



Avoca State School

Prospectus

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Great state. Great opportunity.



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WELCOME TO AVOCA STATE SCHOOL

On behalf of all staff, I would like to welcome you to Avoca State School. We are confident that your child will quickly settle into our school routines and enjoy being a student at this school. We are proud of our school and what it has to offer to students, parents/carers and staff.

Our differentiated approach to teaching, the dedication of our staff, the programs we offer for students with special needs and abilities, and our strong focus on learning technology are key reasons why Avoca is able to offer a quality education to all students.

At Avoca, we believe that the partnership between the school and parents is important in the effective education of students. I urge you to carefully read the information in this handbook and to fully involve yourself in school activities. Your interest and cooperation will be greatly valued and, together, we can work to provide the best educational opportunities for your child.

Michael Kiss

Principal



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

At Avoca, our clear purpose is to achieve excellence in the educational opportunities we provide to children. This requires the provision of a happy, safe, non-coercive learning environment characterized by positive relationships, challenging and relevant curriculum, and quality teaching that meets the needs of each child. Such a learning environment will help ensure that children reach their full potential and develop a love of lifelong learning that effectively prepares them for our ever-changing society.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

To achieve this goal we believe that:

- Our actions will be guided by our purpose, vision and values and that we are accountable to them;
- Differentiated, stage-based learning is the best curriculum framework to achieve our purpose;
- Open, honest and respectful communication will underpin all of our interactions;
- The partnership between the school and parents is important in the effective education of children;
- Decision making will be based on the best knowledge available;
- Collective and individual growth will be enhanced by sharing of knowledge and best practice processes;
- We will evaluate and review our practices and expectations so that they are consistent with our purpose, vision and values;
- As learners, we are committed to a process of continuous improvement;
- Effective teamwork enhances our collective ability to deliver on our purpose and to be true to our vision and values;
- Collaborative decision making will promote teamwork and empowers effectiveness;
- Positive attitudes will energise and enhance our growth;
- We will acknowledge and celebrate our achievements;
- Excellence is a journey of continuous change and not a destination; and we commit to it.

OUR VISION

Our Vision for the Students of Avoca State School involves:



Through:

- Fostering the Spirit of Inquiry
- Exploring Potential
- Positive Partnerships

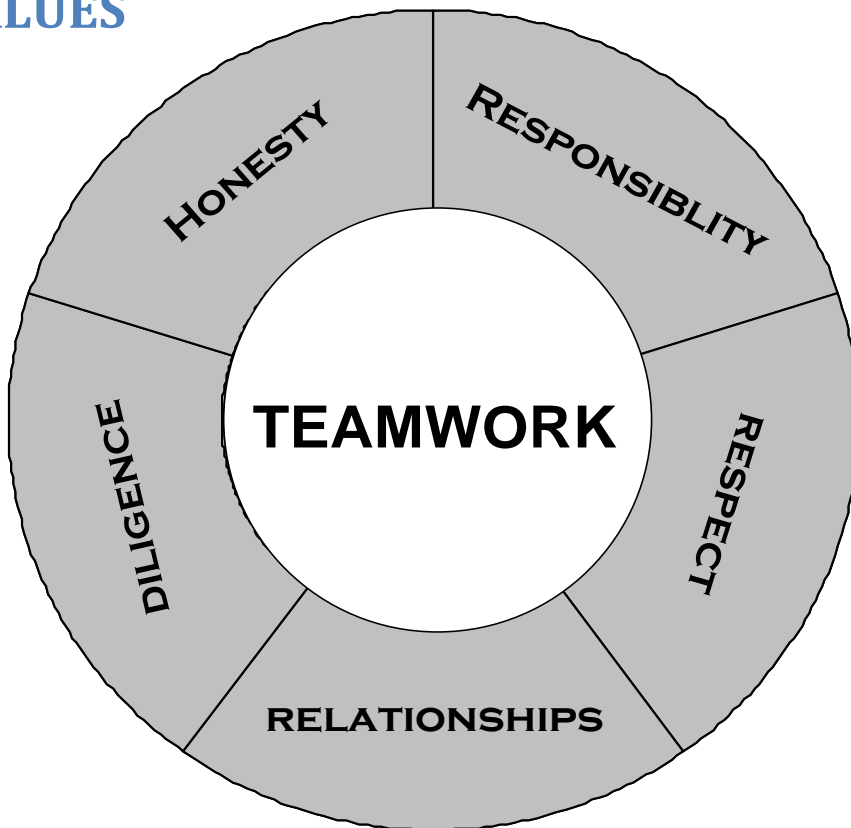
Through:

