Our School Values

Pride
Integrity
Manners
Partnerships
Acceptance
Morality
Accountability
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Message from the Principal

Welcome to Pimpama State School. This school has a reputation for providing a superior learning experience for students from Prep to Year Seven. Parents choose this school because of its family orientation, the strong community feel, the emphasis on the curriculum and individual teaching methods. The most important sign of a healthy school is found in its curriculum and the totality of opportunities provided for the education of each student. During the last year, the school has been extremely active in developing school facilities and advancing curriculum and learning. There has been a major emphasis placed on teacher professional development as the school further embraces the pursuit of excellence.

At Pimpama State School, we want every student to be a happy, competent learner and to be a confident member of the school community. We continue to offer a wide curriculum that we believe caters to the interests of our students. We also want students to have faith in his/her teacher and to feel sure of the teacher’s regard and interest. There is a range of extracurricular activities on offer, ranging from regular sporting programs to lunchtime clubs and activities. At Pimpama State School we have a comprehensive set of school based data and diagnostic assessment to our intervention and differentiation programs within the school, which allowed our teachers to gain a greater, more in-depth understanding of student levels of achievement and development.

We would like to welcome you and your children to our school and are sure you will enjoy the many and varied educational experiences it offers.

Marius Marx
Principal

School Information

School Profile

The name Pimpama is of Aboriginal origin, there being several versions of its translation - ‘place of soldier birds’, ‘place of magpie larks’ or as a corruption of Bim Bim Ba ‘place of many birds’.” (HOLST, p2, 1972)

A settlement at the present township occurred in 1863, after moving from the original site at what is now known as Ormeau. Industry grew rapidly within the area over the ensuing years. Cotton, sugar and timber attracted many new settlers and with them, children.

By 1870 the community felt a need to develop appropriate educational facilities and approached the Education Department, regarding the establishment of a school, on the 3rd August that year. Approval was given and a school was built in 1871, of pit-sawn timber with a shingle roof. Opened on 15 April, 1872, the school was attended by twenty-six children and remained for sixty-six years, replaced in 1939 by the first of the present buildings.

One tragic note in the school’s history was the death of Mr J Mayes, P & C member, who was struck on the head by the flagpole he had supplied and was erecting.

Today, Pimpama School has grown to a population of three hundred and twenty three primary students with seventy preps, thirteen teaching staff, two administrative assistants, five teacher aides, two cleaners and a groundsman. It still incorporates the old style “family” atmosphere renowned in country schools, but is central to both the Gold Coast and Brisbane city areas.

The concept of the campus approach has been adopted wholeheartedly at Pimpama, with Prep through to Year 7 mingling both socially and academically, sharing successes and caring for each other. We meet every Wednesday to share in one of the class group’s activities and to recognise the significance of each child’s contribution.

Parents are to be found regularly in our school, either helping in the classroom or canteen, organising activities, contributing to meetings and program development, and are welcome to visit classrooms at any time. The input of parents is a valued asset of the school and contributes significantly to the overall warmth and openness of the school environment.

Encompassed by large grounds, including a nature walk area, the school provides an ideal physical environment for learning, health-oriented activities, socialising and topical studies.

An active and caring Parents and Citizens’ Association work hand-in-hand with a dedicated and professional staff to create the best learning experiences and environment for our children. The children for their part demonstrate a keenness to attend school, participate in activities and show a unique caring for the well being of others within the school.

As Pimpama School grows and develops technologically, socially and educationally, the basis for its growth will remain its caring and concern for the individuals within the system, extending the high achiever, catering for the slower learner and providing exciting educational experiences for all who are associated with the school.
Values and Beliefs Statements
At Pimpama State School we foster a caring and trusting school community within which the individual members of the school community are provided with quality education, support, challenges and technology aimed at developing their full potential.

