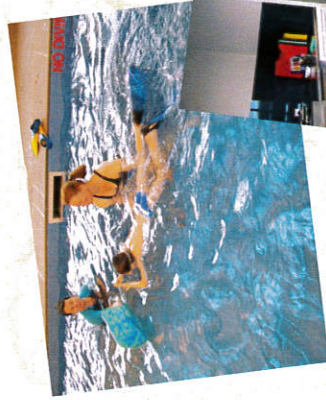


Introduction

South Gippsland Specialist School is located on the Leongatha Educational Precinct. The school community is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities for students aged between 6 and 18 years of age who have been diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability so that they become empowered members of their community.

S.G.S.S. operate within a strong framework of values and behaviours based on Respect, Learning, Safety, Teamwork and Social Justice.

Our school was purpose built to accommodate a variety of different needs. It has some fantastic resources for teaching and learning, some of which include a hydrotherapy pool, multipurpose hall, extensive fruit and vegetable gardens, chicken coop, multimedia room, generous sized classrooms and a café style kitchen that opens up to an outdoor alfresco setting.



Staff

Student to staff ratios are kept small to support individual student learning needs. Every classroom has a minimum of one teacher and one education support worker. Where possible, our school employs teaching staff who have completed or are studying their special education qualification and our education support staff have completed or are undertaking disability studies. Specialist services that are implemented into the student's programs include speech, Occupational therapy and physiotherapy. These specialist services work closely with our teaching staff to support students individual education programs ensuring that realistic and achievable goals are set and consistent strategies are developed, implemented and reviewed to allow students the opportunity to experience success.



Senior VCAL Program

The school runs the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) at foundation level, over three years and has an extensive work experience program for senior students. Where possible, students are encouraged to gain a School Based Apprenticeship. GippsTAFE and Community Centre Gippsland are within walking distance from the school allowing students to access a range of Vocational Training opportunities.

Community Engagement

South Gippsland Specialist School fosters the involvement of the wider school community in its programs and activities. We value the partnerships between home and school and work intensively with our students to assist them in understanding their role as community members.



Volunteers can enrich the learning experiences of students and make a difference to the school community. We welcome enthusiastic persons interested in this role.

Student Welfare

Ensuring your child is happy and safe at school is important. The South Gippsland Specialist School community is committed to providing a safe, caring and positive environment where student and parent concerns are listened to, discussed and followed up.

We believe strongly in the teaching of social skills to establish, maintain and develop positive social relationships. We aim to teach children to manage interpersonal skills, to contribute collaboratively and constructively to peers, family, school and the community.



Curriculum

Our school provides a broad curriculum that is designed to foster opportunities for students to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. Student progress is assessed using the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and pre V.E.L.S. using the ABLES framework designed for reporting progress of students with additional learning needs.

Our dedicated staff adopt a flexible approach to teaching and learning bringing with them a variety of skills, interests and experiences to enhance programs. There is a strong commitment to the development of the whole child and we are sensitive to individual student abilities and circumstances. Our supportive environment encourages students to be enthusiastic learners. Our broad curriculum aims to encourage our students to function independently and cooperatively within the school and local community maximising potential in all areas of development.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a broad range of programs that allow them to have an enriched experience throughout their years at our school.

Some of these programs include Literacy, Numeracy, Communication, Art, Science, P.E., Sport, Swimming, Music, ICT, Kitchen Garden, Life Skills, Sensory, Community Access and Work Experience.





School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program

At South Gippsland Specialist School, the whole school community supports the use of positive behaviour support strategies to teach our students how to act in an appropriate manner.

Positive Behaviour Support is a term encompassing strategies and methods that aim to increase quality of life through the teaching of new skills and adjusting the environment to promote positive behaviour changes and reduce challenging behaviour.

The Code of Conduct for students is consistent with Department of Education and Early Childhood guidelines and regulations and is based on the principles of:

Everyone has the right to learn
Everyone has the right to be safe
Everyone has the right to be respected by being friendly

The Principal and staff have the responsibility to implement the Code of Conduct fairly and consistently.

Parents and guardians have the responsibility to support the school in its efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment.

The students have the responsibility to work, learn and play to the best of their ability and to be polite, fair and friendly.



Transition

Transitioning in and out of school can be difficult time for students and their families. We aim to make the process a smooth and positive one for all by implementing orientation, liaising with relevant professionals, schools and agencies and providing transition plans.

Transport

The student transport division of DEECD provides buses and taxis to students who meet the eligibility criteria for transport. The designated transport area is within the South Gippsland Shire. Currently, we have buses and taxis running from Welshpool, Nyora, Mirboo North and Pound Creek. Where possible, parents are asked to meet at designated stops to catch the transport. Students living within 4.8 km of the school are encouraged to make their own way to school.

Please check with the Principal to determine if your child is able to access the current transport system.

Students are encouraged to reach their full potential in a safe learning environment that fosters positive community relationships. We pride ourselves on providing a caring, stimulating environment for all students and welcome you to visit our school at any time.



Please call 03) 56624496 during office hours to arrange a tour of the school.



**SOUTH GIPPSLAND
SPECIALIST SCHOOL**
Together we Grow

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