

# Annual School Report

Aspect Vern Barnett School

2024



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# 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 schools all share Aspect's vision to offer 'the best opportunities for individuals on the autism spectrum' through the delivery of evidence-informed programs which are person-centred and family focused.

In 1971, Andrew Vern Barnett founded Aspect with a small group of parents who opened the first purpose-built school to meet the needs of their children. More than five decades later, Aspect Vern Barnett school has expanded and flourished. The school facilities have recently undergone extensive renovations to now be a state-of-the-art, purpose-built and modern education facility. Aspect Vern Barnett School catered for 98 students between the ages of 4 and 16 across our six sites in 2024.

Our 2024 enrolment comprised 81 boys and 17 girls. The school operates from a main site at Forestville which includes an administration office, eight primary classes and one senior class. Half of our students were enrolled in our satellite class programs located within a NSW Department of Education primary school at Lane Cove, and Catholic primary schools in Eastwood, Forestville, St Ives and Mona Vale.

Our aim is to equip our students with skills to become as independent as possible, within a safe learning environment, and provide them with a range of rich and meaningful learning experiences. We do this by focusing on their strengths and interests and valuing that each student is a different brilliant@.

We support our students to develop the necessary skills to experience successful transition and inclusion in their next educational setting and within their local community. We provide support to students, families and schools throughout their journey with a robust transition program.

It is the school's purpose to seek continual improvement, whilst maintaining a perspective on meaningful learning outcomes for our students. All staff were committed to their core responsibility of providing the best educational opportunities for our students.

Our school team prides itself on our work with families, students and professionals to create an individualised learning program for each and every student. I would like to sincerely thank all staff for their enormous contributions in 2024, and their dedication to ensuring every student meets their potential.

Aspect Vern Barnett School would like to thank the local community for their ongoing support throughout the year. We would like to thank everyone who supported the school by donating or volunteering their time. This has allowed us to enrich our students' experiences and provide more of the specialised resources our students need such as music therapy and technology resources for learning.



**Anna Brady**  
**Principal**



## Student outcomes and results

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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). 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](http://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.

### Post school destination

Aspect Vern Barnett School is registered for K-10 students only and we had no year 10 students in 2024, therefore the reporting of post school destinations and outcomes is not applicable.

# Staffing

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## Teacher accreditation

Level of accreditation	No. of teachers
Conditional	3
Provisional	2
Proficient Teacher	23
Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Total number of teachers	28

