



Wamberal Public School

Enrolment Procedures

Revised 27th May 2022

The aim of these procedures is to ensure that all students who present for enrolment at Wamberal Public School are treated in a fair and equitable manner according to Department of Education policy.

General Principles Governing Enrolment:

- Parents may enrol their child in Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child turns 5 years of age on or before 31 July in that year. All children must be in compulsory schooling by 6 years of age.
- Parents may apply to enrol their child at any school, however are entitled to enrol their child at the local school within the designated intake area which the child is eligible to attend. The Secretary designates school intake areas.
- Parents seeking local enrolment must satisfy the school that they reside within the [school's designated intake area](#).
- The department has selective and specialised schools, programs and services, and temporary resident enrolments that are subject to specific procedures, eligibility criteria and assessments.
- A student is enrolled when an application to enrol is certified as accepted by the principal and the student is placed on the enrolment register of a school. Enrolment should be in one school only at any given time, however a student may be in attendance at more than one school in particular circumstances.
- Reasonable adjustments are made so students with disability can apply for enrolment on the same basis as students without a disability.
- In enrolling a student, determination is made based on a variety of assessments, if there is a need to provide additional support for the student.
- In enrolling a student, additional enquiries may need to be made where a student has been absent from the NSW system for a period of time, the enrolment background is unclear or where the student has been overseas and records are unavailable.

School Procedures

- Parents wishing to transfer students to Wamberal Public School from another state school should be in possession of a valid transfer certificate.
- Every effort will be made to contact the school that students are transferring from to ascertain if there are any special needs that we need to cater for. Use school-based form for transfer from another NSW public school or the interstate data transfer forms for students from other state systems. Our school-based forms can be sent to private schools but they are not required to respond.
- There will be a minimum period of 24 hours between application for enrolment and confirmation of enrolment to allow for contact to be made with the previous school and consideration of most appropriate placement of the student. This period may be extended to allow for the arrival of school documentation from the previous schools if there is cause for concern regarding the student's history.
- No person will be discriminated against in enrolment on the grounds of his or her sex, age, race, religion, ethnicity or disability.

Upon enrolment, parents will be provided:

- o an enrolment form
- o school information booklet
- o canteen and uniform price list

- o asthma action plan (if required)
- o voluntary school contribution request and school resources information
- o information about 'Before and After School Care' facilities
- Documentation providing proof of age is required for enrolment including birth certificate or passport as well as 100 points of ID confirming address

Average Class sizes

Wamberal Public School endeavours to provide average classes as follows:

- Kindergarten class average 20 students
- Year 1 classes average 22 students
- Year 2 classes average 24 students
- Year 3 - Year 6 classes average 30 students.

Enrolment Cap

Each year the school will have an enrolment cap that is centrally set, based on its permanent accommodation. The enrolment cap for Wamberal Public School is 802 based on 32 permanent mainstream classrooms. Based on historical data, a buffer of 30 enrolment places has been allocated to accommodate local students arriving throughout the year. Therefore, once student enrolments reach 772 students, Wamberal Public School is unable to enrol non-local students, including siblings.

Placement Panels

Where demand for non-local places exceeds availability, the school will establish a placement panel to consider and make recommendations on all non-local enrolment applications. The composition of the panel is to be determined locally but must include at least one staff member, other than the principal, and one school community member nominated by the school's parent organisation. The panel will be chaired by an executive member from the school.

- The development of criteria for the enrolment of non-local students will be the responsibility of the placement panel.
- The criteria will be consistent with the general principles governing enrolment stated above. In assessing the application of the criteria to individual cases, the panel will consider only those matters presented on the application form and not oral or other submissions.
- The decisions made by the placement panel must be made within the context of the agreed enrolment cap and the buffer retained for local students arriving later in the year.
- The placement panel should record all decisions and minutes of meetings are to be available on request by the Director, Educational Leadership or delegate.

Criteria for Non-local Enrolment Applications

Criteria for selecting amongst non-local enrolment applications is documented and will be made available, in advance, to parents who are interested in enrolling their children at Wamberal Public School. The school principal may consult with the designated local school.

