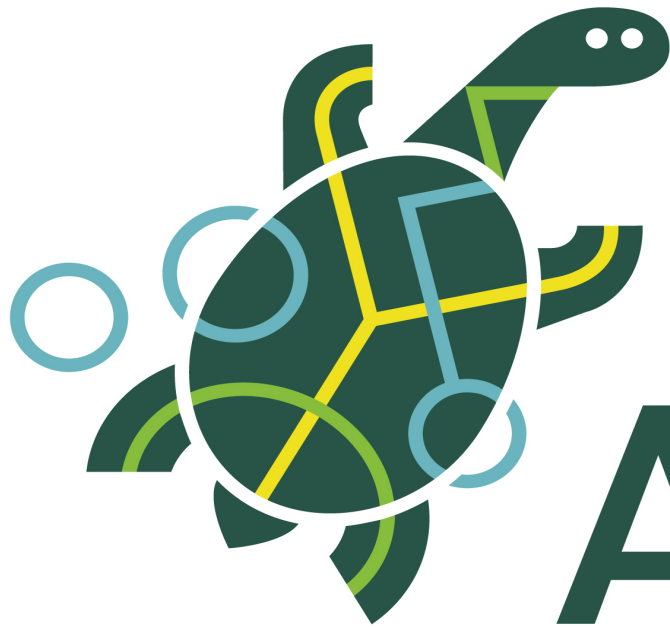


# **EARLY YEARS PARENT HANDBOOK**



**Anula**  
**Primary School**

## Welcome from the Principal

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It is my pleasure to share with you the wonderful things that Anula Early Years can offer.

Anula Primary School is an inclusive, caring and highly professional environment where children's learning and needs are at the core of our work. We believe that every child can achieve success, happiness and a sense of belonging. With this belief, all staff are committed to working together to make it a reality for every child.

The Early Years are fundamental in building the foundations for future success. The diversity in family life means that children bring to school a variety of experiences, perspectives, expectations, knowledge and skills. It is the craft of the teacher alongside the culture of the school that can embrace the diversity and create a personalised, engaging and innovative learning environment.

The Anula Primary School Community values the partnership between school and home. We recognise that families are a child's first and most influential teachers. We welcome and encourage families into our school and work hard to build strong partnerships and effective communication.

I am very proud to be the Principal of Anula Primary School and fortunate to have a dedicated, passionate and quality Early Years team. Our staff engage in on-going current professional learning and continually strive to improve their teaching practice, their environment and their knowledge and understanding of child development.

We look forward to working with you over the coming years and seeing you actively involved in your child's learning.



Kerry Hudson  
Principal

## Welcome to Parents/Carers

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Early Years are an essential part of the school system. We hope this book will help you understand how we can all work together to give your child a good foundation for future school years.

It is our belief that you are a critical part of your child's education at school. You are your child's first teacher and we encourage you to be involved in the next part of the learning journey with the school. We believe in an open door policy and encourage you to be curious about what is happening in the school environment. There are many ways you can be involved in the school including being part of School Council, helping out with the occasional working bee, joining the Garden Committee, fundraising, assisting in the classroom or on excursions. We would encourage you to get to know your child's teacher to establish the essential learning partnership.



The school has a “zero tolerance” policy for bullying, harassment and physical violence and will use a restorative justice approach to restoring relationships and encouraging positive behaviour. There is an expectation that staff, students and parents/carers will respect the rights of others. The active implementation of this policy is essential to maintaining a safe environment which supports the physical and emotional wellbeing of everyone.

The school community has developed a clear set of values that underpin school decision making and the basis of our working relationship with each other. The Anula Primary School values are respect, honesty, collaboration, responsibility and doing your best. These values are an integral part of the ethos and operation of Anula Primary School. We look forward to working with you and your family over the coming year.



# Early Years Philosophy

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Every class in Anula's Early Years implements the Walker Learning approach (WL) This approach has been developed by Kathy Walker, an educational psychologist and is based on 15 years of research. The approach is developmentally appropriate for young children combining play with explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy. As WL moves into the primary years it moves from a play-based approach to a project-based approach.