Our School Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Expectation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pride</td>
<td>Students must promote a feeling of passion for one’s own achievements and the achievements of other students and the school. Students must maintain a clean and positive school environment, observe safe and healthy practices and use opportunities given to them wisely. They must dress appropriately during all school activities and behave in a manner that will not injure or misuse property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Students must strive for honesty and strong moral principles. Students must strive to uphold the good name and character of each student and the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manners</td>
<td>Students must show respect for others and use their manners at all times. Students must act responsibly and move in a safe and orderly manner adhering to designated boundaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Students must work as a team to help support each other and promote understanding and a sense of belonging in their school. Each individual should strive to excel at a level that is appropriate for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance</td>
<td>Students must obey all school rules and accept consequences of personal decisions and choices of behaviour. Students need to show acceptance and understanding of differences amongst members of the school community. Students must follow directions first time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality</td>
<td>Students must distinguish between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour. Student must show conformity, to traditional standards of moral conduct. Students must be punctual and organised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>Students at Pimpama State School should be able to account for their actions and accept responsibility for their actions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We support these values and beliefs by developing in our students the following traits and skills:

- **caring** and **respect** for others
- the acceptance of **challenges** as an effective means of self development
- **confidence** in their own ability and to ‘have a go’
- willingness to be **involved** in all aspects of their own learning and school activities
- **ownership** of personal choices and community property
- a desire to **share** information, skills, knowledge, personal successes and the successes of others
- a desire to be **informed** and to seek out greater knowledge
- provide **quality** in all they produce and to expect **quality** experiences
- **trust** in their peers, teachers and school environment
School Goals
At Pimpama State School our vision is the pursuit of excellence and quality education in a positive atmosphere and this is achieved by:

- Monitoring the success of student achievement by regularly analysing student work samples, class and systemic data
- Responding to student achievement and selecting strategies that meet identified learning needs
- Trialling and reflecting on the success of learning strategies
- Explicit teaching for the whole class, targeted teaching for particular needs and intensive and collaborative support for students with learning difficulties
- Embedding Literacy and Numeracy skills in all teaching units
- Trialling and implementing ACARA Learning Statements and Achievements Standards
- Providing quality resources to enhance the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy
- Establishing focus intervention teams in Literacy and Numeracy
- Using a range of tools for ongoing school-based and systemic monitoring of student progress
- Collating and monitoring National, State and School based data
- Collection of school based Literacy and Numeracy data in spelling, sight words, reading and numeracy used to inform pedagogy and curriculum
- Specific targets for achieving across Year 3, 5 and 7 writing set within NAPLAN in response to practice test data
- Using Teacher Aides, Teacher Librarian and other resources to address specific NAPLAN learning needs
- School funded access to ‘Mathletics’ and ‘Spellodrome’ Programs
- Continuing to use ‘Words their Way’ program for Whole School Diagnostic Approach and shared Pedagogy for teaching of Spelling
- Alignment of pedagogical practices in classrooms through focus on consistency in teaching practices
- School Assessment Portfolio (established 2009) provides a foundation for professional conversations and transferral of information regarding student learning
- P- 3 Assessment Folio – documented school plan and timetable for the collection of student outcome data provides data for professional conversation and informed decision making regarding student learning and the collation and storing of academic data
- Developing a rigorous approach to teaching and moderating writing
- Parent Volunteer Program in class assistance, changing of Home Readers, Support-a-Talker, Jenny Whip Program
- Improve ICT skills amongst staff and students through the School ICT - eLearning Plan
- Improve the availability of ICT resources for staff and students
- Using computer lab to develop student’s skills in all areas of the curriculum.
- Improving students’ ICT skills by using different computer programs, the internet and digital cameras
- Development of Whole School Planning and Assessment Procedures, Timelines and Proforma for Integrated Studies - Explicit coherent, sequenced plan for curriculum delivery across the year levels within the school, which makes content, pedagogy and assessment clear and processes transparent
- Gifted and Talented Strategy and Action Plans
- Electives Years 5 - 7 (implemented 2009). Targeted focus on Science with Griffith University Partnership in place
- To provide an educational environment that will successfully develop the social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs of each child
- To provide an education in living skills which will assist every pupil toward a happy and full life as a co-operating citizen of the Local District, of Queensland and of Australia?
- To encourage the interest, co-operation and participation of parents in their child’s education.
- To provide an atmosphere that each child finds both enjoyable and rewarding.
- To provide an environment in which equity and justice are demonstrated and applied.

