Parent Information Book

Excellence and Achievement in a Supportive School Environment
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1. CURRICULUM

1.1 INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
Stradbroke School offer the internationally accredited International Baccalaureate Programme. Years 6 and 7 students participate in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme and Reception to Year 5 students use inquiry based learning in the Primary Years Programme.

Year 6 and 7 students study the eight areas of the SA curriculum and Australian National Curriculum and also focus on five Areas of Interaction - Approaches to Learning, Community and Service, Health and Social Education, Environments and Human Ingenuity.

All children have lessons in the 8 required areas of study as per the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework (SACSA) and the Australian Curriculum.

1.2 LEARNING AREAS
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technology including Information and Communication Technology
- The Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Studies of Society and Environment
- Languages – Italian for all children and First Language Maintenance for some children in Italian and Chinese

1.3 ABORIGINAL STUDENT SUPPORT PARENT AWARENESS GROUP
Although only 1% of our enrolment, children of Aboriginal background participate significantly within school programs.

Through our Unit Questions and other school activities, children of non-aboriginal background are becoming more familiar with Aboriginal culture, and particularly with that of the Kaurna people who inhabited the Rostrevor area before white settlement.

The Morialta Conservation Park provides a valuable teaching resource as all children learn from Aboriginal teachers about the life of the Kaurna people.

1.4 CHOIR
For participation in our choir, children are chosen from Year 7 and 6 volunteers early in the year. Children gain many skills in choral singing and give performances in the school and community. The choir joins other schools in a recital in the Festival Theatre late in September each year.

1.5 EARLY ASSISTANCE
Early identification of learning difficulties is a priority in our school. Screening measures and diagnostic assessments are used for identification.
Assistance for children may be provided by the class teacher, School Services Officer, Learning Assistance Program volunteers (LAP) or child’s own family member working on a program in cooperation with the school.

Stradbroke families have access to Intervention strategies such as

- Phonological Awareness screenings
- Oral Language screenings
- Slosson Test for gifted children
- Psychological and Speech Pathology assessments
- Coordination Program
- Support from Behaviour Counsellors
- Assistance from tutors and mentors
- Learning Assistance programs to enhance a child’s self-esteem and confidence
- UniSA research assistance

1.6 ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EALD)
Many children from overseas countries are assisted at our school by a full time English as an Additional Language or Dialect teacher. Children are supported individually or in small groups to communicate effectively in speaking, reading and writing and to develop self-esteem.

1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Stradbroke students are so fortunate to have magnificent school grounds adjacent to Fourth Creek and within walking distance of Morialta Conservation Park. In fact, some of our River Red Gum Trees - Eucalyptus camaldulensis - are part of remnant vegetation, being at least 150 years old.

Such an environment has led to our school being one of the leading Environmental Education schools in South Australia. Environmental studies are integrated across all curriculum areas and age levels so that children have the opportunity to be totally immersed in the programs and to develop skills and positive attitudes for the future.

Central to our programs has been a long time commitment to the rejuvenation of the Fourth Creek surrounds and to the improvement of water quality. Children and staff participate in the reintroduction of indigenous vegetation through seed collection and plant propagation to create a safe corridor for native fauna between the school and the Conservation Park. Koalas are now frequent visitors to our grounds.

In addition, we have extensively planted trees, shrubs and groundcovers within our school grounds with the aim of attracting Australian birds by providing food - or seeds and nectar from flowers - throughout the year.

For consecutive years Stradbroke School has been acknowledged as having the best school grounds in our state and we have won many environmental awards for programs in which children participate. Programs include water quality testing, maintaining a "patch" of plantings along the Creek, recycling and composting, worm farms and a lunch-time weekly Environment Club. Children in the Environment Club recently researched the needs of South Australian butterflies and have created a small garden to re-attract butterflies to our
grounds. Similarly children are researching the occurrence of a small native fish that frequented creek waters.

