



aspect
Macarthur
School



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

Aspect (Autism
Spectrum Australia)
acknowledges the
Traditional Custodians
of the lands on which
we work and live.

We pay our respect to
their Elders past and
present.



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Aspect Macarthur School
229 Macquarie Grove Road
Cobbitty, NSW 2570

Phone (02) 4651 3900

Welcome to Aspect Macarthur 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



At Aspect Macarthur School, we see every child as an individual first. We take the time to understand each student's strengths, interests, and aspirations, and we build learning around who they are. We don't just recognise difference we celebrate it. The "different brilliant" that each student brings to our community is noticed, valued, and nurtured every day.

Our school is a dynamic and supportive learning environment where education is personalised, purposeful, and deeply engaging. We design rich and meaningful learning experiences that challenge students at the right level, while providing the structure, support, and time they need to succeed. Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy are a priority, but never at the expense of individuality instead, they are taught in ways that connect to each student's interests and strengths.

Learning at Aspect Macarthur extends beyond the classroom. We work in genuine partnership with families, recognising that they are essential to each child's journey. Together, our students, families, teachers, and support staff create a community where every child is known, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive not just at school, but in life.

Aspect Macarthur School serves students from Kindergarten to Year 10, with the main campus located in Cobbitty and satellite classes in several partner schools:

- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Primary School in Campbelltown (K-6)
- St. Christopher's Primary School in Holsworthy (K-6)
- Clancy Catholic College in West Hoxton (7-10)
- Sarah Redfern Public School in Minto (K-6)
- Briar Road Public School in Airds (K-6)
- Howard Street Campus in Coffs Harbour (K-6)

The Cobbitty campus is designed around the belief that every child learns best when they feel understood, supported, and valued as an individual. We work with students from Kindergarten to Year 6,

thoughtfully grouping classes based on learning needs, social and emotional development, and each child's unique profile. Rather than being confined to traditional year-level structures, our classes remain flexible so we can create learning environments where every student can truly thrive.

Our commitment to personalised learning extends beyond the Cobbitty campus. Through our satellite classes, we offer families meaningful pathways that blend specialised support with broader school experiences. Located within host schools, these classes allow students to learn in an autism-specific environment while also engaging in shared activities with the wider school community. For many students, this becomes a confident and supported bridge into mainstream education, with the right adjustments and continuity of support in place.

We continue to evolve our teaching practices, drawing on the lessons of recent years to integrate technology in ways that enhance access, engagement, and learning across all key areas. At the heart of everything we do is a deep commitment to knowing each child. Using the Aspect Approach and the Five Point Star, we develop truly individualised learning plans that reflect each student's strengths, interests, and preferences. This allows us to celebrate progress in ways that are meaningful not just big milestones, but the small, significant moments of growth that matter just as much.

As Principal of Aspect Macarthur School, I am proud to lead a community that genuinely sees and celebrates the brilliance in every child. I am deeply committed to ensuring that every student experiences success each day whether that's mastering a new skill, building a connection, or taking a brave step in their learning. These moments matter, and we work intentionally to recognise and celebrate them.

Lauren Philips,
School Principal, Aspect Macarthur School

About Macarthur School

Since 2010, Aspect Macarthur School has given students on the autism spectrum a warm, welcoming and supportive place to learn. As the only autism-specific school in our region, we're passionate about making sure our students enjoy an educational experience that's both progressive and personalised.

We're working with over 100 students across Macarthur and regional areas throughout Northern NSW – whether it's through our main campus at Cobbitty, a satellite class, or in a student's own home. Everything we do is grounded in a genuine commitment to personalised learning, and evidence-based best practice in autism.

At Aspect, we focus on what works best for each individual, and through tailored programs, every student is encouraged to become a self-determined learner. Unique interests and strengths are celebrated, and harnessed as part of the learning journey!

We also know that what happens outside of school is important, too. By supporting positive home/school relationships, we strive to build our students' confidence and skills in partnership with their families. And by keeping in mind 'what happens next' we help equip our students for transitions to the broader community.

"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 schools is to help students develop the skills to become as independent as possible and to enable them to succeed in the wider community. Aspect Macarthur School has a transition focus, aimed at preparing children and young people, for non-autism specific educational environments, whether this is in mainstream, supported classes or general disability classes.

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 and carers. The student's readiness for transition and the type of placement most suitable for each individual student will be discussed with their parents and carers responsible at each student's Individual Plan (IP) meeting.

Planning made personal

Individualised planning is the most critical consideration in educational intervention for individuals on the autism spectrum. While 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.¹

A 'one size fits all' approach will never meet the needs of all students. 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, classes are small, with around six students, so everyone gets 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 equine therapy and weekly sensory gym visits.

Our growing high school program encompasses work education, work experience and travel training.

We're proud to have a student mentor, who is on the autism spectrum, working three days a week. Not only do they support the social and emotional learning of our high school students, in addition they also act as a positive role model for the school community.



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

"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.

He was really into Harry Potter then. The teacher at the satellite class actually sent a letter in the school holidays to my son saying that he has been accepted into the School of Witchcraft and Wizardry."