School Responsible Behaviour Plan
A complete and comprehensive copy of the School Responsible Behaviour Plan is available from the office or can be downloaded from our website. Your support with the behaviour of your children is appreciated.

Planning / Skills Room and Supervised play
Unfortunately at times some students have difficulty controlling their behaviours and actions. If this occurs, the teacher fills out a Thinking/Planning Classroom Referral Form. The student is responsible for taking the slip to the Planning Room during the following lunchtime.

While in the Planning room, the student is expected to complete a plan, to an appropriate standard deemed suitable by the Planning Room Supervisor. The Supervisor completes the parent notification form, which is signed by the student and the referring supervisor. The form is photocopied, and the copy is stapled to the completed plan and filed, while the original coloured notification is sent home to be signed and returned. It is important that staff follow-up on notifications that have not been signed and returned.

The school also reserves the right to remove students from activities such as interschool sport or school excursions if there are concerns with an Individual’s behaviour and the safety of other students.
Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level one</th>
<th>Redirection, rule reminder, confiscation of item or similar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low level behaviour</td>
<td>In dealing with children we believe that there are many Low Level Misbehaviours (e.g. forgetting, hat, running on concrete, etc.) which can best be dealt with informally, quickly, quietly and easily, to discourage repetition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level two</th>
<th>Time-out, Community service undertaken under teacher supervision, withdrawal from class or similar.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low level behaviour (continuation of behaviour)</td>
<td>This process of managing Low Level Misbehaviour is aimed at reducing the need to enter the Formalised Behaviour Management Process. However, if a child chooses to exhibit inappropriate behaviour then they must accept the consequences which come with their choice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level three</th>
<th>Planning Room (Formal process)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demanding level misbehaviour</td>
<td>At Pimpama State School we have a 20 minutes planning room for misbehaviours requiring more serious consequences. The student is responsible for taking the slip to the Planning Room during the following lunchtime. (If the misbehaviour occurs at the end of lunchtime or in the last session of class time, the slip is taken to the Planning Room the following day. Parents are required to sign, date and return Planning Room form to the office. Parents will be telephoned or sent a letter after four planning rooms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level four</th>
<th>Planning Rooms 5-7 (Formal process)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High level misbehaviour</td>
<td>A child’s behaviour is defined as High Level if it has been of such a severe nature to warrant immediate entry or on the identification of a fifth planning room over One Semester. Students will receive an In-School Suspension for three days. Further planning rooms will result in a four day in-school suspension followed by a five day in-school suspension. An In-School Suspension requires the student to report to the school Administration upon arrival to school and remain there until the commencement of the school day. This process is continued for the duration of the morning tea and lunch breaks. Any student who is completing an In-School Suspension is prohibited from attending any external school activity (eg. Excursions, camps, interschool sport) that takes place during the suspension period. Other consequences may include removal from leadership positions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Five</th>
<th>Out of school suspension (Formal process)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very high level misbehaviour</td>
<td>Any planning room received after the completion of a five day In-school suspension will result in an Out-of-School suspension. Where other school personnel and/or children’s safety has been jeopardised, an invasion of an individual’s personal rights has occurred or a serious breach of conduct has occurred, the school’s administration team has the right to suspend and/or exclude children from the school.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily Routine 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>Students assemble at classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55am</td>
<td>Lesson commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:55am</td>
<td>All classes released for morning tea eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05am</td>
<td>All classes released for morning tea play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20am</td>
<td>All classes recommence learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50pm</td>
<td>All classes released for lunch eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>All classes released for lunch play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:25pm</td>
<td>All classes recommence learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:55pm</td>
<td>End of day bell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

House Teams

At present there are two house teams - Wongari (Wallabies) and Koongara (Possums). Children are allocated to houses upon enrolment.