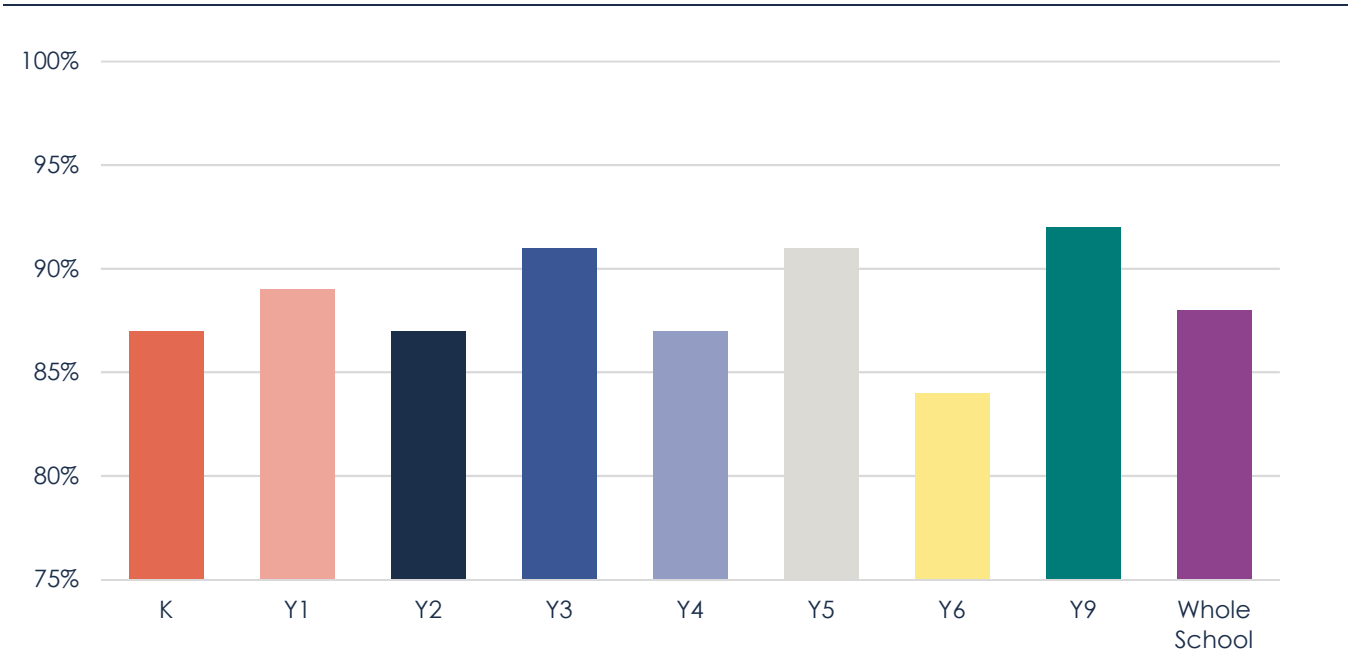
## Workforce composition

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

Workforce composition	
Teaching staff	28
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	23
Non-teaching staff (including classroom support staff)	56
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	26.8

At our school we welcome staff and students from all backgrounds and religions. Aspect Vern Barnett School welcomes Autistic and neuro-diverse staff whose lived experience helps to support our students. We strongly encourage applications from Autistic teachers and other staff and from First Nations teachers and other staff.

# Student attendance



## Student attendance rates

Kinder	87%	Year 4	87%
Year 1	89%	Year 5	91%
Year 2	87%	Year 6	84%
Year 3	91%	Year 9	92%
		Whole school	88%

In 2024, 88% 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.



## 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

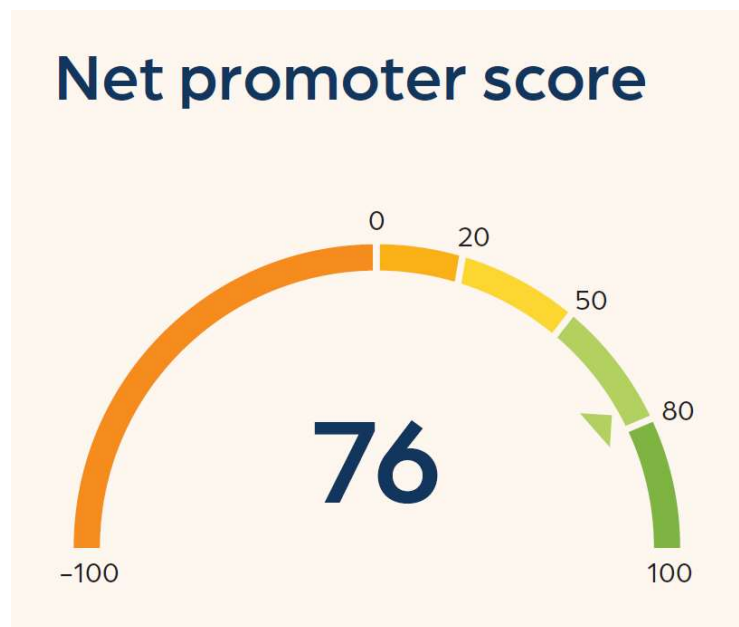
## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

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Aspect schools participate in the Association of Independent Schools NSW Perspectives survey biannually to support school improvement and celebrate success. In 2024, the net promoter score (NPS) was 76, which indicates the majority of families would highly recommend Aspect Vern Barnett School because the school provides a high-quality education that meets families' expectations and makes them feel proud and confident in their choice.

95% of parents value how teachers recognise and respond to their child's unique interests, abilities and challenges, adapting their teaching to support individual needs.

