

2026

Parent Handbook

DISCOVER \ LEARN / GROW



Wandering
PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Committed to individual student
'learning and success'*

Positive Behaviour School
Achievement Integrity Care Respect



www.wanderingps.wa.edu.au

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Principal: Merrill Ridgley
MCS: Kathy Green

Our Values:

Achievement

A thing done successfully with effort, skill or courage.



Respect

Look after the feelings and rights of others.



Integrity

Be honest and do what is right.



Care

Look after others and our environment.



Our Intentions

Quality teaching occurring and individual differences catered for.

Learning environments that are supportive, orderly and stimulating.

Strong relationships between school, home and the wider community.



Our Story

Wandering Primary School has a friendly energy. The caring and nurturing school community supports the students to discover, learn and grow. Our school is placed in a natural bushland setting that the community, school and students cherish and embrace.

The school is the strong, resilient heart of the wider community. The green hills of bushland area circle the school as the wider community surrounds and supports the school, enabling it to stay strong.

From this strong base of community and school support, students thrive and flourish as they prepare for their journey through life.

Our school colours represent all that we stand for. The dark blue represents strength, stability and professionalism. The bright green represents the vibrancy and positive energy that flows in and around the school from the community and environment. The grey represents quiet confidence and reliability of the school. The teal green represents the students that are engaged and inspired to learn.

***Wandering Primary is a small school
within a community with a big heart.***

The Department of Education of Western Australia currently operates a four term academic year.

Terms 1 & 2 constitute Semester 1

Terms 3 & 4 constitute Semester 2

TERM DATES 2026

Term 1

Admin Staff

Teachers

Students

Tuesday 27 January

Thursday 29 January

Monday 2 February – Thursday 2 April

Term 2

Teachers

Students

Monday 20 April

Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July

Term 3

Teachers

Students

Monday 20 July

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4

Teachers

Students

Monday 12 October – Friday, 19 December

Monday 12 October – Thursday 19 December

School Development Days

In 2026 primary schools will have six school development days as follows:

Day 1 Term 1 Thursday 29 January

Day 2 Term 1 Friday 30 January

Day 3 Term 1 Tuesday 3 March

Day 4 Term 2 Friday 29 May

Day 5 Term 4 Friday 6 November

Day 6 Term 4 Friday 18 December

School Times

School Commences 8:45am

Recess 10:45- 11:05am

Lunch 1:05 – 1:35pm

School Concludes 3pm Mon-Wed & Friday

Early Close Thursdays @ 2:30pm



Principal's Welcome

Welcome to our school. I am privileged to be the Principal of Wandering Primary School. Our small and nurturing environment will be supportive and caring for your child's educational, social and emotional needs.

Our school community work together to ensure that the children who attend our school are engaged and excited by learning. This is achieved by our high quality professional staff who insure your child's educational needs are met in a stimulating, orderly environment.

Wandering Primary School is a caring, friendly and positive school. Our staff are committed to individual student learning and success. Our environment is orderly, cooperative and engaging. Every student at Wandering Primary School is given the opportunity to learn and the support to achieve.

Our vision is that every student finds a lifelong love of learning and enhancing the health and wellbeing of the students.

Our aim is that every teacher implements a quality teaching and learning program that caters for individual education needs and differences of every student.

Our Distinctive School

Small School

Personal attention
Close relationships
Teach at point of need
Learning individualized

High Levels of Pastoral Care

Positive behaviour support
Individual care
Family relationships
Cater to individual needs

High Standards

Positive behaviour
Strong values
Academic rigor
Extra-curriculum opportunities

Experienced Staff

Permanent and committed
Compassion and collaborative
Professional
Research based

Natural Environment

Nature play
Vegetable garden
Fruit trees
Natural bushland
Environmental concern



Communication

Here at Wandering PS we use three forms of communication;

- Compass
 - On Compass you can receive whole school or class notifications, class events, classroom learning activities, notification from individual teachers, attendance records.
- Conversation
 - The best way to find out about your child's education is to talk to their teacher. Wandering PS has an open door policy. That means our door is open any time you wish to have a discussion.
- Notes home
 - Any paperwork that requires a parent signature and money, like excursion permission forms, will be sent home with the student. A copy is always available at the front office.