- Sharing Life Experiences
- Empathy with All
- Appreciating Differences

Through:

- Freedom to Learn
- Having-a-go
- Celebrating Achievements

OUR VALUES



DIFFERENTIATED/STAGE BASED LEARNING

Teachers in all classrooms at Avoca, whether they are single year level or multiple year levels in organisation, focus strongly on differentiating learning for students. Teachers modify the learning content, process, product and environment in a variety of ways to cater for the particular learning needs of their students. Classes at Avoca are organised in a stage structure to allow us to organise and develop learning more effectively in teams.

- Junior Stage (generally Prep to Year 2)
- Middle Stage (generally Years 3 & 4)
- Senior Stage (generally Years 5 & 6)

CURRICULUM

All students from Prep to Year 6 engage with the Australian Curriculum. Key Learning Areas of The Arts, Health and Physical Education, and Technology are also taught to all year levels. A language other than English (LOTE - German in our school) is taught to students in Year 6. Students can expect to spend part of each day engaged in core reading, writing and mathematics lessons as well as challenging and interesting units of work.

ICTs - INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Students at Avoca are supported in developing important computer and communication skills to prepare them for the future. Our school is networked with high-tech fibre optic cabling to enable high speed exchange of data and internet access. Classrooms have access to interactive data projectors or whiteboards and very fast wireless connectivity. Each classroom has a number of computers for students to use for learning and research.

The system is monitored by Education Queensland's MIS internet security system which disables access to inappropriate websites and intercepts email containing unsuitable messages or language. Students and parents sign an agreement for responsible use of ICTs prior to being granted access.

The document "**Information for Students and Parents on School ICT Network Usage**" is available on our school website under 'Documents and Forms'.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Avoca employs differentiated learning strategies for children who have been identified as gifted in various fields of endeavour. Differentiation may occur in terms of:

- Content - what students learn
- Process - how students learn
- Product - what is expected from the learning process
- Environment - where and in what context learning occurs

These differentiated strategies are identified on a student's Individual Student Plan (ISP).

STUDENT SUPPORT

Our school is proud of the range of programs that exist to support children who have learning difficulties. A Student Support Committee meets every fortnight to consider any referrals made by teachers. Avoca has a HOSESS (Head of Special Education and Student Services), Guidance Counsellor, Support Teacher – Literacy and Numeracy (STLan) and Special Education Staff to help coordinate programs for students who are having learning problems. Students who are formally identified as having a diagnosed disability are provided with Teacher Aide support and adjusted learning programs.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Avoca has a proud tradition of excellence in music. Each year in term 4, students from Years 3 – 6 have the opportunity to audition for the school's Instrumental Music Program. Successful students have access to instruments on a hire basis for their first year of lessons, or they can choose to use/buy their own instruments. Students receive specialist music lessons in *Strings* or *Brass*, *Woodwind* and *Percussion* each week and are eligible to participate in numerous Instrumental Music Workshops, festivals and competitions held annually in Bundaberg.

PREP

THE DAY BEGINS

The bell sounds at 8.45am, and students should be at school at this time to settle down, have the class roll marked and prepare for the school day. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring their child into the Prep room at 8.30am to greet the teacher and enjoy that special time together by helping their child unpack their bag, do a puzzle, read a book, or enjoy doing a drawing together. When the Prep session commences at 8.45am, parents and caregivers say goodbye. It can be difficult for some children to say goodbye to parents and caregivers during the first few “settling in” weeks, but it is important that you trust your child's teacher and leave promptly. Prep will finish each day at 3.00 pm and parents and caregivers can collect children from their Prep room.

THE PREP SCHOOL DAY

There are **two** lunch breaks in the day, *little lunch* and *big lunch*. *Little lunch* is at **11.00 am** and *big lunch* is at **1.40 pm**. Some children are hungrier at little lunch and may eat their main meal at this break and eat less at 1.40 pm. Prep students will be supervised in their designated eating area while they eat their food each day. **Parents, please ensure that your child can unwrap and manage the lunch you pack for them.**

We encourage the importance of nutritional food for the developing child. Some suggested ideas could be: -

**bread, wraps, rolls, pocket bread*

**fresh fruit, dried fruit, vegetables (salad, vegetable sticks)*

**yoghurt, cheese (sticks, slices, wedges, grated, cubed)*

**fruit loaf, pikelets, muffins, scones*

**crackers, crisp bread*

**tinned fish (in safe container), chicken, meats*

Insulated lunchboxes with an ice brick help to keep lunches cool and fresh.