We are proud of our environment and programs that assist children from so many overseas countries to become familiar with their local environment.

1.8 EXTRA-CURRICULA ACTIVITIES
We offer a wide range of extension and elective programs to foster children's interests, gifts and talents.

Music tuition is available in violin, viola, cello, recorder, trumpet, piano, saxophone and classical guitar.

Other extension electives include
- art classes,
- speech, communication and drama (entry into Eisteddfod),
- gymnastics,
- UNICEF Junior Ambassadors.

Students also have the opportunity to develop leadership skills through being House Captains, by participating in Student Voice Working Parties, by running programs for younger children, through Community Service, and with a Buddy Class.

1.9 GIFTS AND TALENTS OF STUDENTS
At Stradbroke we aim to develop the gifts and talents of each child to lead to success in learning in later life.

Classroom teachers, specialist teachers, support staff and volunteer mentors provide a rich and varied curriculum to assist children to learn to their full potential.

Children with high intellectual potential have the opportunity to be challenged through teachers differentiating the curriculum within classrooms.

Very occasionally we may meet student needs by acceleration in year level or curriculum area.

1.10 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
The school has an instrumental music program which offers instruction in violin, viola, cello and classical guitar from Music branch teachers. Violin, viola and cello are offered to year 3-7 students and classical guitar is offered to year 5-7 students.

When a vacancy occurs, this is advertised in the School Newsletter. Instruments can be hired or purchased from Size Music, 84 Glen Osmond Rd, Parkside (Contact: 8373 3370).

1.11 PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Stradbroke students have the opportunity to participate in quality programs in Sport and Physical activities to prepare them for a healthy, fit lifestyle in the future.
In Physical Education, students have daily fitness lessons and sports skills lessons. In addition to classroom programs, all students have a Physical Education lesson each week with a specialist PE teacher. Experts in various sports from outside sporting organisations regularly visit the school to provide special skills workshops in a wide range of sports.

1.12 SPORT
Year 2-7 children have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of school Sports Teams including netball, cricket, basketball and soccer. Parents provide vital support for these teams as coaches and managers and by providing transport. Practice sessions are held after school and matches are usually played on Saturdays. The number of sports we offer is directly related to the number of coaches available.

Additional skills clinics are also available during and after school.

The Sports Portfolio, made up of teachers and parents representing all sports, coordinates the sporting activities in and out of school hours.

1.13 SPORTS DAYS
Sports Day is held annually at our school. R-2 children enjoy noncompetitive activities in a morning program and 3-7 students participate in tabloid events on a separate day. We emphasise enjoyment, cooperation and teamwork.

Children are placed in House Teams for the duration of their time at school and year 3-7 teams compete for the Sports Day Shield. Children in the same family are placed in the same House Team. A whole school Health Hustle and Cheer Chant in each of the four teams is held on the Sports days and is a highlight of our school year.
2. ROUTINES AND PROCEDURES

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Compulsory attendance begins at six years for all children in this State. Children usually begin school after their fifth birthday.

The Education Act states that children of six years and over are compelled to attend school regularly. Parents are required to write a letter to the teacher or telephone the school stating the reason for a child’s absence. Letters will be sent to parents if a child is absent or late on more than 3 occasions without explanation.

Absence
Please telephone the school between 8.15 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. on 8365 5621 if your child is absent. If children are absent and a message has not been received, a telephone call may be made to check on your child’s whereabouts.

Late
If your child is late, please ask him/her to call in sign at the Student Services Office before going to the classroom.

2.2 APPOINTMENTS

We value communication with parents. Teachers are usually able to talk briefly with parents before and after school on an informal basis.

Where parents have particular concerns to discuss with teachers or the principal please contact the school and arrange appointments. The first contact for parents with concerns is the class teacher. These discussions are welcomed in the best interests of the children.

2.3 BANKING

Banking is available with Bank SA. Bank day is Tuesday. Please make enquiries at the Front Office.

