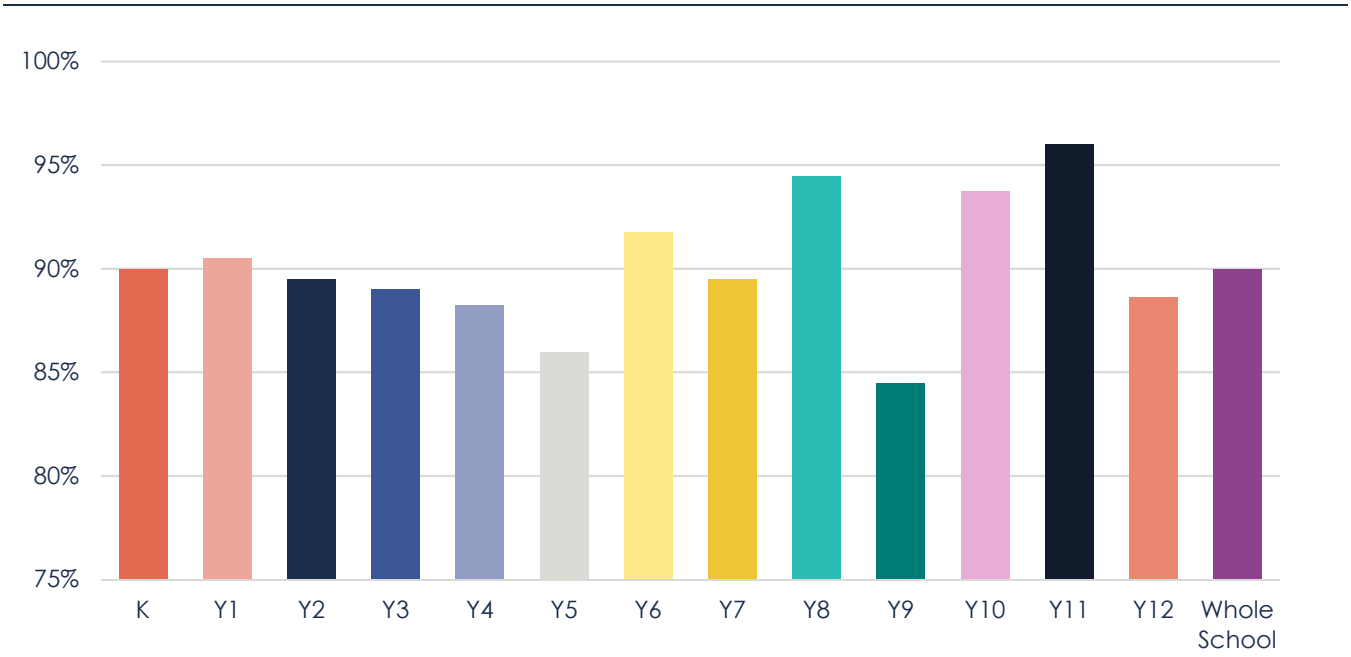
Workforce composition

Composition of Aspect South East Sydney School staff is documented on the My School website www.myschool.edu.au

At our school we welcome staff and students from all backgrounds and religions. Aspect South East Sydney School welcomes Autistic and neuro-diverse staff who's lived experience helps to support our students. We strongly encourage applications from Autistic teachers and other staff.

Two of our staff members have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. We strongly encourage applications from First Nations teachers and other staff.

Student attendance



Student attendance rates

Kinder	90%	Year 7	90%
Year 1	91%	Year 8	95%
Year 2	90%	Year 9	85%
Year 3	89%	Year 10	94%
Year 4	88%	Year 11	96%
Year 5	86%	Year 12	89%
Year 6	92%	Whole school	90%

In 2024, 90% of students attended school each school day on average. This was similar to the daily attendance in 2023.

Management of non-attendance

Aspect has a student attendance procedure, which all schools follow.

All unexplained absences are followed up each day by the school administration team using a variety of methods including SMS messages, email and phone calls. If a student is absent for more than three days without explanation this will be referred to the Principal who will continue to monitor absences and will initiate appropriate action to check on the welfare of the student and family, which may include notifying relevant authorities.