DRINKS: We recommend that the children have only water to drink due to responsible dental health and sound nutritional value. Each child is to bring a named water bottle to school daily. (No poppers, fruit juice, cordial or soft drink)

WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY CHILD?

Clearly name all belongings including: schoolbag, lunch box, hat, shoes, socks, water bottle, uniform, books from the book list, etc. Place an identifier that your child can recognize on his/her schoolbag and school hat. Please rename all belongings throughout the year as the names may fade. Please ensure a bag of spare clothes remains in your child's bag throughout the year.

SETTLING IN

During the first term, much emphasis is placed on the following:

**developing routines*

**transitions*

**our class rules*

**social skills, including establishing new friendships*

**caring for and being responsible for our belongings*

**settling into the new school environment.*

We, as teachers and parents will be establishing partnerships where together, we will develop a Learning environment that makes the transition to the Prep setting smooth and successful. Families will be involved in supporting children's learning through sharing information and contributing their own knowledge and perspectives.

HATS AND SHOES

Avoca State School is a **Sunsmart school**. Please refer to our school's Sunsmart Policy. Children **must wear a broad-brimmed hat** outdoors at all times.

Children are to wear shoes to and from school. During the outdoor program, there will be specific class activities where teachers may allow children to take off their shoes and socks.

Children engage in *many sensory experiences* during outdoor time, such as sand play, obstacle courses, scramble net, "feely" walks, rope-bridge, etc.

PARENT HELP

Once a classroom routine has been established, parents will be welcomed into the room to help. Parents can help in a number of ways:

- joining in the program supporting your child

- helping to supervise on excursions
- preparing materials for painting, craft etc.
- covering books, etc

Becoming involved with your school is a **rewarding experience** for both you and your children. Participation ensures you increase your knowledge about the school. Your child will attend primary school for over 7000 hours in the next eight years. It is everyone's responsibility to participate in meaningful ways during that time.

STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTING

Teachers monitor and assess by gathering information and evidence over time to build an overall picture of children's learning. Teachers will have formal and informal discussions with parents at mutually convenient times to discuss each child's progress.

QUEENSLAND BEGINNERS' HANDWRITING

For your reference, here is a copy of the handwriting the children will be experiencing in Prep.

aA bB cC dD eE fF gG hH iI jJ kK lL
 mM nN oO pP qQ rR sS tT uU vV wW
 xX yY zZ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

TOYS FROM HOME

To save heartache, please leave valued items at home (eg toys, jewellery, etc). Please seek the advice of the Teacher prior to allowing any toys to be brought to school for special occasions eg. show and tell or birthdays.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special occasions and you may like to send along cupcakes when it is your child's birthday.

COOKING

Children will be involved in cooking activities occasionally throughout the year. Parents will be requested to assist by providing ingredients as the need arises.

KEEP THE SCHOOL INFORMED

Please ensure medical information (especially allergies) is regularly kept up to date. Also, please notify the school administration if there is any change in address or phone numbers. We ask that

the school is notified if a different person (other than the parents) is to collect your child from school. We may need to sight some form of identification (ie. license) if a person unknown to staff collects a student. We will inform families through our newsletter if there are any allergies (eg. nut/egg) amongst our Prep students.

HELPFUL IDEAS FOR STARTING PREP

Familiarising your child with the daily Prep Routine is the key to alleviating any anxieties or worries. Commencing Prep is a big event in your child's life and first day jitters can happen. However, there are some helpful ideas parents and carers can follow to help make the first few weeks a happy and positive experience for you and your child.

Have a look at the Prep classrooms several times beforehand, see the playground, and have a look around.

