



aspect

Autism Spectrum Australia



Every **aspect**
of our school

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
Central Coast
School

Aspect Central Coast School
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Welcome to Aspect Central Coast School

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

I am excited to share the unique and impactful work happening at Aspect Central Coast School.

At our school, we are proud to offer a learning community where every student on the autism spectrum is supported to grow, thrive, and celebrate their individuality. We currently support 111 students across four thoughtfully designed campuses, each purposefully created to reflect our belief in providing safe, supportive and engaging environments tailored to our students' strengths, interests and needs.

Our current learning environments include:

- Main Campus – catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6
- Senior College – offering a Year 7–12 Life Skills curriculum designed to prepare students for life beyond school
- St Peter's Catholic College Satellite Class – where students participate in a blended learning model
- Ourimbah Campus – soon to open, catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6

Across all campuses and programs we follow NESA requirements, ensuring that each student receives high-quality education aligned with NSW curriculum standards while being personalised to their unique needs.

Our dedicated staff team is central to our success. Teachers, teacher aides and specialist staff work collaboratively to deliver meaningful, individualised learning experiences for every student. We are also fortunate to have access to our own onsite therapy team, who partner closely with teachers to help design evidence-based, purposeful programs that reflect each child's communication, sensory, social and academic needs. This integrated approach ensures every

student benefits from a holistic, consistent and highly personalised learning journey.

Our practices are guided by Aspect's approach and Five Point Star model. This is our relationship-based approach to understanding and supporting students on the autism spectrum. These principles ensure that everything we do is informed by the latest evidence, shaped by the voices of each individual and their support network, and continually adapted to meet the unique needs of every student.

Collaboration sits at the heart of who we are. We deeply value the strong partnerships between families, teachers, and students, recognising that meaningful progress is built through shared understanding, communication, and the celebration of every achievement. When we work together, our students flourish.

As we look to the future, with continued enhancements across our existing sites, we remain committed to preparing our young people not only for academic success, but for confident and meaningful participation in their communities.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Aspect Central Coast School. I invite you to reach out to our team so we can talk with you, answer your questions, and help you explore the most meaningful learning pathway for your child.

Warmly,

Sarah Boulton
Acting Principal
Aspect Central Coast School

About our school

We provide a warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment for students on the autism spectrum. Our school, located in Terrigal, NSW, currently supports 111 students from Kindergarten through to Year 12. Ninety-seven students are enrolled across our Main Campus, Senior College and Ourimbah Campus sites, while the remaining students attend our Satellite Class Program, which operates out of our host school St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah.

This structure allows us to offer a range of learning environments that best support individual student needs while maintaining strong connections with the wider school community. We are staffed by 63 dedicated employees, including teachers, teacher aides, administration staff, Aboriginal Liaison Person, Grounds person and members of our therapy team, who all contribute to creating a safe, supportive and engaging school community.

Our teaching and learning programs follow the NSW Curriculum and delivered in accordance with all NESA requirements. We offer both the mainstream curriculum and Life Skills curriculum pathways, ensuring every student can access learning that is appropriate, meaningful and engaging.

"The transition was unbelievable. They came and did a home visit. Aspect was just so incredibly holistic and supportive from the get-go. We shared with them some of our experiences and some of the things that we were feeling uncomfortable about, and how they would manage my son's needs and behaviour. And they just reassured us every step of the way." – PARENT

"The IP meetings are very good. They're very structured. The information is collaborative between families and teachers... They do those quite well and I'm very impressed with that." – PARENT

Focusing on transitions

The primary focus of Aspect Central Coast School is to act as a transitional setting that supports students to develop the skills they need to become as independent as possible and to succeed in their wider community.

Our programs place a strong emphasis on supported transition, preparing children and young people for the educational pathway that best meets their needs, whether this is mainstream schooling, supported classes or specialised programs. Approximately twenty per cent of our students successfully transition each year to less specialised educational settings.

We also work closely with families and external agencies to plan for post-school options. This includes supporting students to move confidently into further education, training, employment programs or community-based supports. Each transition is carefully planned, personalised and supported to help ensure long-term success.

Planning made personal

Individualised planning is the most critical consideration in educational intervention for Autistic individuals. Whilst all children on the autism spectrum share many common traits, each individual child possesses his or her own unique profile of strengths, difficulties and learning styles¹. It follows that a 'one size fits all' approach will never meet the needs of all students at all times. Rather, Aspect recognises the importance of individualised planning in promoting the potential of every learner.