2.4 BICYCLE RACKS

These are provided in the school grounds. Providing a chain and padlock to secure the bicycle is essential.

2.5 DISCIPLINE

Our school community has a behaviour code that clearly states the behaviour expected of all. Stradbroke children are encouraged to display the characteristics of the IB Learner Profile such as cooperation, persistence, respect, tolerance and consideration at all times. Our cultural diversity, underpinned by our values and an effective Behaviour Management Policy, make for a happy, harmonious and supportive learning environment.

For students who experience behaviour difficulties there are firm, clear and fair guidelines and consequences.

We have clear policies for the prevention of bullying and harassment.
We appreciate the support we receive from families in supporting our school discipline policy, and keep parents informed wherever necessary.

2.6 ENROLMENT OF FIVE YEAR OLDS - RECEPTION INTAKES

Children begin Reception at the beginning of each year.

Children who turn 5 on or before 30 April begin school at the beginning of the year that they turn 5. Families with children whose birthdays are in February, March & April may choose to wait until the following year before beginning school.

Children who turn 5 on or after 1 May will begin school at the beginning of the following year. For further information: http://earlyyears.sa.edu.au/

2.7 EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS

Excursions are organised at appropriate times to develop further the classroom program.

The value and costs of excursions are carefully considered and information on these is sent home with consent forms for parents' signatures prior to the excursions.

The number of excursions per class per year is taken into account so that all children participate in this valuable part of our educational program.

2.8 HOMEWORK

The following is a guide to the average amounts of homework that might be expected at each year level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
<th>LENGTH OF TIME</th>
<th>TIMES PER WEEK</th>
<th>TOTAL FOR WEEK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>10 minutes - Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>10 minutes - Reading + Sight Word List or Spelling List</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>10 minutes - Reading + Spelling List</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homework should be a fun learning time and not take more than ten minutes. It encourages good work and study habits for the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3/4</th>
<th>LENGTH OF TIME</th>
<th>TIMES PER WEEK</th>
<th>TOTAL FOR WEEK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>120 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6/7</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>180 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homework may be set over a period of time to take account of students' other commitments, sports practices, music lessons, etc.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

Parents should check diaries to determine what the child’s homework is.

We recommend that children work in a suitable homework environment without distractions.

A written or verbal reason from the parent is acceptable for non-completion of homework.

2.9 LOST PROPERTY

Please name all items of clothing, lunch box, drink bottle and school bag.
The lost property is kept in Leabrook Building. For jewellery and other valuables contact the office. All unclaimed items are given to charity at the end of each term. Please make sure all clothing is clearly labelled.

2.10 MONEY
If children are making payment, please place money for excursions etc. in a sealed envelope with name, room number, reason and amount enclosed clearly marked on the front. All money is to be paid directly through the cash register at the Cashier’s Office window in Leabrook building. EFTPOS facilities are available at the Front Office.

2.11 MONEY AND VALUABLES
Please do not allow your child to bring unnecessary amounts of money to school or valued or valuable articles to school. Classroom teachers care for essential monies but cannot be responsible for losses by children. If an item is brought to school, it is with the understanding that parents take responsibility for any loss or damage.

2.12 NEWSLETTERS AND NOTICES
The notices and newsletters are an important means of communication. Spare copies are kept in the front office.

2.13 SCHOOL HOURS
8.30 a.m. Staff member on duty. We ask that children arrive at school between 8.30 a.m. and 8.45 a.m. Care is provided in the Out of School Hours Care Program from 7.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. if required.
8.45 a.m. Music commences and this is the signal for children to move to their classrooms ready to commence school at 8.50 a.m.
8.50 a.m. Home Group
9.20 a.m. Lessons begin
11.00 a.m. Morning recess.
11.20 a.m. Lessons resume.
12.50 p.m. Lunch. Children eat in classrooms with their teacher.
1.00 p.m. Lunch Play period begins.
1.40 p.m. Lessons resume.
3.10 p.m. Home time. Staff are on duty in the main yard areas and at the school crossing until 3.30 p.m.