- 1. Go through the Prep handbook together and discuss with your child what they need to wear, bring, and how the day runs. Let them know about little lunch and big lunch, inside time and outside time. Talk about the Teacher's name and the Teacher Aide's name.*
- 2. Have a practice run at getting dressed for Prep prior to the first day.*
- 3. Ensure your child feels comfortable in his/her new school shoes.*
- 4. Show your child where his/her name is written on all belongings.*
- 5. Pack a school lunch at home and let your child practise opening it.*
- 6. Tell your child each day who will be collecting him/her from Prep at the end of the school day.*
- 7. Have your child stay over with family or friends occasionally to reduce any separation anxieties.*
- 8. Read books together about "starting school."*
- 9. Relax in the week before Prep starts, so that your child can commence Prep refreshed and rested.*
- 10. Set the alarm clock as if it is a Prep day a week beforehand, and practise going to bed at an appropriate time as though Prep is the next day*
- 11. Talk about how long and how many days a week your child will be at Prep. Explain in time sequences your child can understand.*
- 12. Arrange play dates with new friends that are in the same Prep group.*
- 13. Allow time in the first week to share and value your child's new experiences. Visit a relative (eg. grandparents) or a special family friend, and let your child tell them all about Prep. Let them telephone a special person in their life to share their new Prep experiences.*
- 14. If your child is teary on the first day, reassure him/her that you will be back at pick up time, and above all, let your child see that **you** are positive and excited about Prep so that your child can sense these positive feelings from you.*
- 15. Always say goodbye to your child and leave when the class commences.*
- 16. Go home and have that cup of coffee/tea and enjoy your day as well!*

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

As a courtesy we would appreciate your cooperation in caring for the Prep equipment. Younger children need your help and guidance in **how to play** with and care for Prep, equipment appropriately.

Parents are asked to supervise their toddlers at all times, and to assist in the following:

- any indoor equipment/items that your child has played with should be returned to its right place, ensuring that all parts/pieces are correct and accounted for (eg. puzzle or game pieces)
- outdoor equipment should be used correctly and returned to its designated place (eg. obstacle course, balls, hoops, etc.)

We would appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABSENCES

Absenteeism which is not explained is registered on the class roll as an “Unexplained Absence” and is recorded on the student’s semester report card. Explanations for absenteeism can be registered by visiting the school’s website: www.avocass.eq.edu.au and selecting the student absence button on the home page, emailing the school on absences@avocass.eq.edu.au or telephoning the Student Absence Line on 4150 0460.

ADMISSIONS

Avoca State School caters for students from Preparatory to Year 6.

For the purpose of enrolment of a child the Principal may require a parent to:

Produce documentary evidence of the date of birth. The age of the child at admission shall be ascertained accurately.

One of the following may be required as proof of age:

- a short extract from the child’s Birth Certificate
- a Certificate of Baptism
- a signed statement by a parent before a Justice of Peace
- a Statutory Declaration
- Centrelink statement

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

School lessons commence each day at 9.00am. The first bell sounds at 8.45 am and students should be at school by this time to settle down, have the class roll marked and prepare for the school day. **As teachers are not rostered on duty before 8.45am, they are unable to supervise children before that time.** Generally, there should be no need for children to be at school before 8.30am. Children who arrive before then should wait responsibly in the covered areas near their classrooms. We recommend strongly that no students arrive at school prior to 8.00am.

Children are not permitted to play on the ovals or tennis courts before school and the basketball half-courts are available for senior stage children only.

All classes are dismissed at 3.00pm. Children who live locally and who make their own way to and from school must leave the school grounds immediately and go directly home. Children who are driven to and/or from school should be collected by 3.15pm. Parents are asked to exercise utmost care when leaving in their vehicles at this busy time. **NB. Under no circumstances should private cars be driven into the school grounds, this includes the staff car park.** Please note the **no parking zones** near the bus stop area. A “**DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE**” exists on the southern corner of the school grounds on Twyford Street.

BEHAVIOUR

The Avoca State School Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students is based on the values contained in the Code of School Behaviour.

The Avoca State School Responsible Behaviour Guidelines are:

*BE SAFE
BE KIND
WORK HARD
FOLLOW DIRECTIONS*

Avoca State School Values:

*TEAMWORK
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RELATIONSHIPS
DILIGENCE
HONESTY*

To access or print a copy of our Responsible Behaviour Plan visit the Avoca State School website www.avocass.eq.edu.au

BOOK FAIR

A Book Fair is held each year where students are able to view and purchase books of their choice. Proceeds of this Book Fair go to the School Library.

BOOK LISTS

Booklists are issued at the end of each year. It is helpful if students have all requirements prior to starting school. Booklists are available on the school website.