Repeated unexplained absence or absence of concern may need to be reported to Family and Community Services.

Where unsatisfactory attendance is identified, a student attendance improvement plan is formulated in collaboration with the student and their parent/guardian. The plan is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

Aspect South East Sydney School has an established attendance panel that meets twice termly for review of attendance data, school improvement plans as well as best practice supports for Autistic students and school attendance.

School policies

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 schools participate in the Association of Independent Schools NSW (AISNSW) Perspectives survey biannually to support school improvement and celebrate success. Our 2024 results were strong and the net promoter score (NPS) was 77, indicating that the majority of families would highly recommend Aspect South East Sydney School because the school provides a high-quality education that meets families' expectations, instilling them with pride and confidence in their choice.

Some other areas covered in the Perspectives data include:

School environment

Across this area, stakeholders consistently expressed satisfaction with the school environment over time. Notably, student perceptions of safety improved, and we observed positive responses in both parent and student perspectives. Parents found school rules clear, while students demonstrated an increased sense of shared responsibility in maintaining these norms.

Teaching and learning

Results indicate strong stakeholder satisfaction with teaching and learning. Parents commended teachers' personalised approach, citing their understanding of student interests and academic backgrounds. Across all groups, teachers' effectiveness in helping learners navigate challenges was rated highly, surpassing an average result in this area.

Student wellbeing

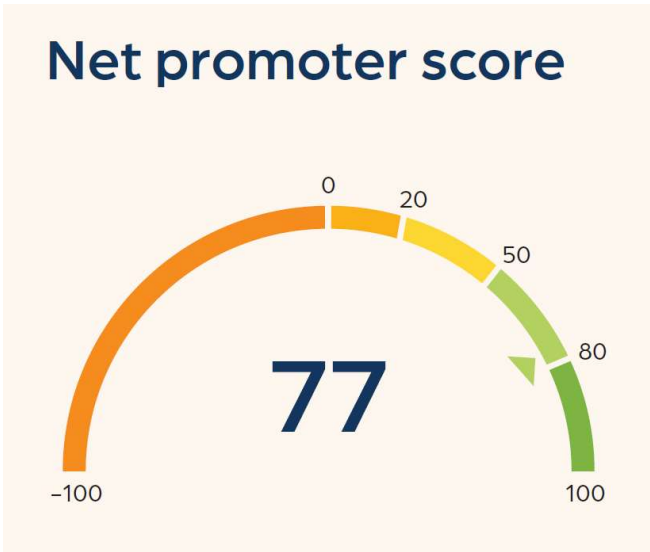
The data suggests strong stakeholder satisfaction with student wellbeing support. In particular, inclusivity and equity were highly regarded.

While this area demonstrated strength, social and emotional learning scored slightly lower, with parents and teachers reporting lower scores compared to students.