Criteria may include:

- proximity and access to the school
- siblings already enrolled at the school
- medical reasons
- safety and supervision of the student before and after school
- special interests and abilities
- compassionate circumstances
- structure and organisation of the school
- recent change in the local intake area boundaries

The panel convenor will ensure that the established criteria are applied equitably to all applicants.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists may be established for non-local students.

- Parents will be advised in writing if their child is to be placed on a waiting list. The size of the waiting list should reflect realistic expectations of potential vacancies.
- Waiting lists are current for one year.

Appeals

Where a parent wishes to appeal against the decision of the placement panel, the appeal should be made in writing to the principal. The purpose of the appeal is to determine whether the stated criteria have been applied fairly.

- Where required, the principal will provide or arrange assistance, such as an interpreter, to enable the appeal to be set out in writing.
- The principal will seek to resolve the matter.
- The Director, Educational Leadership will consult with the relevant principals and school communities as necessary.

Responsibilities of the Principal

With regard to enrolment, the school principal is responsible for:

- preparing an enrolment procedure in line with DoE policy, in consultation with the staff and parent body
- informing present and prospective members of the school community about provision available at the school
- managing the school enrolments within the resources provided to the school advising the Director, Educational Leadership of enrolment and curriculum trends in the school maintaining accurate and complete enrolment data
- documenting and promulgating the criteria for selection amongst non-local enrolment applications to parents and the school community
- making decisions on non-local enrolments at the school level wherever possible.

Responsibilities of the Parent/Carer

With regard to enrolment, the school principal is responsible for:

- When required, providing accurate information and documentation necessary to allow the school to establish a child's entitlement to enrol and to implement any risk assessments or management plans at the school.

Transition to School

It is recognised that the transition from early intervention, or other pre-school settings, to school is a significant step, particularly for students with special learning needs. Wamberal Public School will work collaboratively with parents, caregivers and other relevant personnel to facilitate planning.

Kindergarten Enrolment

- The principal will advise the parent body and the school community of the enrolment arrangements for the next year's Kindergarten children.
- Children may enrol in Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year **if they turn five years of age on or before 31 July** in that year.
- Documentation providing proof of age, such as a birth certificate or passport, is required prior to enrolment.
- All new enrolments are invited to participate in an enrolment interview
- Families are required to provide 100 points of ID confirming residential details.
- The enrolment of eligible children in the Kindergarten year is to commence within the first week of the school year.
- The principal will ensure that enrolments proceed as quickly as possible in a manner which is in the best interests of the incoming children.
- Whilst it is the intention that children be enrolled at the beginning of the year, parents who choose to enrol eligible children after the beginning of the school year may do so, up to the end of Term 2.
- The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents to provide documented evidence of a child's immunisation status on enrolment in schools, pre-schools and childcare centres. Parents have the right of not having their children immunised. However, under the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, unimmunised children will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak.

Enrolment of Students with Special Learning Needs

Students with Disabilities

The Department of Education provides a range of services and resources to support the education of students with disabilities. These include:

- targeted funding, specialist teachers and consultancy services to support students enrolled in regular classes
- special schools
- modifications to buildings to facilitate access
- provision of specialised equipment and technology
- special transport services.

When considering the enrolment of a student with a disability, all these provisions should be considered.

The decision on where to enrol a student with a disability, and with what level of support, will depend on a number of factors, including the student's educational needs, the expressed desires of parents and caregivers, the capacity of the system to provide the level of support services required generally and at a particular location and the availability of support services at alternative locations.

In many situations it will be possible to enrol a student with a disability at the desired school with the necessary level of specialist support. In some circumstances the level of support required, or the specialist nature of that support, will necessitate alternative enrolment options being provided.

In each case, when a student with a disability presents for enrolment, it is the responsibility of the principal to ensure that an appraisal of the student's educational needs is carried out. For some students, appraisal will have occurred as part of a planned transition process. For others, the appraisal will take place at the time enrolment is sought.

Appraisals will involve parents or caregivers and will entail consideration of the student's support needs in areas such as curriculum, mobility, social skills, personal care and communication. It will often involve consideration of supporting documentation from medical practitioners and other health and education professionals. The Learning and Support Teacher will assist in this process, in particular, in identifying the resources which may be available to support the enrolment.

Paul Miller
WPS Principal