School Uniform

Pimpama State School is a uniform school. This position is affirmed by our Parents’ and Citizens’ Association. Students need to wear school uniforms, hat and shoes that cover the toes. Thongs and sandals are not allowed due to Workplace Health and Safety issues. A uniform price list is included in the enrolment pack but prices may be subject to change. Uniform order forms are available at the School office. Regular uniform shop hours are 8:00am - 9:00am on Wednesdays and other times by arrangement with the uniform convenor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPECTATION</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Uniform</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorts / Skorts</td>
<td>Royal blue shorts</td>
<td>Royal blue shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirts</td>
<td>Checked dress shirt (unisex)</td>
<td>Checked dress shirt (unisex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royal blue and gold sport shirt (unisex)</td>
<td>Royal blue and gold sport shirt (unisex)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Uniform</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumpers</td>
<td>Pimpama State School – Royal blue and gold baseball jacket</td>
<td>Pimpama State School – Royal blue and gold baseball jacket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hats are NOT permitted</td>
<td>Hats are NOT permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pants</td>
<td>Royal blue bootleg pants</td>
<td>Royal blue bootleg pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks</td>
<td>White socks</td>
<td>White socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats</td>
<td>Royal blue wide-brimmed or legionnaire hat with school emblem</td>
<td>Royal blue wide-brimmed or legionnaire hat with school emblem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes</td>
<td>Covered black shoes with black laces or white shoes (sport shoes) with white laces</td>
<td>Covered black shoes with black laces or white shoes (sport shoes) with white laces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multi-coloured shoes and laces are NOT permitted</td>
<td>Multi-coloured shoes and laces are NOT permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair</td>
<td>Neatly presented with no coloured dye</td>
<td>Neatly presented with no coloured dye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hair tracks, rat tails and mohawks are NOT permitted</td>
<td>Hair tracks, rat tails and mohawks are NOT permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preference towards royal blue hair ties</td>
<td>Preference towards royal blue hair ties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Neat and tidy presentation with no visible body art (including make-up) or nail polish</td>
<td>Neat and tidy presentation with no visible body art (including make-up) or nail polish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewellery</td>
<td>One pair of sleepers or studs in the ears and watch only. No other jewellery acceptable</td>
<td>One pair of sleepers or studs in the ears and watch only. No other jewellery acceptable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When representing the school, students are required to wear the formal school uniform. This includes special events, excursions and school photos.
Safety Information

Accidents

If your child meets with an accident of a serious nature, every effort will be made to contact you, the parents/guardians. If, however, this cannot be done, the Principal will obtain any necessary aid for the well-being of your child.

Medications

No child will be allowed to take any form of medication at school unless full written details are supplied and in some cases these details need to be supplied by the physician. For more details contact the school.

If your child must take a prescribed medication at school your doctor should provide a letter for the school detailing the medication, dose and time, and the parent should complete an ‘Administration of Medication to Students’ form giving school staff permission to administer the medication. The letter and medication should be taken to the School Office. Please be aware that we require new ‘Administration of Medication to Students’ forms every year. It would be appreciated if you could collect any medication at the end of each year, and return it at the beginning of the school year.

No medication will be dispensed without written authorisation from a doctor and parent.

Sun Safety Policy

Pimpama State School has a Cancer Council approved Sun Safety Policy which is issued to all new enrolments. Please be aware of the necessary dress requirement for your children and encourage them to be "Sun Safe".

“NO HAT, NO PLAY”

As part of our school’s ‘sun-safe’ policy children must wear a hat whenever they are in the playground - before school, at recess and at lunchtime. If your child does not have a hat at school, they will be required to stay in the undercover area during play times.

Sick Children

If your child is obviously too sick to attend school, please keep him/her home. You may have to make special arrangements for your child to be cared for. If a child becomes sick at school, parents will be notified to come and collect the child. It is therefore crucial that the information we have is kept up to date.