BUSES

For information on bus services in our area contact Queensland Transport on 13 23 80.

CAMPS

Avoca State School conducts camps each year for students in Years 5 & 6. The purpose of this camp for Year 6 is to acknowledge these children as they come to the end of their primary school. The Year 5 camp has a leadership and teamwork focus.

Children are involved in a number of activities that promote team building skills, self-confidence, problem-solving and many more positive learning experiences. The camps provide your child with many real-life situations which are an on-going part of their personal development as they mature and become adults.

The camps are part of the Senior Stage Health and Physical Education program and children are assessed on their contribution.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/DETAILS

It is important to keep the school informed if you have any change in address, telephone numbers, etc.

DENTAL SERVICES

A School Dental Van visits the school on a regular basis. All children attending this school are eligible for free dental treatment during these visits. Written consent to attend the van must be given by a parent or legal guardian prior to examinations. Written consent is also required prior to the commencement of any treatment (eg fillings etc.)

For emergency treatment such as pain or swelling between these visits please contact the Bundaberg School Dental Service administration office on telephone number 4150 2243 for direction to a van at another location.

EVACUATIONS/LOCKDOWNS

Procedures for emergency and/or lockdowns are held at least once a term. Teachers ensure that students are aware of classroom/playground procedures in the event of a fire or lockdown.

HEALTH EXCLUSION

Most children, at some time during their schooling experience an infectious illness which may require them to be excluded from school for a period of time. Details of these infectious illnesses and the required periods of exclusion are available from the school office.

HOMEWORK

At our school, students are encouraged to access a range of homework activities provided by their teachers. Four important principles guide our approach to homework. At Avoca State School, homework will be:

Purposeful
Achievable
Interesting, and;
Recommended

Homework, whenever it is given, should have *purpose* for the student. It should be useful and may involve revision or extension work. Homework that is given will be *achievable* for children with different abilities. A big feature of homework will be that students find it *interesting* as it will, wherever possible, be linked to their needs and interests.

If homework is purposeful, achievable and interesting, students will most likely want to complete it. To ensure that homework does not damage relationships, children should never be forced to do it. Although we recommend that homework be done, teachers at Avoca State School will not punish students if for some reason they can't do it. Students, teachers and parents of Avoca State School believe this is the most positive and beneficial approach to homework.

INTERVIEWS

Teachers are always willing to discuss a child's progress or any special issues, and parents should not hesitate to see their child's teacher. Parents wishing to arrange interviews with teachers may do so before or after school. Teachers are unavailable for interviews with parents during teaching times. It would be appreciated if parents could arrange interviews with teachers during the following times whenever possible.

8.00am - 8.45am
11.00am - 11.30am
1.00pm - 1.30pm
3.00pm - 4.00pm

These are the times when teachers will be more easily contacted. At other times, they are supervising their classes and you will understand they try to avoid interruptions during this important time. The Principal and Deputy Principal endeavour to be available at all times to discuss problems with parents.

JEWELLERY

No jewellery is allowed for ALL CHILDREN except for ear-studs or sleepers, (one per ear), a permanently fitted bangle, a signet ring and a wristwatch.

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DEPARTURES

It is important to know that if your child is late, that they are to visit the office before they go to their classroom. Rolls are marked at 9.00am. If you intend for your child to depart from school early please;

- (i) Send a note to your child's teacher. The Teacher will send your child to the office to register the early departure.
- (ii) Telephone the office. The Office will advise your child's Teacher. The Teacher will send the child to the office to register the early departure.
- (iii) If a child believes that they are to leave early but does not have a note or the office has not been contacted. The Teacher will send the student to the office where contact will be made with the Parent/Carer.

LETTERS FROM PARENTS

Letters may be written to individual teachers. Parents are encouraged to regularly contact the class teachers to discuss issues or concerns. However, all letters of a contentious nature will be referred to the Principal or Deputy Principal.

LIBRARY

Our Library Resource Centre provides written and visual resources for teaching and learning. Students can borrow books from the collection for reading for pleasure or study purposes. Most classes visit the library during class time at least once a week and the centre is open before and after school and during both lunch breaks.

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property is kept in a box outside the Cleaners' Room. All students should look first in this "lost property box" when looking for any items they may have misplaced.

Parents should ensure that all articles of clothing and equipment are clearly marked with their child's name. Parents are welcome to look in the lost property box at any time. Unclaimed items are given to charity at the end of each term.