Leadership

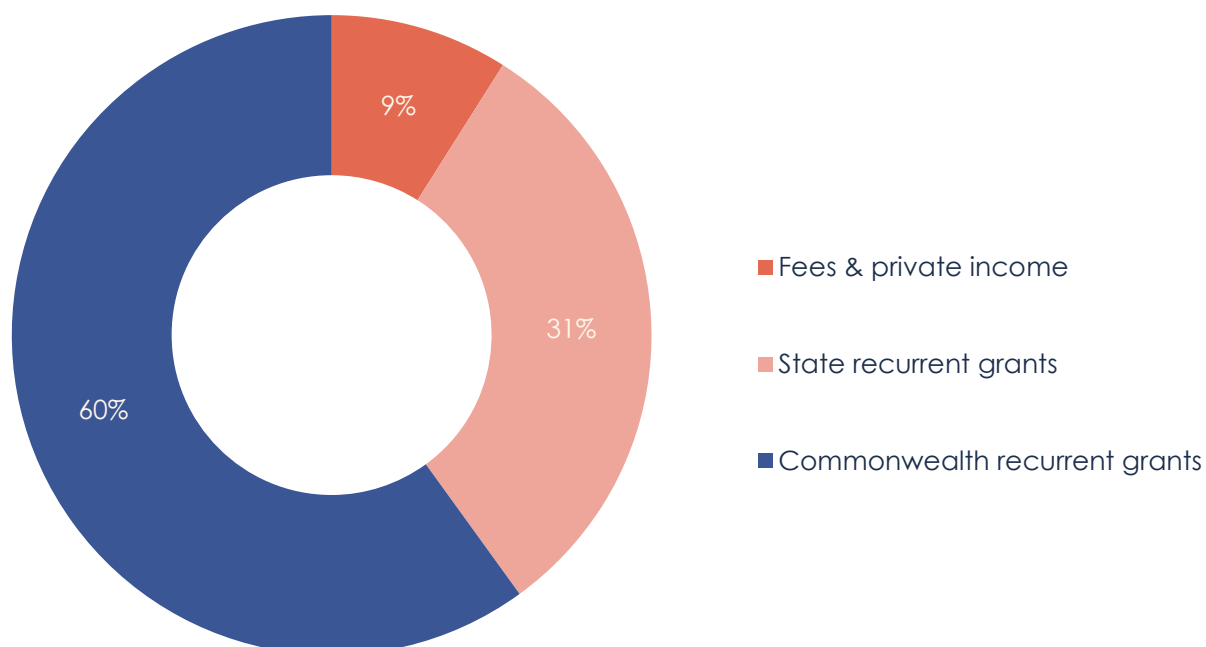
Teacher feedback within this domain indicates overall satisfaction with school leadership. Community engagement emerged as a significant strength, closely followed by leadership practices. Developing future leaders is an area to be reviewed.

These results provide a strong commendation for the school's performance. Mean results in all domains were above average, indicating a high level of satisfaction with the school. Stakeholders consistently reported satisfaction, with notable strengths in key areas. The identified areas for growth offer valuable opportunities for continued improvement.

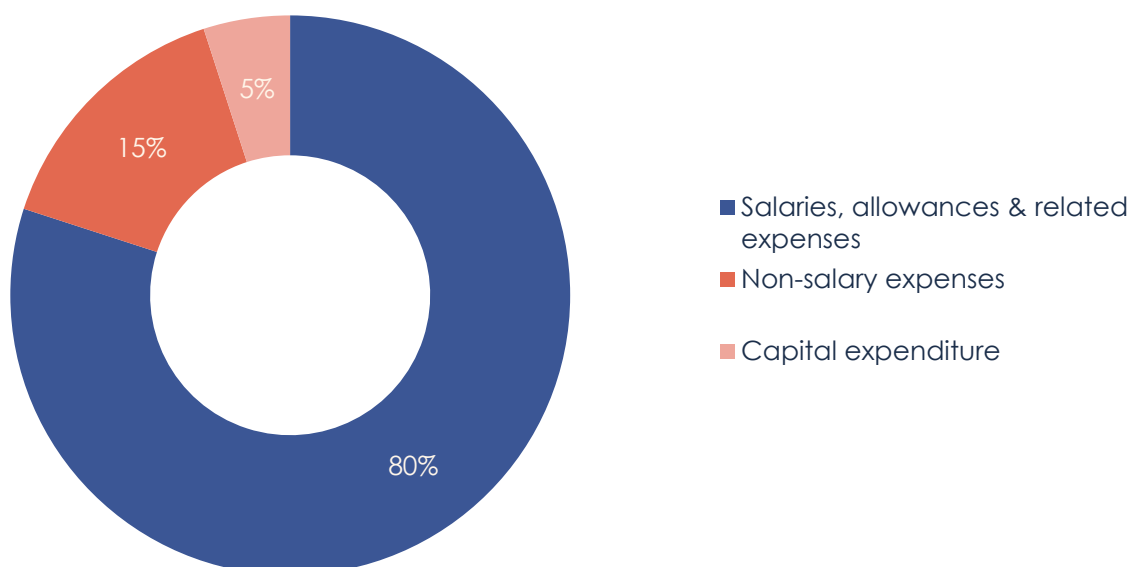


Financial information

Recurrent/capital income



Recurrent/capital expenditure





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