Infectious Diseases

During a child’s life at school it is possible that a child will contract some of the common diseases of childhood. The following table is binding on all doctors, teachers and parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISEASE</th>
<th>EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox</td>
<td>Until fully recovered, some remaining scabs are not an indication for continued exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>For at least seven days from the appearance of the rash, or until medical certificate of recovery is produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>Until fully recovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>Until fully recovered and at least 4 days from the onset of the rash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impetigo (School Sores)</td>
<td>Until sores have fully healed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm</td>
<td>Until appropriate treatment has commenced and is supported by a medical certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Lice

Should head lice be detected at school, the school Principal or his representative will issue an information letter to the particular class / classes informing parents of the detection of head lice. Parents of affected students may be contacted by the school to bring this to their attention.

Parents are asked to:-

- Regularly inspect their child’s head to detect the presence of lice or lice eggs
- Immediately treat their child on discovery or after being informed of lice or lice eggs
- Notify the school if their child is affected and advise when treatment has begun
Enrolment Information

Compulsory Education
All children must be enrolled in an educational institution between the ages of 6 and 17 unless given a dispensation by the Minister of Education.

Admissions
Admissions to all year levels can be made at any time during the school year, with children being placed into the appropriate year level according to age/previous school history.

Eligibility
Education Queensland requires that a child may be enrolled in a State School if he/she will attain the age of five (5) years on or before the 30 June in the year in which they commence.

Proof of Age
The following proof of age must be presented before admission:
• Child’s Birth Certificate; or
• Current Passport
Enrolments will commence as long as sufficient proof of age has been sighted and all enrolment forms have been submitted prior to this day.

Booklist
A list of requirements, as far as books and stationery items are concerned, will be published at the end of each year for the ensuing year. Pre-packed book pack arrangements are currently made with Kookaburra Educational.

Transferring Your Child
If you are transferring your child to another school, a student departure form is required to be filled out indicating the child’s last day of attendance. A certificate of transfer will be requested from the Principal of the school to which the child will be transferring to. This certificate will be issued upon receipt of letter of request as stated above. Contact the office regarding this certificate.

Court Orders
The school must be informed immediately of any court orders relevant to any child enrolled at the school.

School Procedures

Change of Contact Details
If you change your address, contact numbers or emergency contacts, please advise the School so that essential records can be maintained to ensure we are able to contact you in an emergency.

Arrivals and Departures
• Pupils are expected to arrive at school prior to 8.50am but not before 8.15am.
• Children who come to school by car should be dropped off outside the fence and enter via the gate. Cars should park in marked bays. This procedure will reduce any danger to your child, and others.
• All children should have left the school premises by 3.15pm unless under the supervision of a teacher for extra curricular activities.
• If your child is left at school, every effort will be made to contact you. If no contact can be made by 3.45pm attempts will be made to contact one of the emergency contacts listed.

Absences
All parents of children who have been absent from school are to notify the class teacher, by note, of the reason for absence or contact the office staff. We have a school absence line where you are able to leave a message notifying the school of your child’s absence - Absence Line - 5549 4392 (24hrs)

Late Arrivals
Children arriving late to school should report to Administration where they will be issued with a Late Slip to present to their class teacher.

Early Departures
Parents who wish to collect their child/children early must present to Administration where they will be issued with an Early Departure Slip which is then presented to the class teacher.

Leaving the Grounds
No child will be permitted to leave the school grounds except where a request is made by the parents/guardians in writing.

Pupil Free Days
Pupil Free Days are utilised for staff development. These days are crucial for our staff and we will provide advance warning.
Internet
Internet access is available to all students. This network is a valuable tool for research and technology education. All children and parents will be required to sign an acceptable usage agreement prior to using the internet.

Library
The school library is open to all children. Borrowing may be done in class time or during lunch break. Book losses or damages are the responsibility of the parent/guardian to replace. To protect books children are required to use a Library Bag in which to carry their books.

Lost Property
All clothing should have the child's name clearly marked on it. Any lost property, which cannot be identified, will be placed into the lost property box. At the end of each semester any unclaimed lost property will be donated to charity.

Alcohol
Alcohol is not permitted within the school grounds unless approved by the Parents and Citizens Association and the Principal for specific purposes.

Eating Arrangements
All children will sit and eat in their classroom for the first ten minutes under the supervision of a teacher/teacher aide. If not finished, students are required to sit in the under cover area to complete their food. No food is to be eaten or taken beyond the central undercover area. Children must place all rubbish in bins provided, keeping in mind that we do recycle at the school.