MEDICATION

School Staff are not permitted to administer medication to students **unless it has been prescribed by a medical practitioner and is supplied to the school in its original packaging, and a medication form is first completed by the parent/carer.** These forms are available from the office upon request. Departmental approval has been granted for students to administer their own medication if they suffer from asthma.

MOBILE PHONES

If parents feel students need to have a mobile phone at school for security reasons, it must be left at the school office during school hours. In an emergency, it is always possible to contact children in class time through a message to the school office.

MONEY MATTERS

In most circumstances an invoice will be provided for school activities that incur a cost. The invoice can be paid by:

- Direct Transfer
 - BPoint
 - Credit Card
- Or at the school office by either*
- EFTPOS
 - Cash
- } Details at the foot of the invoice

Occasionally, it will be necessary for children to bring money to school for purposes other than Tuckshop. Any money sent to school should be **the correct amount in an envelope and clearly marked with your child's name, class, amount enclosed and activity.** The school office does have EFTPOS facilities. A money deposit box is situated in the office where children or parents can deposit money and forms.

NEWSLETTERS

The School Newsletter advising parents of school activities is distributed electronically alternate Mondays. Please ensure email addresses are kept up to date. The school will endeavour to send all other school related notices home on Mondays. Parents are asked to stress the importance of delivering circulars, notes etc. promptly. Newsletters may also be read on the school's website. www.avocass.eq.edu.au or a hard copy can be collected from the school office if required.

OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open Monday to Friday from 8.00am - 3.30pm.

P&C ASSOCIATION

Parents & Citizens Association meetings are held at 6:00pm on the last Tuesday of each month (excluding December and January). New families are always welcome to attend.

PARKING

A “**DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE**” exists on the southern corner of the school grounds on Twyford Street. Carparks are located on Avoca Road, Twyford Street and other streets close to the school.

REFUND POLICY

If a parent wishes to apply for a refund due to their child’s non-participation in a school activity, they may do so by completing a Request for Refund form available from the school office. Where possible, the request should include the receipt relating to the payment for which a refund is being sought.

For more information on **Refund Guidelines** refer to the school website.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Queensland state schools embrace a multitude of cultural, religious and non-religious beliefs. Under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, schools are to provide Religious Instruction (RI) if approached by a faith group seeking to provide RI and students of that faith attend the school.

RI informs students about the beliefs and values of a particular religion. It is delivered by volunteers of a faith group using instructional materials approved by that faith group. RI is required to be consistent with legislation and Department of Education policies and procedures.

All RI instructors must hold a blue card and participate in compulsory Student Protection and Code of Conduct training. RI instructors are only entitled to deliver the RI program outlined below. A school staff member will be present during the delivery of RI.

Participation in RI is not compulsory. Any student (except Prep students) may participate in RI if a parent has provided written instructions to the school.

Students are allocated to RI based on information provided by parents on the completed [Application for student enrolment](#) unless other written instructions have been provided to the school.

Note: *This consent remains in effect unless the parent informs the school otherwise in writing.*

A description of the RI available is provided below.

Religious Instruction

Participating faith groups: *Anglican, Catholic, Uniting Church, Apostolic, Nazarine, Baptist, Presbyterian, Brethren Chapels, Baptist Chapels, Salvation Army, Church of Christ, Wes Methodist.*

Authorised program: *Connect and GodSpace*

Aims and goals: To bring the message of God to the students

Lesson structure: One x 30 minute lesson per week (Thursday)

For further information, including module and/or lesson descriptors visit:

www.godspace.org.au

www.cep.connect.com.au

A levy of \$5 per child, \$10 per family is required to cover costs of RI books (Connect). Envelopes will be sent home at the beginning of the year.

Other Instruction

Students who are not participating in RI will be provided with other instruction in a separate supervised location. Other instruction must relate to part of a subject area already covered in class and may include:

- personal research and/or assignments
- revision of class work such as creative writing or literacy and/or numeracy activities which could include online programs currently accessed by the students
- wider reading such as independent reading appropriate to the student

Parents will be advised of any changes to the RI and other instruction programs to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on their child's participation.

REPORT CARDS

Reports are based on a continuous assessment of pupils' performance, and take into account all aspects of school life. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held in Term 1 and Term 3 to discuss Individual Student Plans for learning for each child. Parents may also request a Parent/Teacher conference to discuss their child's end of year report!