Enrolments

Enrolment forms are to be completed for each child. Please bring Birth Certificate and Immunisation Records when enrolling your child. The Education and Health Department require immunisation to be **completed** for entry into school and a photocopy of **your child's Immunisation Statement that is not more than 2 months old** is required. The phone No:1800 653 809 for ACIR if you don't have a current copy or log into your Medicare online account.

It is also desirable for the teachers to view any samples you may have of your child's work.

Please notify the school promptly whenever any enrolment information (address, telephone number, medical information etc...) needs updating.

Contributions and Charges

In consultation with the School Council the school has detailed its requests for contributions and charges. This information is provided to all families prior to the commencement of the school year or on enrolment. A contribution of \$60 plus a library charge of \$10 is requested. Parents experiencing financial hardship are asked to contact the office to set up a suitable payment plan. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or internet payment into the school bank account.

The school bank details are BSB: 066 522 and ACC: 0090 1583. Please put your child's name for the reference.

Personal Items List

Personal Items lists (Booklists) are provided to parents upon enrolment and in Term 4 each year. All items are requested to be purchased by parents prior to the commencement of the school year.

Please label all your child's belongings.



Attendance

All students are required to attend school.

Students need to attend school on a regular basis to gain maximum benefit from school to optimise their life opportunities and develop a positive attitude towards life-long learning.

Absences:

By law, the only acceptable reasons for absence from school are illness and medical or dental appointments which cannot be arranged outside of school hours.

For this reason, an explanatory note, SMS or phone call must be provided for all absences.

Our school employs an automated text messaging system for notifying families of student absence. In the event of an unexplained student absence, a text message to the family contact will be sent out at 10.30am. At any time, families may respond via text or phone to ***inform the school of the reason for a student's absence and when they will return to school.*** This message is then recorded into Lesson Attendance.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students attend school Monday, Tuesday and Thursday on odd weeks (ie week 1) and Monday and Tuesday on even weeks (ie week 2). Kindergarten students are in a class with Pre-Primary – Year 2 students who attend 5 days a week.

School Council

Members of the School Council are elected after nominations from within the community and teaching staff. Amongst its roles, the Council is responsible for overseeing the school Improvement, budget and financial contribution.

The School Council also plays a role in representing parents on issues relating to school priorities, policies and directions. Parents are encouraged to come to Council meetings or seek representation through their parent representative with any issue of concern or interest.

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to assist wherever they feel they could be of benefit to the students. This could include, but is not limited to:

- Assisting at sporting events
- Helping in classrooms

If you feel that you have a skill that would benefit the education of our students, we would like to hear from you. If you have the expertise and the time to share it please contact the Principal, or your child's teacher. Parental involvement is always welcome in our school.

P&C Association

P&C meetings are held each term. All parents, staff and community members are welcome to attend. At these meetings a variety of information is provided and discussed. The P&C is actively involved in the raising of funds for the purchase of resources and to enhance teaching and learning programs as well as improve school facilities.



Picking up your child

Please contact the school office or teacher if you have requested someone other than the parent to pick your child up from school. Early notification is appreciated if possible. If you are running late please notify the school and we will have your child wait at the office. If you need to pick up your child early, please sign them out at the office before going to the classroom.

Visitors to the School

For the safety of our students please note that no unidentified or unauthorised persons are permitted on the school grounds.

All visitors to the school are therefore required to report to the front office to sign in and must sign out on leaving.

Parents collecting their children prior to the finish of the school day are asked to first come to the front office in order to minimise interruptions to the teaching program. A staff member will then collect your child from his or her classroom.

Wandering PS Dress Code

Dress codes for students in public schools are determined by school council in consultation with students, their parents and staff of the school.

Dress codes are tangible evidence of the standards expected of students and play an important role in promoting positive images of the school. Dress codes can help create a sense of identity and a school culture in which every student experiences a sense of belonging.

Wandering Dress Code

- Shirt: Emerald polo shirt with navy insert and collar.
- Jacket: Navy with emerald inserts and trims.
- Jumper/Zip Jacket: Navy.
- Pants/shorts/skirts/skorts: Navy.
- School Dress: checked navy with emerald piping.
- Stockings, leggings or tights to be worn under a skirt, dress or shorts: Navy.
- Hat: SunSmart wide brim navy school hat (No caps).
- Beanie: plain navy blue.
- Scarf: navy blue or teal.
- Headwear: plain headband of navy blue or teal colour.
- Leaver's shirt - can be worn as part of the school uniform on any day except when instructed by the Principal.