Children must play on the asphalt areas before school as playground equipment is out of bounds. After school, the yard area by Leabrook Building is for children in Kids’ Zone only. Parents/Caregivers may supervise their children on the playground equipment.

We expect the yard to be clear by 3.30 p.m. except for children in Out of School Hours Care or at sport practice.
2.14 SCHOOL RECORDS
If you change your address, your telephone number or there are any changes in emergency contact information, please notify the Front Office staff immediately to ensure that our records are kept up to date.

2.15 SCHOOL UNIFORM
Stradbroke students wear school uniform of plain pale blue and dark blue clothing.

We remind parents/caregivers and students that by choosing Stradbroke School they undertake to support the school in the expectation that all students will wear the correct dress code. Wearing of our school uniform encourages pride and a sense of belonging for our children. Our Uniform Shop stocks affordable mix and match clothing for years R to 7, or similar items can be purchased from local retailers. The wearing of hats is compulsory in Terms 1 and 4.

The Uniform Shop is open every Wednesday and Friday and on the first day of each term from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Uniform Management Services shop at Rundle Street, Kent Town stocks our uniform and is open 9 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday.

2.16 SCHOOL FEES AND BOOKS (MATERIAL AND SERVICES CHARGE)
The Governing Council sets the school charges that, together with government grants and fund raising, cover the provision of quality education at Stradbroke.

These charges cover consumable stationery, books, resources and equipment (including computers) in the eight areas of the curriculum.

In addition, the charges contribute to the maintenance of the grounds and playground equipment and to the improvement of all facilities and equipment.

Our charges include an excursion or in school production levy.

We also provide the opportunity for parents to gain the benefit of a tax deduction through the Library Fund. The Library Fund is not just for library resources but covers a large part of the purchase and replacement of teaching and learning resources throughout our schools.

There is also a tax deductible Building Fund to assist school facilities improvements.

Your payment of all components of the charges is vital to maintaining quality Stradbroke programs.

2.17 SCHOOL CARD SCHEME
Families in financial difficulty or on a low income may apply for assistance with school fees through the School Card Scheme operated by the State Government. Eligibility criteria and procedures tend to vary from year to year. This information is provided to all families with the school fee invoice/information at the beginning of each year or when a child starts school. As there is a cut-off date for applications, it is important to register for assistance as soon as possible.
Parents will be asked to pay the difference between any support received from this scheme and our school fee.

2.18 SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS
Photographs are taken of class groups and individuals at the end of Term 1 and in Term 4 for new reception children.

2.19 WEATHER POLICY
Hot
All areas of the school are air-conditioned and children remain at school for the full day. When the estimated temperature is 38 degrees and over, children do not play in the open and are instructed to stay in the shade. The Resource Centre is open to children at recess time and the whole of lunchtime with staff supervision.

On days of extreme weather conditions children remain in classrooms with staff sharing supervision in pairs.

When the predicted maximum is 35 degrees and over, fitness lessons are held before 10:00 a.m. All after school sports practices are automatically cancelled.

Wet
When it is wet before school, the bell rings at 8.30am to enable children to move to classroom areas. At recess or lunchtime children remain in, or return to classrooms when it rains.
3. PARENT INFORMATION

3.1 ASSESSMENT
Teachers at all year levels regularly assess children's progress in all 8 areas of the curriculum. Assessment can be in the form of tests, analysis of student written work, projects and products completed for units of work, presentations by the students orally or using multi-media to name a few.

3.1.1 COORDINATION ASSESSMENT
Five year olds participate in a coordination assessment of their gross motor skills in their fifth week at school. Such skills as balancing, hopping, jumping and ball skills are assessed. Children who are identified as benefiting from practice in these skills attend 3 sessions a week, similar to Kindergym.