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

A School Chaplain operates in our school for two days each week. The School Chaplain's role is to provide support to children, parents and staff as part of the school's pastoral care program. Parents can request to speak to the chaplain by contacting their child's teacher or the main office.

SCHOOL CROSSINGS

All parents are urged to use the school crossings attended by the Crossing Supervisors to set a good example for their children and to ensure their safety. If you wait for your children on the opposite side of the road, please ensure they understand that they must use the school crossings. All children in Prep and Year 1 are instructed in the proper use of the school crossings by their class teachers during the first week of school.

SCHOOL DAY

8.45am	-	9.00am	Roll Marking and Notices
9.00am	-	11.00am	Session One
11.00am	-	11.40am	Morning Tea (Little Lunch)
11.40am	-	1.40pm	Session Two
1.40pm	-	2.20pm	Lunch (Big Lunch)
2.20pm	-	3.00pm	Session Three

SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

The children are placed in one of four houses for sport and other activities. The houses are:

HOUSE	COLOUR
Mercury	Yellow
Mars	Red
Jupiter	Green

Students from the one family are placed in the same house.

SPORT (INTERSCHOOL)

Interschool fixtures are played against local schools in a variety of sports. Students in Years 5 and 6 participating in these matches are expected to be “good sports” at all times and to act as ambassadors for their school.

During the year the following interschool sports may be offered:

Cricket	Touch	Basketball	Hockey	T-Ball
Softball	Soccer	Rugby League	Netball	Athletics

Transport is generally by bus, for which there is a charge.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING SCHOOL SPORTING TEAMS:

1. Level of game-related skills
2. Good general behaviour in all areas of the school
3. Good attendance at practice sessions
4. Demonstrated good sportsmanship

Teachers and the Principal have discretion to exclude a child from a team if one of the above

criteria is breached.

The best placed students from our Sports Day also compete with students from other schools in athletics and ball games.

SUNSAFE POLICY

Avoca is a registered Sun Safe School. All students must wear an appropriate broad-brimmed hat or legionnaire hat. **NO HAT - NO PLAY! Caps are not acceptable!**

Broad Spectrum sun block is provided for use by students in every class.

SWIMMING

This school offers water confidence instruction for all students. Depending on Year level, these lessons are offered in Term 1 and Term 4. Qualified Instructors and our specialist Physical Education Teacher are responsible for aquatic teaching. All students must wear a T-Shirt during swimming instruction to ensure maximum protection from the sun.

TUCKSHOP – Weekly Sausage Sizzle run by the Student Council

The Student Council run a sausage sizzle through the Tuckshop every Tuesday. The cost is \$2.50 for the sausage in bread.

Children hand their money to the Classroom Teacher in the morning and have the number of sausages paid for recorded on their hand. Children collect their sausage from the Tuckshop at 11am.

Parent help is always needed for the Sausage Sizzle. If you can assist please contact the school.

UNIFORMS

Avoca is a **uniform school** and the expectation is that all students in attendance will wear the correct school uniform.

The school has an official school uniform and this is described below. Except on designated days for specific purposes, regular clothing is not generally worn by Avoca students unless there are exceptional circumstances. Fully enclosed shoes are considered essential for safety reasons.

The Avoca School Uniform is available from **Shawline Embroidery/Bundaberg Clothing Factory**. They are located at 17 Walker Street, Bundaberg South. Their contact number is 4152 8139 and opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm.

The uniform consists of the following:

SHIRTS: BOYS AND GIRLS

Sublimated blue, black and white polo shirt with printed school logo.

SHORTS: BOYS

Black cotton back shorts.

GIRLS

Black cotton back combo/skort or Black cotton back shorts.

SHOES: Closed in shoes e.g. joggers (preferably black).

SOCKS: White ankle socks.

HATS: Black **Sunsmart** bucket-hat with Avoca school logo.

(Caps do not comply with the school's commitment to sun safety)

Please note: This uniform is used for all occasions including sport.

WINTER UNIFORM: (To be purchased from external retailers)

Black tracksuit pants and black sweater/cardigan.

WEBSITE

Avoca State School has a comprehensive website which can be accessed using the following URL:
www.avocass@eq.edu.au

Newsletters, the Avoca Annual Report and other documents can be accessed directly from the website.