General uniform requirements:

- **Footwear:** Sports shoes, flat-soled shoes or sandals. No thongs, crocs (or similar style) or steel cap boots. Sports shoes with socks are to be worn on sports days. Gumboots can be worn on wet days only.
- **Sunglasses:** These may be worn for sun protection. It is recommended that glasses be Cancer Council approved not bright coloured glasses or toy glasses.
- **Make-up:** No make-up shall be worn, e.g. nail polish, facial make-up, temporary tattoos, etc.
- **Jewellery:** No jewellery except for watches, for cultural reasons, plain small sleepers and stud earrings.
- **Headwear:** No head bands, hats or beanie that have ribbons, flowers or accessories that are not school uniform.
- **No Advertising:** on school clothing. This includes logos or brand names.
- **Hair:** Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied up during the school day.

Lost Clothing

To assist in minimising the inconvenience that results from clothing being lost, we ask that all personal items brought to school be clearly labelled with the child's name. It is the student's responsibility to look after their own property.

SunSmart

Wandering PS is a SunSmart school. Students who are outside during play or class time must wear a SunSmart approved hat (Bucket or Legionnaires). Parents are requested to apply sunscreen to their child every morning before school with a SPF 50 or SPF50+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen. Students are required to bring sunscreen with them on all excursions, incursions, sporting events, and swimming activities. It is the responsibility of the student to put on their sunscreen at regular intervals. Staff cannot apply sunscreen to students. Students need to bring a bottle of water each day to school to keep hydrated.

Reporting to Parents

Parent Interviews

All teaching staff offer parents the opportunity to come into the school to discuss their child's progress throughout the year. Interviews are organised at the beginning of each year and parents or teachers can also arrange to meet at any other suitable time during the year if a need arises, especially after receiving end of semester reports.

Formal Reports

At the end of Semesters 1 and 2 the students will take home a summative report. The report format is standardised for all government schools.

Parent and Teacher Meetings

Towards the end of term 1 and term 3 a meeting will be offered to parents to discuss their child's progress.

Other forms of reporting to parents

Apart from formal reports and interviews, the school also organises open classroom events at the end of each term, a parent fun day, assemblies and a presentation night all of which offer parents the opportunities to see the progress their child/children has made. This will depend on COVID restrictions.

Behaviour Management

Wandering PS is a Positive Behaviour Support School (PBS). We affirm a strong school culture wherein staff and students respect, share and care for each other and work together. Development of student self-esteem and confidence will also reinforce respect and counter any negative behaviour that may arise. The development of appropriate and acceptable behaviour is a staff, parent and student concern. Its success is based upon the recognition of the dignity and worth of all individuals.

Wandering School Expectations:

- Treat people and their culture with respect and courtesy
- Treat our environment with respect
- Respect the rule of our school and the staff that implement them
- Care for each other and make everyone feel safe and valued
- Strive to do our best



Playground Information

Teachers are not on duty before 8.30am. Students who arrive at school before this time cannot be supervised and must remain seated on the office verandah. ***Parents are asked to ensure that their children do not arrive earlier than 8.30am.***

Teachers supervise playing areas during all recess and lunch periods but, in the interests of safety, children are not able to use school equipment before or after school without supervision.

Whole School Assemblies

Whole school assemblies are held towards the end of each term. Students show work or give a small performance. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend the assemblies.

Mini assemblies are held fortnightly. They are run by the students and are an important way to give children experience and confidence in public speaking. Presented at the mini assemblies are the Positive Behaviour (FAZZ) Award. There may also be a special mention of an achievement a child has received. This is also the time when the Principal will give praise to the students or a reminder of the school Code of Conduct.

Library

All students will be notified at the beginning of each year which day is their library book changing day. All students must have a library bag to protect the books they are borrowing.

Swimming Lessons

In-Term swimming lessons run over a two-week period are held in term 1, weeks 2 and 3 at Pingelly Swimming Pool.

There is no cost for the lessons however parents may be required to pay for their child's entry to the pool and transport.

Sporting Carnivals

Sport is an important way of developing a spirit of co-operation, participation and friendly competition. Sporting Carnivals provide a valuable opportunity for the students to interact socially with a wider group of people. We participate with Boddington District High School for their Swimming Carnival and Athletics Carnival.