3.1.2 LITERACY ASSESSMENT
Teachers at all year levels R-7 collect data twice a year about each student's ability in spelling and reading levels. This information is recorded in a Literacy Record folder that tracks a child's progress throughout their 8 years of primary schooling at Stradbroke. This is in addition to regular tests conducted by teachers throughout the year.

3.1.3 SCHOOL ENTRY ASSESSMENT
Teachers of five year old children record the child's knowledge and skills in literacy and numeracy when the child has been at school for approximately 8 weeks. This information provides baseline data to monitor a child's progress and to inform the teachers' planning for each child.

3.1.4 STATE AND NATIONAL TESTS
Students in Year 3, 5 and 7 participate annually in the NAPLAN Testing program in Literacy and Numeracy. Detailed individual and school results enable students, teachers and parents to ascertain areas of strength and those in need of improvement.

Stradbroke students also have the option of sitting for ICAS tests in English - writing and spelling, Computing, Italian, Maths and Science.

3.2 REPORTING TO PARENTS
Parents / Caregivers are kept well informed of student progress throughout the year as in the following schedule.

INTERVIEWS AND REPORTS
Term 1
Week 10   Year R-7 three way parent-teacher-student conversations.
Term 2
Week 10   Children bring home a mid-year report.
Term 3
Week 9    Open Night
Term 4
Week 10   Children bring home an End of Year Report.
3 way parent-teacher-student conversations are held at the end of Term 1. The purpose of these interviews is to discuss your child’s progress, successes and areas for growth.

Communication between home and school is also maintained through student diaries or communication books and personal phone calls.

Interview opportunities via appointments are available at any time, initiated either by parents or teachers.

Student portfolios are sent home by all teachers throughout the year.

3.3 PARENT PARTICIPATION
At Stradbroke School we believe in, and promote home and school partnerships that maximise learning outcomes for children. We also value the skills, talents and energy that parents or caregivers bring to our school.

We invite parents and community members to participate in the school in a variety of ways and options include assisting in the following areas:

- Discussion groups and workshops on educational issues
- Governing Council and Portfolios
- Parent Network – a Stradbroke parent support group.
- Parent Class Representative
- Resource Centre
- Canteen
- Sports coach or team manager
- Working bees and grounds development projects
- Classroom support
- Sharing talents and skills by working with a small group e.g. in recorder, cooking, electronics, painting etc.
- Assisting with support programs such as motor-coordination, reading, the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) and as mentors for children.

Please speak to either the classroom teacher or the Principals if you would like further information.

3.4 GOVERNING COUNCIL
The primary goals of the Governing Council are to ensure effective planning, policy formation and decision making to support the provision of quality care and education in our school.

The Governing Council and leadership of the school work in partnership to support the learning needs of our students.

Governing Council is accountable to the Minister of Education for developing, negotiating and meeting the objectives and targets of the Schools’ Strategic Plan:-

- Strategic planning and the allocation of resources and finances
- Monitoring key indicators and levels of client satisfaction
- Reporting to the department and the community
- Consulting with the community.
The Council is responsible for local policy development within broad frameworks in curriculum and program initiatives, participation in the appointment of key leadership positions, and in having responsibility for staff employed by the Governing Council.

Governing Council comprises a maximum of seventeen parents and staff who are elected for two years, one half of the members retiring each year.

Council is supported by Portfolios that are open for wider parent participation. Portfolios include Finance and Resource Management, Facilities, Fundraising and Social, Sport, Out of School Hours Care, Canteen and Uniform. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend Council meetings that are held monthly in the staff room at 7.00pm. Dates are advertised in the School Newsletter.

3.5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL
The Annual General Meeting of parents is held in February and advertised in the school Newsletter. The purpose of this important meeting is to:

- Receive and discuss reports from the Principals, Chairperson of the Governing Council and the Governing Council Portfolios.
- Receive audited statements of income and expenditure from the School Consolidated account, Canteen and OSHC/VacCare.
- Elect members to the Governing Council, to enable parents to have a voice in school operations and curriculum.