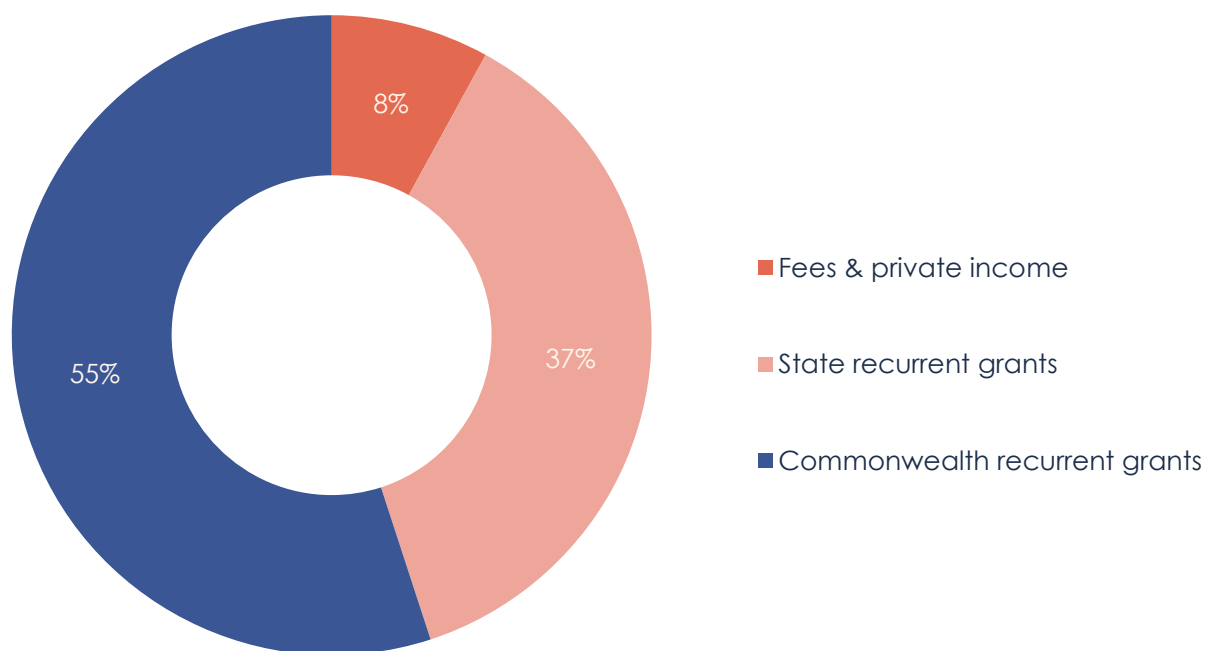
95% of parents reported noticing a positive impact on students' wellbeing, with children feeling a deep sense of connection and belonging at the school. Supportive relationships with trusted adults and a culture of respect create an inclusive environment where everyone is valued. The school ensures that children feel safe both in and out of the classroom and that everyone is treated equally, regardless of their background or identity.



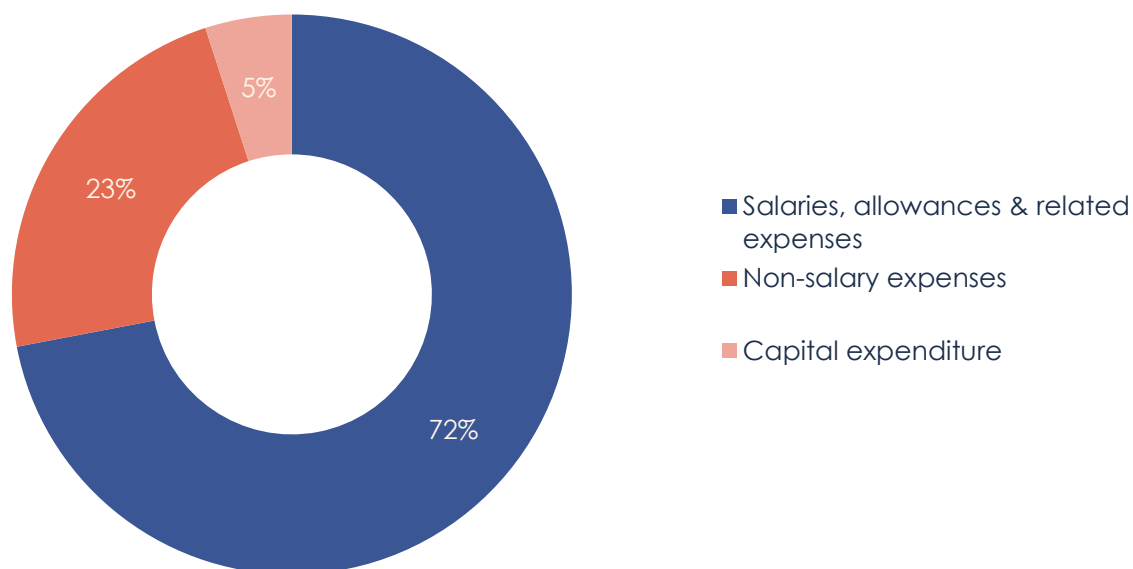
## Financial information

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### Recurrent/capital income



### Recurrent/capital expenditure





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