School Bus

School Bus Services (SBS) organize transport for students living 5km away from school grounds. The application for transport is on line. The school is serviced by a school bus company with their own driver. Parents are asked to notify the bus driver in writing or by telephone if their child/children will not be travelling to and/or from school by bus on a particular day.



All queries on matters related to the school buses can be directed to the bus contractor Regional Transit. The bus driver is Lee Muller who can be contacted on 0429 390 626.

School Psychologist

The Psychologist may be called for advice on any child experiencing difficulty adjusting to aspects of school with parents' permission. Teachers may decide that a referral is warranted to gain additional information about the child and for assistance in recommending ways of helping him/her in the classroom situation.

Children referred could include:

- Those experiencing learning difficulties
- Those experiencing emotional difficulties
- Those having low motivation or who are disruptive

Parental approval is always sought when a referral is contemplated, and parents have the final say as to whether or not their child uses this service.

Community Health Nurse

The school has the services of a trained nurse to meet the needs of the children. The Community Health Nurse will carry out checks and reviews where required, or upon teacher referral.

The nurse has two main areas of responsibility:

1. To act as a resource person to the teaching staff to promote health
2. To carry out routine health screening as follows:
 - Kindergarten: Full Health Appraisal. Vision and Hearing.
 - Pre Primary/Yr 1 Full Health Appraisal (if not previously done) and Vision and Hearing.

Sick Children

If your child is sick, they **MUST** stay home. We do not have facilities at school for children who are taken ill during the day. Parents will therefore be contacted when their child becomes ill to come and pick them up.

It is important that parents provide a current contact and emergency phone number for our school records.

Allergies

It is important that we know if your child has an allergy to specific foods/drinks so we can formulate an emergency action plan. Similarly, if your child reacts to bites or stings, especially bee stings, we need to know so we can establish a management process and administer the correct first aid treatment.

Please talk to the Manager Corporate Services about the allergies, illnesses or any medical condition your child may have, as there are several forms to be completed which will be kept on the student's personal file.

If medication is required to be taken by your child on a short or long term basis forms must be completed at the office and the medication is to be stored there also.

Infectious Diseases

Measles:

Exclude child from school. Re-admit on medical certificate of recovery, or 4 days from appearance of rash if well.

Un-immunised contacts should be excluded for 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case identified in the school, unless contact was immunised within 72 hours of first exposure.

Mumps:

Exclude for 2 weeks from onset of illness or for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment.

Exclude family contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection, or until they have received 5 days of a 14 day course of antibiotics.

Chicken Pox:

Exclude from school until child has fully recovered and scabs fallen off **or** only a few dry scabs remain, **or** on presentation of medical certificate that states that the child is no longer infectious.

Scarlet Fever:

Exclude child from school until the person has received antibiotic treatment or on medical certificate of recovery.

Infectious Hepatitis:

Exclude child from school until medical certificate of recovery has been received.

Impetigo: (school sores)

Exclude from school for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment commenced. Lesions on exposed skin surfaces should be covered with a waterproof dressing.

Ringworm:

Exclude child from school. Re-admit on medical certificate of recovery or the day following the commencement of **medical** treatment and covering of site.

Conjunctivitis:

Exclude from school until medical treatment has been commenced and discharge from eyes has ceased.

Pediculosis: (nits or eggs of head louse)

This is a recurring and common problem to which no stigma should be attached. It is best tackled at the home level and a pamphlet is available through the school to assist in this. It is up to parents to check frequently, perhaps at the weekend so treatment can be administered if necessary and the child return to the school without interruption after the weekend.

Best preventative measure is to brush hair twice daily with a clean, firm brush and inspection of hair once a week by parent. Application of conditioner is considered the most successful and appropriate treatment.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Exclude until all blisters have crusted and are dry.





Wandering School Song

(In the Shade of the Wandoo Tree)



In our little Wheatbelt town
Where the phascogale roam free
A lovely school lies nestled there
In the shade of the Wandoo Tree

Wandering * * * Primary * * *
a place for you and me * * *
Wandering * * * Primary * * *
In the shade of the Wandoo Tree * * *

Since 1924
When our school came to be
Cold temperatures and warm hearts
Make our community

Our school, our friends are in our hearts
Where we go
Determined to work hard
Discover, learn and grow

Wandering * * * Primary * * *
a place for you and me * * *
Wandering * * * Primary * * *
In the shade of the Wandoo Tree * * *

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