

Moonee Ponds West Primary School

Profile

Moonee Ponds West Primary School, established in 1888, is a happy, positive, safe and caring school. Our current enrolments of approximately 482 pupils with an upper ceiling of 504 pupils. Many students are drawn from an area that extends beyond the local environment. The school is situated in a quiet residential area of Moonee Ponds.

Moonee Ponds West is an interesting combination of gracious Victorian and more modern buildings, with specialist rooms for library, music and art and craft. The well maintained grounds include two adventure playgrounds, a large grassed area and a centenary garden area with amphitheatre. The setting provides a pleasant environment for learning and social interaction. The grounds are being planted with shade trees in accordance with Sun Smart ideals.

At Moonee Ponds West the guiding philosophy is the respect for the rights and responsibilities of pupils, staff and parents. Staff and students address each other using first names. Moonee Ponds West is staffed by caring professionals who are committed to excellence and who believe in and follow a collaborative decision making process. Children are listened to and respected as individuals. There is a high expectation that all children will learn and develop to their full potential.

Learning is a partnership between home and school. Moonee Ponds is committed to participation by staff, parents and the wider community, with a strong emphasis on participation by pupils in most school activities. Children leave Moonee Ponds West with love of learning, a strong attitude of self-worth, confidence, independence, risk-taking skills and self discipline. Positive student behaviour and attitudes are developed through the Student Welfare policy and program with its underlying principles of rights, responsibilities, consequences, honesty and fairness. All classrooms are represented on the Junior School Council.

Parent involvement at Moonee Ponds West includes School Council and committee membership, an informal Parents' Group, classroom assistance, family social functions, fund-raising and working bees.

The school is organised into teaching teams of consecutive year grade levels, e.g. P/1/2, P/1/2/3, P/1/2/3/4, 2/3, 3/4, 3/4/5/6, 4/5/6. Multi-age groupings are favoured so that individual children can mature and learn at their own rate. The school has developed a reputation of excellence in Whole Language teaching and Integrated Curriculum planning. An acclaimed educational consultant and author works regularly in the school, and many local, interstate and overseas visitors have been welcomed to see the programs in action.

The entire school is committed to learning based on real life experiences. In addition to the programs in English, Science, Mathematics, Music and Personal Development, specialist programs are run in the Library, PE, Creative Arts, Japanese L.O.T.E. and Instrumental Music. A special feature is the Hall program emphasising oral language and communication skills. Computers are an integral part of classroom programs throughout the school. Programs are continually reviewed in light of sound educational practice. The school offers a warm, caring Out of School Hours program, both before and after school and on pupil free days.