



**aspect**  
Riverina  
School



Every **aspect**  
of our school

a different  
**brilliant**<sup>®</sup>

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 Riverina School**  
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## Welcome to Aspect Riverina 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

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Dear Community Members,

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our campuses are located.

Aspect Riverina School is home to more than 90 students on the autism spectrum across our specific designed campuses throughout the Riverina region.

The Aspect approach is central to everything we do. Drawing on more than 55 years of expertise in understanding and supporting people on the autism spectrum. We recognise that every student brings unique strengths, interests, and aspirations. Our small class sizes, with high teacher to student ratios and dedicated support staff, ensure that learning is truly personalised and meaningful.

We provide a K-12 Life Skills program across our campuses, including our main Albury campus, our flourishing Wagga Wagga campus at Charles Sturt University, and our high school satellite class at Xavier College.

Our focus for students is to equip them with skills to be as independent as possible, and to engage with a rich range of meaningful learning experiences. As a transition setting, we aim to help students develop the tools they need in their next education or post-school placement.

Recent upgrades to our Albury campus have enhanced our learning spaces, creating more welcoming and supportive environments for students and staff. We look forward to further developments, including upgraded playground facilities, ensuring our campuses continue to be inclusive and engaging spaces where students thrive.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to preparing our students not just for academic success, but for meaningful participation as valued members of their communities. Through our comprehensive transitional support, including our successful senior college programs and work experience opportunities, we ensure every student is equipped with the skills and confidence to pursue their aspirations.

I warmly invite you to visit Aspect Riverina School to experience firsthand the vibrant community and learning opportunities we offer.

Kathryn Stuart  
School Principal

# About our school

**We offer a warm, welcoming and supportive learning environment for students on the autism spectrum. operates from two sites, our main site in Albury NSW and our satellite site at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW.**

Our school caters for approximately 90 students from Kindergarten through to Year 12 and deliver a mainstream school curriculum with embedded deliverable goals relating to each child's individual learning areas.

We have created a setting where the unique strengths and interests of all students are used to drive their learning. We are a vibrant school that thrives on personalising learning and using evidence-based and informed best practice in autism. Students are encouraged to become self-determined learners through the provision of individualised and tailored learning programs.

Our highly skilled staff are committed to continual improvement and value the importance of positive home and school relationships.

*"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*

## Focusing on transitions

Aspect regards transition as a necessary part of every student's educational journey.

The primary focus of our school is to act as a transitional setting that builds on student's skills and independence enabling them to transition to less specialised settings with comprehensive and personalised support. Approximately twenty percent of our students successfully transition each year.

Future planning and transition from an Aspect school into a non-autism specific education setting or into a post school program is part of the Individual Plan (IP) process for each student and their parents, guardians or the person responsible. The student's readiness for transition and the type of placement most suitable for each individual student will be discussed with their parents, guardians or the person responsible at each student's Individual Plan (IP) meeting.

## 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 styles<sup>1</sup>. 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

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Typically, classes are small. So students get more intensive individual support.


The classroom environment is purpose-built and carefully structured, with clearly defined work stations and autism-specific supports and strategies – such as calming spaces, key visuals and established routines.

We take part in a range of community activities such as swimming and outings to parks, zoos, supermarkets and museums.

We offer recently upgraded facilities including new classrooms and outdoor areas.

A high school program that includes work education, work experience and travel training opportunities.

Work experience, community engagement, coffee van training



*"In our team, we've learned that everyone brings a different strength to the table. Some of us are great at calming a child in moments of stress, while others shine when it comes to structuring learning activities. By knowing this, we can step in and support each other in real time so the student feels secure and cared for."*

— STAFF MEMBER

*"The teachers are patient and understanding. They celebrate every achievement, no matter how small, and I feel included and involved in the journey. It reassures me that I made the right choice for my child."*

— PARENT

*"They transitioned him from the main site at the end of the year last year, and he went to satellite class at the beginning of year 2. He was really nervous about another move. So, they did a lot of work to help him establish a sense of safety, give him all of the information about what he could expect, give him options, and what he could do when he's feeling overwhelmed."*

— PARENT

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

# Why choose our school?

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## 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 implemented our Working in Partnership Charter, which sets out clear principles for how we collaborate across the organisation and network of Aspect Schools. By guiding both Autistic and non-Autistic staff in what effective partnership looks like, the charter strengthens teamwork, ensures consistency, and creates a more supportive learning environment – delivering direct benefits to students in every Aspect classroom.



*"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

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## School hours

Official school hours are 9:00am to 3:00pm. Students arrive at school in the morning between 8:30am–9:00am and leave between 2:45pm–3:00pm.



## Wet weather days

In the event of wet weather, students will work and play inside their classroom or the gym, 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

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

'Meet the Teacher' events for parents are held in term one as well as open classrooms throughout the year.

Individual Planning meetings are held with the teacher and any external therapists in term one with a review in term three.



## What to wear

Aspect students are encouraged to wear the full Aspect Riverina 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) 6057 3777.



# How our enrolment works:

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1.

## Come to a school info session

Give us a call on (02) 6057 3777 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.

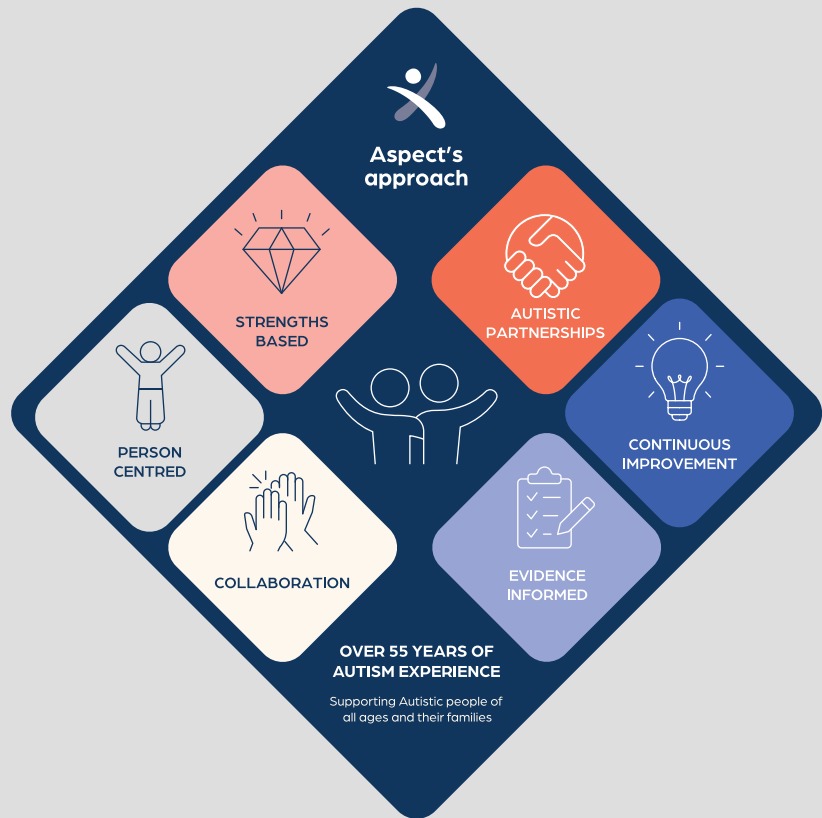
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## Who is eligible?

### 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](https://aspect.org.au)



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