Individualised Plans (IP) form the cornerstone of the approach adopted in Aspect schools. IPs are developed collaboratively with parents and students and are based on developmental and/or functional assessment.

The individual planning process is ongoing and dynamic.

1. Le Roux et al., 1998; Siegel, 2003.



Inside our classrooms

Typically, our classrooms are small so students can receive more intensive individual support. The learning environment is purpose-built and carefully structured, with clearly defined workstations and autism-specific supports. Visitors will notice visual supports such as individual timetables, First Then boards, choice boards and turn-taking prompts that help students understand routines, transitions and expectations.

Environmental labels, PBS visuals and clear class expectations make the classroom easy to navigate and support independence.

Emotional regulation tools, sensory supports and individual toolboxes help students manage their feelings, while timers and countdown tools assist with preparing for change. Our facilities also include recently upgraded and new classrooms and improved outdoor learning environments.

We recognise that learning also extends beyond the classroom. Students participate in community activities such as swimming and visits to parks, supermarkets and museums. High school students also engage in work education, work experience, travel training and coffee van training to build independence and real-world skills.

We run coffee mornings, parent groups, grandparent groups and things like that so parents can support each other. We've had parents connect as Facebook groups and do play dates."

— STAFF MEMBER

"The teachers communicate with me whenever something happens, both positive and negative. I have found that its been really good. It made me realise that I have made the right decision."

— PARENT



Our purpose-built school located on the Central Coast is the ideal location to start your child's education journey in a close-knit, caring community.

Why choose our school?

We understand autism like no other school

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has been leading the way in providing services to people on the autism spectrum for 50+ years – and we offer the largest autism-specific education program in Australia. Our students benefit from decades of experience and research into how to best support people on the autism spectrum. Everything we do is evidence-informed and aims to give students the best opportunities possible throughout their lives.

Get a great education, tailored to you

Aspect is a registered and accredited school with highly trained, capable teachers who are passionate about what they do. We follow the Australian Curriculum and we carefully adapt learning and development based on each individual student's strengths and interests. Every student therefore has a positive experience that is personalised for them.

A community where you'll feel right at home

We're more than a school – we're a close-knit, caring community of families and carers with similar experiences. When you join us, you'll have an instant support network to share your journey with Aspect and beyond. Together, we share experiences and advice and celebrate milestones and achievements.

The conversation is always open

Communication is a key part of a student's education to make sure we're on the same page – and at Aspect, we're open, honest and supportive at all times. We encourage ongoing two-way conversations with every family, so it's never hard to bring up an issue or ask a question. After all, we're here to help.

The journey doesn't end with us

A student's education journey usually has a few key transition points, and at Aspect, we are here to support you through these times of change.

That includes coming into our school, and going out of our school into other educational environments. We also support students for up to 12 months after they've transitioned out of an Aspect school.

We work in partnership with the 'home team'

In 2022 Aspect finalised our Working in Partnership Charter which provides an overarching set of principles to guide Working in Partnership at Aspect. This charter has been rolled out across the organisation and provides guidance and support to Autistic and non-Autistic staff around what working in partnership looks like.



 aspect
central coast
school

"As a parent, just knowing that he'd be supported, knowing that he's somewhere where he's understood, and knowing that the teachers are working as a team to help bring out the best in my child... it's been amazing."

— PARENT

Your need-to-knows



School hours

Official school hours are 8:30am to 3:00pm. Students arrive at school in the morning between 9:00am and 9:30am.



Wet weather days

In the event of wet weather students will remain in their classroom or utilise site specific spaces that allow students to stay out of the rain. Students are supervised at all times by Aspect staff.



Timetable

Each term parents will receive a copy of the class timetable as well as a term overview.



Parent info and meetings

Parent Information Sessions are held in Term 1.

We host community events throughout the year, giving families opportunities to visit the school and view open classrooms.

Individual Planning (IP) meetings are held in Term 1 with the teacher and any external therapists, with a review in Term 3.



What to wear

Aspect students are encouraged to wear the full Aspect Central School uniform at all times. Please contact the school directly regarding uniforms.



Drop off and pick up

Students are transported to and from school via parents and special transport.



Staying in touch

TASS Parent Lounge is our official administrative communication system.

This is used to report student absences, changes of address and important updates. Teachers and parents can also liaise using the See-Saw app for day to day updates. If there are any important forms or notes that need to be completed and returned, they'll be sent home through TASS Parent Lounge. If there's ever an urgent matter you need to discuss, just call the school office on (02) 4382 8800.