Walker Learning engages children in exciting and authentic learning experiences that reflect the particular needs, interest and strengths of the individual child. It ensures a greater level of engagement for boys and helps to reduce behavioural issues within the classroom. Walker Learning also helps to increase rich oral language for all children and integrating literacy and numeracy into all learning experiences.

"The WL approach emphasises that learning is much broader and richer than just literacy and numeracy and it focuses parents, teachers and children on the 'whole' child. The WL approach is a rigorous approach in education requiring teachers to recognise, plan for and implement a range of strategies that clearly identify learning and developmental objectives."

("Play Matters", Kathy Walker, 2007)



Early Years staff members:

- understand and do not confuse WL with past programs such as “developmental play” from the 70’s and 80’s or other programs such as “open classrooms” or Steiner or Reggio Emilia approaches
- recognise WL is based on rigorous brain research and child development theory
- identify the philosophy and key principles the child is at the centre of the curriculum and teaching strategies
  - a balanced curriculum of authentic student interests and engagement alongside teacher scaffolding, direction and explicit teaching
  - student engagement through the children’s investigations and interests
  - explicit teaching and instruction in literacy, numeracy and other learning areas
  - in-depth planning for the development of children alongside learning objectives

The Early Years teachers and school leadership are fully committed to this approach. Already class teachers are observing

- higher levels of engagement and motivation
- higher oral language skills
- increased writing
- increased social and emotional skills
- decreased behavioural problems



Transition, Year One and Two teachers use the Australian Curriculum to develop teaching and learning programs. Anula has a comprehensive curriculum and assessment map and teachers work collaboratively on their planning and programming. Teachers regularly communicate with parents about student progress and are responsive to all enquiries.



# The Early Years Learning Centres

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The school is an open plan design with the library at the centre. This allows for a high level of collaboration and sharing. Teachers are mindful of each other and work keeping their learning spaces tidy and orderly.

At Anula Primary School the Early Years Learning Centres include:



- Preschool
- Transition
- Year 1
- Year 2
- IES – Intensive English School



The Preschool is a separate building across from Area 1/ Administration Block. While there are separate Preschool classes, teachers and staff work together to provide an integrated programme of active learning.

The Preschool grounds are spacious and provide many shaded areas for outdoor activities. The Preschool is fully air- conditioned.



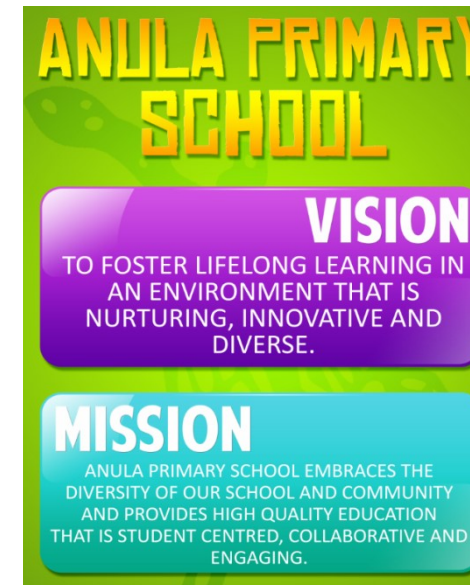
# Anula Primary School Values and Mission

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The first years of school are important steps in your child's learning journey and we welcome you to our school and the school community.

Anula Primary School has been a proud leader in NT education since it opened in 1978. It has a multicultural ethos, backed by the school values of:

- Respect – Treat yourself, others and property with care.
- Doing your best – Try hard to always do the best that you can.
- Collaboration – Work together as a team.
- Honesty – Be truthful in what you say and do.
- Responsibility – Think before you act and make the right choice.



These values were revised and update through the collaboration of children, staff and parents in 2010.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Anula Primary School embraces the diversity of our school and community and provides high quality education that is student centred, collaborative and engaging.

Anula Primary School parents, students and staff share a commitment to our Mission so that students can achieve their full potential and love learning. It is important that students are able to respond creatively and ethically to the challenges of a global society.