Canteen
Our canteen is run by the P&C, is staffed by volunteers and opens each Wednesday and Friday, offering a range of nourishing food which complies with the Queensland Government Healthy Food Strategy. A full list of menu items is published at the beginning of each Term on the Pimpama State School website.

Bicycles
Children may ride their bicycles to school and store them in the bicycle racks. Bicycle riders must enter the school by the main gate and bicycles must not be ridden in the school grounds. The wearing of a recommended cycle helmet is compulsory.

Entering School Grounds in a Vehicle
No unauthorised vehicles are to enter the school grounds without the permission of the Principal. If you are to enter the grounds after gaining approval, then please proceed with extreme caution in the interests of safety.

Suspensions
A Principal may temporarily suspend a pupil or student from attendance at a State School for:

• suffering from infectious or contagious disease;
• incorrigible disobedience or insolence; or
• gross misconduct at school or when travelling to and from school that is in the opinion of the principal likely to prejudice the good order and discipline of the school.

The Principal shall notify the parent of his action and of his reasons therefore and of such person's right of appeal to the Executive Director Schools and forward a copy of such notification to the EDS.

Homework
As defined in the Education Act, a teacher may require a pupil to undertake home study which may occupy such amount of time as a Principal may decide is reasonable in the circumstances. Our school policy is to set homework from Monday to Thursday nights. The amount and type of homework will vary from class to class. It is expected that this work will be completed on time. Online homework is offered in some year levels. Where this is not an option at home due to internet access, a paper alternative will always be offered.

General homework guide per week:

• In the Prep Year, generally students will not be set homework
• Homework in Years 1, 2, 3 could be up to - but generally not more than - an hour each week
• Homework in Years 4 and 5 could be up to - but generally not more than - 2-3 hours each week
• Homework in Years 6 and 7 could be up to - but generally not more than - 3-4 hours each week

Good communication between teachers, students and parents is very important to ensure students reach their full potential.

Mobile Phones
A comprehensive policy on mobile phone use is included in enrolment packages and is also available from the school office. Mobile phones must be handed into the office before school, left there for the day and picked it up again after 3:00pm. Please note that all mobile phones left at the office will be turned off during the day.
Payment Options

Paying in Person:
- Payment by Credit Card, Debit Card, Cash, Cheque or Money Order
- Payment can be made at the school office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 8:15am and 10:00am. Payment will not be accepted at any other time if you are paying in person.
- If sending money with your child, please ensure it is in an envelope, clearly marked with the child’s name and purpose of payment.

Paying by Phone:
- Payment by Credit Card ONLY
- Call the school on 5549 4333 Monday to Friday between 8am and 3pm
- Please have the account and your credit card details with you when you call.

Never leave money or other valuables in a school bag.

School Banking
The Commonwealth Bank School Savings program is run every Tuesday morning. Application forms are available online or can be collected from a Commonwealth Bank branch. Once your child leaves school, this account can be converted to an ordinary Savings Account.

Book Club
These offers come six times per year, and are designed to offer students quality reading material at reduced prices to encourage children to read for enjoyment. There is no obligation to purchase, but if you want to order books, return the Order Form and correct money in a sealed envelope marked “Book Club” to your child’s teacher.

Curriculum Information

Computer Technology
Technology is an important aspect of our school. Infrastructure, resources and opportunities include:
- a full optic fibre backbone connecting the whole campus to a Local Area Network and Education Queensland’s Wide Area Network;
- a full-time Internet and Email access for all classrooms, staff and students including Preparatory Year
- a developing Intranet within the school for the sharing of files and communication purposes;
- an increasing ratio of computers and access to digital cameras and scanners;
- Interactive Smartboards in all classrooms including Prep;
- Interactive Smartboards in Library and Computer lab.
- professional teachers keen to integrate technology into lessons in a meaningful life-like way;
- close links with local State High Schools to assist with the continuity of skills that have been developed;
- a computer lab for training purposes;
- computer technician employed on a part time basis;
- allocated weekly time in the computer lab, up to two hours a week, on individual computers;
- use of digital cameras;
- use of iPads in the classrooms;
- use of Ed Studios.