How our enrolment works:

1.

Come to a school info session

Give us a call on (02) 4382 8800 to find out when the next one will be held.

2.

Join the wait list

To register a student, just fill out a registration form and pay a \$200 registration fee. You can get the form at the school info session or by contacting the school.

3.

A spot opens up

When a position becomes available at the school, the School Enrolment Committee considers all the students on the waitlist. This decision is made based on a number of factors – it's not simply on a 'first come, first served' basis.

4.

Family interview

Before a student is officially offered a place, they may be invited to meet with our team (together with family or carers).

5.

Enrolment offer

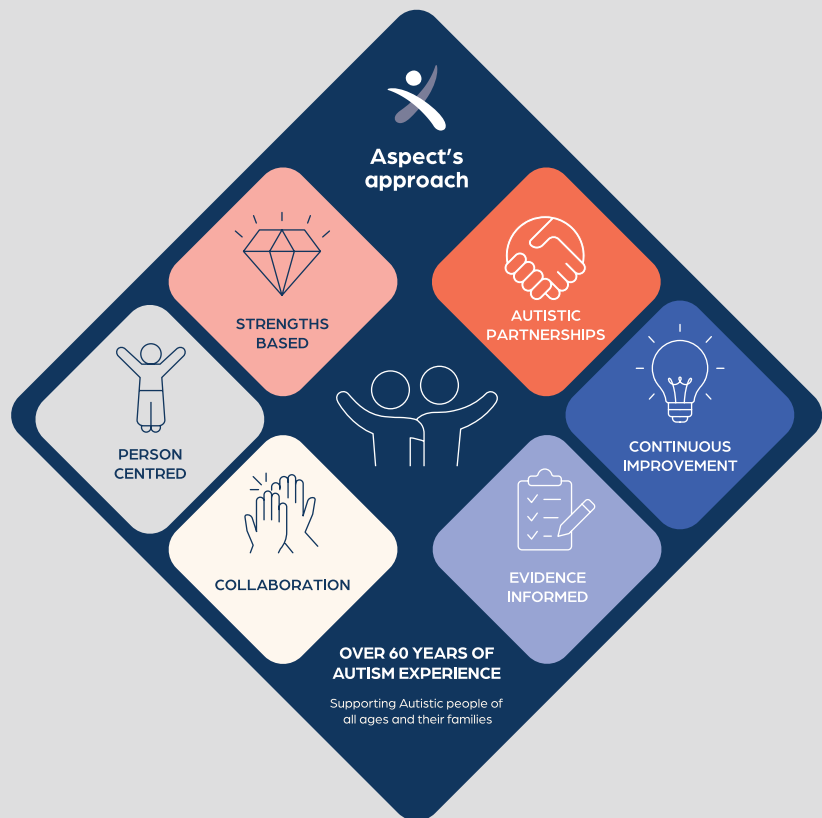
Once there's a place available, we'll send a formal letter of offer and an Enrolment Contract to the student's parents or guardians. You'll need to accept the offer by signing and returning the Enrolment Contract and paying the non-refundable enrolment fee.

Who is eligible?

Eligible students:

- Have a formal diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Are Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or hold an eligible Australian visa.

When a child is deemed eligible, they will be registered on the school's waiting list. The order of placement on the waiting list does not determine the order of an enrolment offer.



Aspect's approach

Aspect's approach draws on 55 years of expertise in supporting Autistic people of all ages and their families. It outlines the key principles that guide how we provide best practice supports and services to Autistic participants, students, and their families or carers. We take the time to understand how each Autistic person experiences the world, using their strengths, interests, and aspirations to shape individualised supports. Our practices are underpinned by the latest evidence, informed by the individual and their support networks, and are continuously adapted to meet each person's unique needs.

The Five Point Star

The Five Point Star is our relationship-based approach to understanding and supporting students on the autism spectrum. The approach recognises the strengths of Autistic students – and also that Autistic students and non-Autistic people need to work together to understand each other, and to adapt to meet each other's preferences and needs. Aspect staff collaborate with students to develop their Five Point Star profiles, which are used to guide positive empathetic trusting relationships.

Every individual on the autism spectrum has the right to be an active participant in the community and to make choices about things that matter to them.

Our guiding principles

- We focus on the strengths and interests of each student.
- We work in partnership with students, their families and their communities.
- We work to understand students 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 values

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

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



aspect.org.au
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