## Transition Entry Requirements

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Children who turn 5 years of age before 30<sup>th</sup> June can begin Transition at the start of the school year. Usually children have developed a good foundation through their Preschool experiences and enter Transition with a strong knowledge of school routines, people and expectations.

Some children may need to spend longer in Preschool to ensure that their school journey is comfortable and they are confident about learning.



To enrol in Transition parents need to fill in enrolment forms available at the main office of the school and supply a copy of:

- the child's original birth certificate or immigration papers
- record of up-to-date immunisation from health clinic or doctor
- visa details if arriving from overseas
- The education of each individual is a mutual responsibility shared by the student, home, school, community and society. Anula Primary School is committed to fulfilling its share of responsibility by providing appropriate learning opportunities which will encourage all students to grow intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally to ward full development of their potential.

## Early Years Times & Food Requirements

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Teachers are on duty 15 minutes before the first bell and 15 minutes after last bell.

Children should be encouraged to arrive and depart accordingly.

The school is unable to accept responsibility for children in the school grounds before 8:00 am and after 3:00 pm

Classes	8:15 am – 10:15 am
Food break	Children bring a piece of fruit or a healthy snack from home
Recess	10:15 am – 10:50 am – Teachers on duty Children bring food from home or order from the canteen
Classes	10:50 am – 12:40 pm Supervised eating 12:40 pm – 12:50 pm
Lunch	Children bring food from home or order from the canteen
Lunch Classes	12:50 pm – 1:25 pm – Teachers on duty 1:25 pm – 2:45 pm





## Support for Children

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As well as classroom teachers of excellence, Anula Primary School have additional specialist staff to cater for children with a range of learning needs. Some of the many support programmes available at the school include:

- Intensive English School (IES) classes throughout the school led by experienced teaching staff and supported by bilingual officers for students arriving in Australia with little to no English
- Learning Support Team comprising of an Early Intervention Teacher, a Special Education Teacher and Assistant working across the school supporting students and teachers and working collaboratively with families and caregivers.
- Inclusion support programmes which include tutors and assistance in a variety of ways directed by class teachers
- Aboriginal & Islander Education Worker
- First Language Maintenance Program – where available
- Enrichment and Intervention programs
- After School Care delivered on site by Camp Australia
- After school music lessons through P.M.I.



# Specialist Teachers and Programs

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## VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM



Anula Primary School has an outstanding Visual Arts Program for all students to spend an hour every week in Area 10 with Alison Dowell, Visual Arts teacher. Students learn a wide variety of skills and techniques as they study drawing, painting, ceramics, model making, papier-mâché, puppet making, collage, sewing, drama, singing. They learn about different types of paints, glues, brushes, pens and pencils, scissors, papers, fabrics, clay and glazes and modelling materials.

Students discover a diversity of techniques such as ochre grinding for paint, making pompoms and French knitting, using puppets, tying knots for sewing, as well as practical workshop skills such as washing brushes properly, mixing paints, keeping everything clean and tidy. Early Years students (T-2) are introduced to the variety of materials and techniques through the 'Colour Fun' program, where their artworks are collected in 'Art Books', which are taken home at the end of each semester.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM



Ryan Starkey is our Physical Education teacher and is also responsible for the athletic carnival and school sports events. The Health and Physical Education Program aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to:

- acquire, apply and evaluate movement skills, concepts and strategies to respond confidently, competently and creatively in a variety of physical activity contexts and settings
- engage in and enjoy regular movement-based learning experiences and understand and appreciate their significance to personal, social, cultural, environmental and health practices and outcomes
- develop and use personal, behavioural, social and cognitive skills and strategies to promote a sense of personal identity and wellbeing and to build and manage respectful relationships

## SCIENCE PROGRAM

Fiona Courtney is our Specialist Science Teacher. At Anula Primary School we endeavour to awaken the inquiring mind to the learning opportunities found within the three Australian Curriculum Science Strands of

- Understanding (Biological, Physical, Chemical, Earth and Space)
- Human Endeavour (Nature and Development of Science, Use and Influence of Science)
- Inquiry Skills (Questioning, Predicting, Planning and Undertaking investigations, Evaluating and Communicating investigation results)

Students are exposed to these Strands through Science lessons and Early Years Investigation times. At Anula Primary School opportunities are actively sought to link students to real experiences in Science. This could be in the form of demonstrations by CDU students, visits by Questacon or simply but valuably, visits from parents and friends who work in one of the many fields that is Science.