Music/Instrumental Music
A music specialist visits twice a week to provide instruction in general music skills to children across the Campus. The school also has an instrumental music program which teaches the children strings, wind, brass and percussion instruments. The program is available to all interested, musically-inclined students in appropriate year levels. Further information about the Instrumental Music Program is available from our music teachers and on the school website.

Physical Education
A physical education specialist visits the school two days a week. All children are provided with lessons to develop skills, endurance and participation.

Religious Instruction
Religious Instruction is provided to all students from Year 1 - 7 for 30 minutes per week. The service is provided on a non-denominational basis to class groups by volunteers approved by local churches and endorsed by Education Queensland. All children will attend Religious Instruction unless a letter is provided by their caregiver requesting that they do not attend.

Assessment of Students
Children at this school are continually assessed throughout the entire year, thus giving an overall impression of your child’s progress. Evaluation methods utilised to assess your child include: anecdotal records; checklists/cumulative records;
assessment sheets; teacher-made tests, standardised tests, observation; parental reports; bookwork; work samples; project work and developmental continua.

At the conclusion of each Semester, written reports are issued, and parents offered an interview with their child’s teacher. These interviews are very valuable to both teacher and parent and we recommend these to you.

We encourage you to request parent-teacher interviews more frequently, especially if you have any concerns, but also to monitor your child’s progress and encourage good relationships between home and school.

Awards

In recognition of achievement in academic, social and physical areas, a system of awards operates across the school. Each week students from each class are selected to receive a class award on parade. We also operate a Bronze, Silver and Gold Award system. Students need to earn 5 bronze awards to get their silver award. Three silver awards will reward students in achieving their gold award.

Most classes also have their own class award system operating.

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<tr>
<th>Staffing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Support Services Committee (SSS)</td>
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<td>This committee consists of the Principal, Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy (STL&amp;N), Guidance Officer (GO) and Head of Curriculum (HOC). The committee has the role of evaluating and prioritising referrals to the GO; STL&amp;N and other referring agencies as deemed necessary.</td>
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Learning Support

Pimpama is serviced three days per week by a Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy (STL&N). Children are referred to the STL&N for assessment by classroom teachers in consultation with parents, principal and other specialists. If you feel your child is in need of Learning Support please contact your child’s classroom teacher and discuss your concerns.

Guidance Officer

A Guidance Officer (GO) visits our school one day per week on a Tuesday and every second week on a Thursday to assist with the educational needs of children identified with significant learning difficulties or learning disabilities. The GO also assists with the assessment of behaviour difficulties and the development of behaviour adjustment programs aimed at developing a child’s self-control and self-discipline. Referral to the GO can be initiated by parents, teachers or administration and must be approved by the special needs committee. Please contact your child’s classroom teacher should you feel that guidance intervention may be required for your child.

Special Programs

Camps

Year levels 1, 3, 5 and 7 will attend camps/sleepovers. This enables us to offer a venue that will be educationally beneficial to the students and will also prevent students attending the same camp venues more than once during their stay with us.

A two year rotation we hope will maximize student participation which will lead to reduced costs. Parents will be able to have the opportunity to now save for the respective camp their children will be attending. We envisage this will be a big help for parents with more than one child at our school.

The following year levels will attend the following camps.

- Year One – Sleepover at School
- Year 3 – (2days /one night camp)
- Year 5 – (3 days /2nights)
- Year 7 (5 days / 4 nights)

Excursions

All excursions aim to support and extend the experiences of the children within the classroom. No excursion will be undertaken unless due notice has been given to parents and permission for their children to participate sought. All students MUST wear the school dress uniform on excursions as a safety precaution for identification of our students.

Sport

The school operates an inter-school sports program. Sport is a compulsory component of the children's education and as such a note is required for non-participation. It is a premise of the school to involve as many children as possible in as many sports as possible. Children in the senior classes also participate in Gala days. Opportunities to trial for representative teams are provided throughout the year.