3.6 ACQUAINTANCE EVENING
Early in Term 1, parents are invited to an Acquaintance Evening. The main purpose of this evening is for parents to meet class teachers, to meet other parents and to gain information about policy and class programs for the year.

3.7 OPEN NIGHT
This is held in September and is an opportunity for you, your friends and prospective Stradbroke parents to visit and look at educational programs across the whole school. Watch out for details in the school Newsletter Diary Dates.

3.8 PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES
Should parents/caregivers have a concern we’d rather hear about it than not. In this way a positive outcome can occur for all.
In the first instance please speak with the teacher concerned. Making an appointment is important.
Secondly, an appointment can be made to speak with a Principal. Regional Directors of Education are also available to assist.
4. FACILITIES
Stradbroke students benefit from quality facilities and services that we consistently upgrade and maintain.

4.1 CANTEEN
The school canteen offers healthy food at reasonable prices.

The canteen relies heavily on volunteer help. Please phone the canteen manager between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on any day via the school phone number, should you be able to assist.

4.2 COMPUTERS and MULTI-MEDIA
We have a ratio of one computer to five students, with computers in each classroom as well as a computer room with a data show projector where a whole class can work at the same time. Digital cameras, video camera, scanner, musical keyboard and multi-media software allow students to present their work in many formats.
All classrooms have access to interactive whiteboards.

4.3 HEALTH CENTRE
Our Health Centre offers best practice in care to children who are unwell or injured throughout the day. A School Services Officer is on duty during school hours. We contact a parent / caregiver as soon as possible, as the best place for a sick child is at home.

4.4 MUSIC SUITE & LEABROOK ACTIVITY ROOM
The use of these double classrooms as a Music Suite supports our priority in the Arts, Speech and Drama, Instrumental Music and Choir.

4.5 RESOURCE CENTRE
Stradbroke has an outstanding, well equipped Resource Centre that is large, open and easily accessible. Our computerised Resource Centre services all children from Reception to Year 7 and parents are welcome to borrow from our wide range of resources.

The teacher-librarians teach specific research skills and encourage children’s interest in reading for pleasure and information.

Computers are also available to access information.

4.6 SCHOOL HALL AND GYMNASIUM
Our school hall is well equipped with gymnastics equipment and is frequently used by classes for indoor physical education activities, assemblies and concerts.
5. SERVICES

5.1 DENTAL CLINIC
The School Dental Service provides general dental care through the clinic. Care is free of charge for primary age children. Emphasis is placed on the prevention of dental disease through treatment procedures and advice on diet and methods of cleaning the teeth. Further information can be obtained by ringing the clinic.

Campbelltown Dental Clinic
Foster Avenue
PARADISE SA 5076
Phone: 8336 4319

5.2 OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE
Our excellent Out of School Hours care program provides quality care from 7.00 am - 8.30 am and from 3.10 pm - 6.15 pm every day during the term, including on school closure days for staff training and development. An exciting Vacation Care program operates from 7.00 am - 6.15 pm for most of the school holidays. For more details call our Director on 83655677.

Location: Leabrook Building downstairs
Hours: 7.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m.
       3.10 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.
Accounts are payable weekly and are collected from the pinboard in the Kids' Zone area. Permanent, casual and emergency care is available.

The Director can be contacted between 7.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. each weekday or you can leave a message on the answering machine.

Vacation Care Program
The Vacation Care program is open from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. during January, April, July and September/October. We offer a variety of school activities and excursions such as ice skating, ten pin bowling, swimming, movies and live theatre performances. Contact the Director as above for details.

5.3 SCHOOL Pastoral CARE WORKER
We are fortunate that financial support from local churches enables Stradbroke children to benefit from the services of a part-time pastoral care worker. The pastoral care worker supports individual children and families and coordinates programs including Breakfast Program and some lunch time activities.