## When to keep your child at home & school excursions

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There are times when children should stay home. If your child is kept home for any reason, Including illness, please ring, email or text the school to inform staff on the day. If your child is away a second consecutive day notification is still required. Each child's attendance is marked twice daily. While regular attendance is strongly encouraged, if a child is ill, that child needs to stay at home.

If a child becomes sick while at school, parents/carers will be contacted.

It is important that the **emergency contact on the enrolment form is current and up to date.**



As a general rule, standard medication is not given to a child while at school. If a child has asthma, which is controlled with medication such as an inhaler or “puffer”, it is important that all staff are aware of this, the child has a current asthma management plan and appropriate permission notes signed by the parent/carers for use of the puffer while at school. It is also important that a puffer be kept at school for emergency use.

Similarly, if a child has allergies, the school must be informed and appropriate medical protocols discussed with both the class teacher and first aid staff in the school.



When excursions are planned a permission note is sent home to be completed, signed by a parent/carers and returned to school. Parent help on excursions is always appreciated.



## Early Years Uniform Requirements

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Anula Primary School has a compulsory uniform policy which is available on the website. Children wear full school uniform each day. There is a wide selection for you to choose from. These include: polo shirts with logo, skirts, skorts, shorts, dresses, jackets and hats, which are available for purchase at the front office of the school.

Children need:

- a back pack or any appropriate bag to carry school work and other items to and from school
- a hat (see below)
- closed-in shoes that can be put on unassisted. No thongs.
- a water bottle at school each day. Children keep their water bottles on their desks to ensure they are hydrated all day
- a cloth bag for library books. Books may be borrowed weekly from school library
- a spare change of clothes (in case of accidents)

In Term 1 of every school year NT students receive a \$150 Back to School Voucher which can be used to purchase uniforms, book packs and other items



Children are required to have a **broad brimmed** or **bucket hat** (with name and class clearly labelled). **Caps do not** meet the school Sun Safe Policy. All children are required to wear hats when

- outdoors
- taking part in Physical Education
- participating in outdoor excursion

## Early Years Swimming & Safety

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For your child's safety as well as for the safety of others your child should know:

- his/her full name, address and phone number
- the safest and shortest route to/from school or bus stop
- that he/she is expected to go directly home after school
- that he/she should look both ways when crossing the road
- that he/she should watch for cars turning the corner
- that he/she is to accept no rides or go anywhere with strangers
- what he/she is to do if she/she is lost

Anula Primary School has a Sun Safe Policy, so whilst all care will be taken to keep children in shady areas, under shade cloth, or inside the classroom, it is advisable to apply sun block before your child arrives at school.



In the Territory our children are often in the water. It is important for them to have a sound understanding of water safety. The Royal Life Saving Society will be offering all transition students a Swim & Survive Program for Level 1 swimmers attending Anula Primary School, during weeks 1 and 2 of Term 4.

## Contact Details

Principal: Ms. Kerry Hudson

Assistant Principal: Mr Brian Hyke

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Melinda Kealy

Phone: 8997 7500

Email: [anula.admin@ntschoools.net](mailto:anula.admin@ntschoools.net)

Website: [www.anulaprimaryschool.com](http://www.anulaprimaryschool.com)

Text Message: 0427 016 460

App: Schoolstream



### Anula Preschool

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Anna Latz

WL Accredited Teacher

Teacher Assistant: Mrs Chris Millar

Phone: 8997 7511

### Early Years

Senior Teacher: Miss Justina Cross

WL Accredited Teacher: Mrs Janelle Thorne

### Other Contacts

Canteen: 8997 7517

Dental Clinic: 8922 6466

Camp Australia OSHC: 1300 105 343 or 0450 778 159

Frank Brown: School Council Chairperson (meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of month)