Lunchtime Activities

Lunchtime activities are run for students from 1:25pm – 1:55pm. These activities are not compulsory and include: Choir, Chess club, Netball, Soccer, Touch football. These activities change every term.

GCCM Mobile Library

The Gold Coast City Council operates a Mobile Library borrowing system which calls on the school every second school week. This service is available to both children and parents. Please encourage your child to borrow from this fabulous service.
Photographs
Each year we have school photos taken by Advanced Life School Photography. The checked dress shirt is to be worn on photo day.

Communication

Newsletters
An eNewsletter is emailed to parents each week. It contains important information, children’s work and notices in relation to the school. The newsletter can also be accessed on the school website. Please sign the eNewsletter section in the application for enrolment or advise the office if you wish to receive a copy.

Parade
School parades are held each Wednesday morning at 8.55 a.m. Each week one of the classes presents an item, Class awards are presented and news of what is happening in your school is announced. You are more than welcome to attend to celebrate our students’ achievements.

Parent Messages
Urgent messages will be passed on to the children as required. We request that messages be phoned through to the office before 2:30pm as this allows time to find classes that are not in their normal classrooms. No child will be allowed to use the school telephone without permission from the Principal.

Communication Folders
Some of the younger students have communication folders, which is an ideal way to exchange information between yourself and your class teacher.

Interviews with Teachers
Communication between home and school is vital and helps make your child’s education a meaningful experience. Teachers welcome interviews with parents at any time throughout the year, especially if there is a problem. Most situations can be quickly resolved.

Incidents at School
We strive to be consistent in our expectations of students in areas of both behaviour and academia. Should there be an incident of suggested unfair treatment, I request that you make an appointment to discuss the matter in full with your child’s teacher. At that appointment, it is an expectation that parents and staff act in a civil manner towards each other. At no stage should anyone become abusive or confrontational.

Complaints Procedures
We aim to solve any problem speedily and amicably. If a concern relates to a classroom issue, the best procedure is to contact the class teacher and organise a meeting at an agreed time. If an issue is of greater concern feel free to contact the Principal.

Community Focus

Environmental Awareness
At Pimpama State School we are heavily involved in a number of environmental practices such as worm farming, composting, revegetation projects and vegetable gardens. As a school we program annually for environmental units across the school with each class taking responsibility for an area such as water conservation, energy management and recycling.

World Vision Sponsor Child
Pimpama State School sponsors a child through World Vision. Lettie is an 11-year-old girl who lives in Ethiopia. Our sponsorship is wholly funded through the sale of fruit and vegetables from our school gardens and 'Worm Tea' from our worm farms at our Farmer’s Markets each Wednesday morning.

The children at our school are very involved in contributing to the school fruit and vegetable gardens as well as maintaining communication with Lettie in the form of cards, pictures and letters.

Through this project, the children of Pimpama State School are gaining a better understanding of their role as citizens of the world.

Community Activities
There are many and varied activities available to both you and your child within the local and neighbouring communities.

The Police Youth Club at Beenleigh offers many excellent activities for people of all ages. Soccer, cricket, netball, tennis, swimming, nippers, BMX, physical culture, gymnastics, tae-kwon-do, scouts, cubs, brownies, girl guides, arts and crafts are all available within 30 minutes of the school.

School Facilities
The school's facilities are available to groups approved by the Principal.
Parental Involvement

Parent Assistance
Parents are always welcome in classrooms. Some of the ways parents have assisted in the past include:

• book covering
• sports coaching
• reading
• exchanging home readers
• helping in Canteen

As part of our child protection procedures all parents, who work with children, are required to hold a Blue card.

Parents & Citizens Association
This Association meets alternately on the second Monday of each month at 9am or 7:00pm. The P&C at Pimpama is extremely active, providing input to the overall school operations as well as many useful resources for the improved education of the children. Meetings are always friendly and interesting. Parents can:

• Learn about the latest activities of the students
• Keep up-to-date with changes in Education
• Have input into school policy decisions
• Discuss fund-raising ideas.