

Essendon North Primary School Open Day- Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions at our Open Days and may assist with your further enquiries:

How do you support students with special or additional needs?

Working closely with families is the first step in supporting students with special or additional needs. The Assistant Principal, Principal, Welfare Co-ordinator and/or home group teacher will work closely with the student and parents/carers to establish individual needs and appropriate support structures. At times this includes liaising with external medical professionals, support agencies and previous educational settings.

An additional layer of support and advice can be sought by the Department of Education (DET) Student Support Services (SSS). This provides more specialised support to the school and families from educational psychologists, speech pathologists and social workers. The Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) can also be an option for school funding support for students deemed eligible.

If you have any concerns, questions or had previous contact with external agencies, please do not hesitate to contact the school for further conversations.

Do you still teach literacy and numeracy, along with inquiry?

Yes, most definitely! Literacy and Numeracy are primarily taught through meaningful inquiry-based learning engagements. Teachers also regularly provide students with explicit teaching of essential skills and knowledge to scaffold their inquiry and support their overall academic development.

What is the school's stance on technology use and screen time?

Teachers integrate digital technologies in the classroom to enhance learning engagements. Tasks are often assigned for students to complete on a school iPad (F-2) or BYO device (Y3-6). We adopt a balanced approach to engaging technology and teachers are mindful of not having too much screen time at school. We subscribe to Department of Education and Training (DET) advice regarding screen time in the early years of schooling and would advise parents to observe these recommendations at home <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/health/Pages/managing-screen-time.aspx>.

What is the school's approach to bullying?

We empower students to understand their responsibilities as an effective communicator and positive member of our school community. This involves being kind and respecting others with words and actions. When an incident occurs we work with students to develop mutual understanding of each other's perspectives and conduct restorative conversations to remedy the situation, agreeing on how to proceed and how to navigate if another problem arises.

We work hard with our community to differentiate bullying from "mean on purpose behaviour". We have a range of methods for developing social skills and behaviours. We do not tolerate bullying and engage our Staged Response to ensure incidents are dealt with appropriately.

If you have further questions, please contact the office on 9379 3979 or by email at: essendon.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au.