– PARENT

"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 in Cobbitty 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

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 ensure 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.



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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 9:00am to 2:45pm. Students arrive at school between 9:00am and 9:30am.



Wet weather days

On rainy days, students work and play inside their classroom, 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

IP meetings are held with the teacher in Term 1 and a review meeting in Term 3.

Teachers, Student Support Officers and families and carers have the opportunity to meet with each other in the first two days of the school year. During this time, the Five Point Star is discussed.



What to wear

Aspect students are encouraged to wear the full Aspect Macarthur uniform at all times – to find out more, just call the school on (02) 4651 3900.



Drop off and pick up

Students are dropped off and picked up from school by parents, carers and special transport. They are dropped off at the top carpark and then walked down the path into school (with support, if needed). At the end of the day, transport drivers will wait at the top carpark until the students and teachers arrive.



Staying in touch

The See-Saw app is used as the communication method for students and families at Aspect Macarthur School. The teacher will correspond via the app approximately three times per week. Administrative information is communicated via TASS, which is Aspect's school management system. For any urgent matter, please call the school office on (02) 4651 3900



How our enrolment works:

1.

Come to a school info session.

Give us a call on (02) 4651 3900 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 (you can either get this at the info session, or by contacting Aspect Macarthur 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 carer. You'll need to accept the offer by signing and returning the Enrolment Contract and paying the non-refundable enrolment fee.

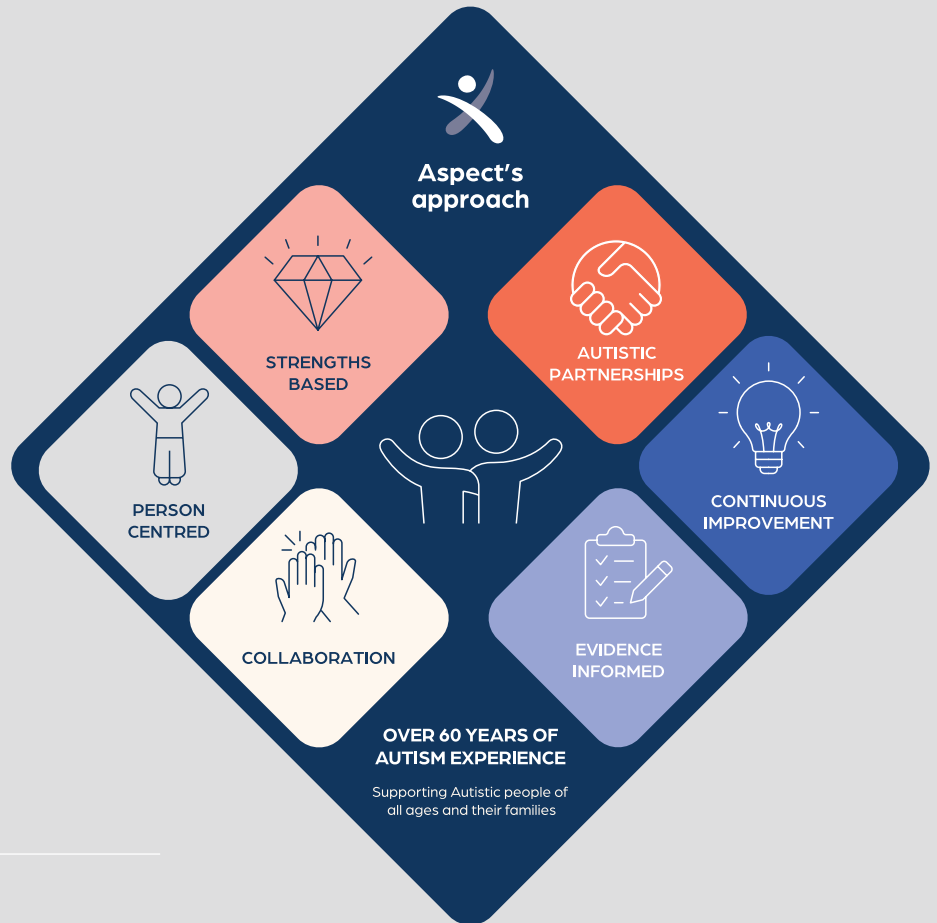
Who is eligible?

Eligible students:

- Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia or hold an eligible Australian visa.
- Have had a formal diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in the last two years.

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.

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 approach

Aspect Approach

Aspect uses an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to support people on the autism spectrum, and their family and carers. The ACA is implemented across our whole organisation, and it reflects our 60+ years of expertise in providing services to children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum.

The ACA provides for the development of 'individualised' or 'person-centred' supports. This means really getting to know and understand our students, identifying their interests, strengths (for some, their exceptional abilities) and their aspirations, and then developing individualised supports.

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.

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.

What else does Aspect offer?

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.

Services include:

- Assessments for autism across the lifespan
- Therapy
- Adult Community Services
- Workshops

For the full range of Aspect services, please scan the QR code or visit aspect.org.au



aspect.org.au
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customerservice@aspect.org.au

Aspect Macarthur School main site
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