

ECHUCA TWIN RIVERS SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Phone: 5410 7700

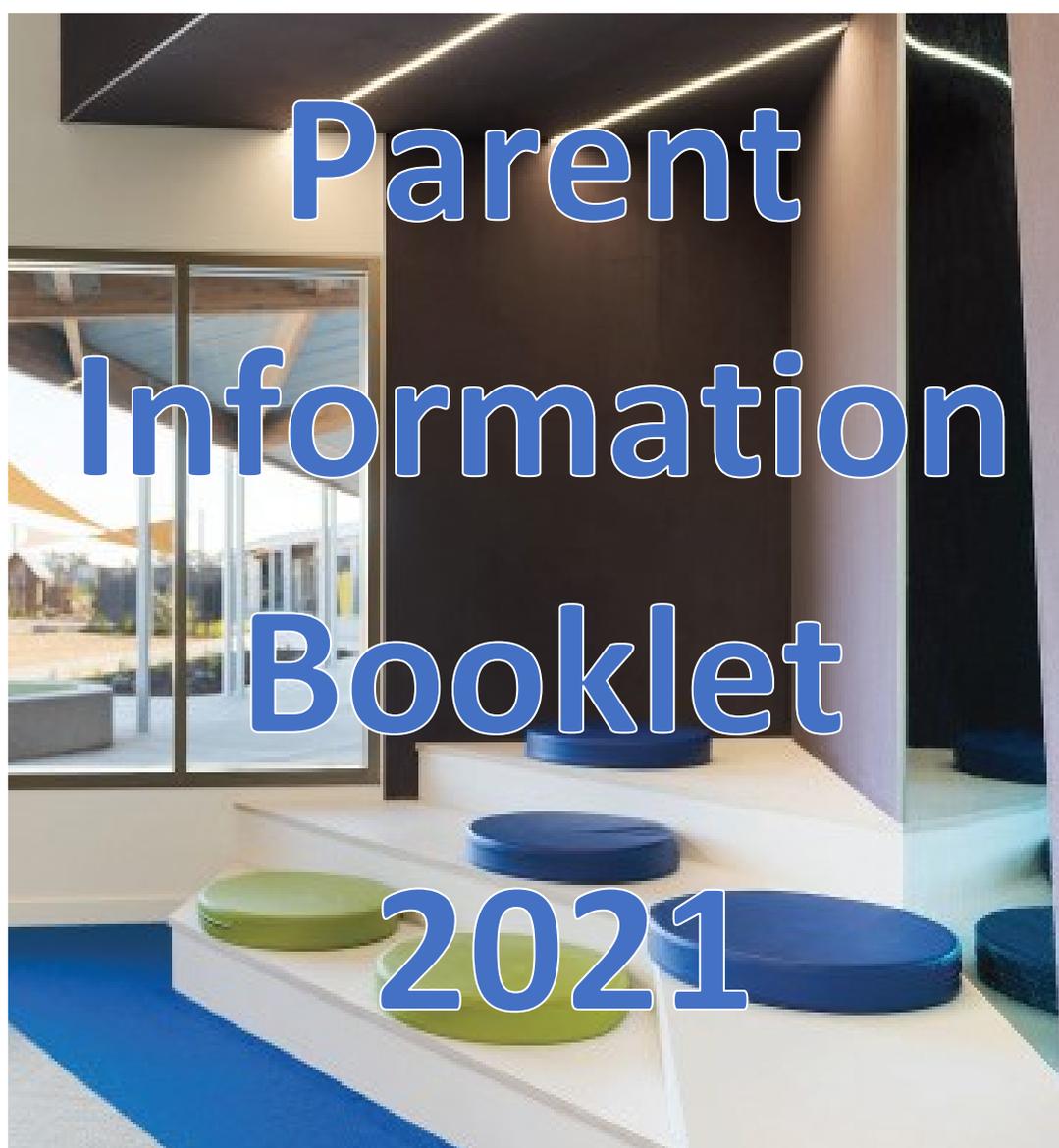
Email: echuca.twin.rivers.ss@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.echucass.vic.edu.au



Our Vision:

To provide inclusive and engaging learning that empowers all students for life.



EchUCA Twin Rivers Specialist School acknowledges the history, culture, diversity, and value of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and pays respect to their elders past and present, as well as acknowledging future generations.

Introduction

Principal Message

Welcome to Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School provides education for children aged 5-18 years with intellectual and associated disabilities. The school enrolment has steadied after a period of rapid growth. Approximately 111 students attend the school. The school provides education based on the Victorian Curriculum and it is differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities. We develop Individual Learning Plans (ILP) for each student designed to be motivating, challenging and flexible. The school uses the Victorian Curriculum from F-10 and VCAL for the last three years of education.

Family connections are vital and the continued support of families is greatly valued. Student welfare is a high priority and we maintain close contact with all families. This provides holistic support not only to students but also to caregivers. Our families come from a diverse background across a large geographical area.

Some of our students have high paramedical needs. Access to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and psychological services is important to our clientele. Specialised therapy and augmented communication equipment support these programs.

The school prides itself on having an open and welcoming environment that encourages parents and the community to be active in the life of the school. Links with the community are encouraged and strong partnerships have been established. The school plays host to students on work experience, community service programs as well as providing onsite training for staff from local mainstream schools and student teachers from various Universities.

The leadership team is made up of Principal, Assistant Principal, 1 Leading Teachers, 2 department leaders and a learning specialist. The Assistant Principal leads Engagement and Wellbeing. There are 15 teachers and 17 Education Support Staff. The school is divided into a Primary and a Secondary Department. There are approximately 40 students in each department.

The school has firmly established the Koorie Inclusive School Wide Positive Behaviour program. Each week an expected behaviour is taught explicitly along with a Positive Behaviour Award handed out. Students receive stamps, which are added up and traded in for class rewards.



Our Purpose

The basis of our schools' philosophy is the belief that all children can learn and have a right to be taught using curriculum that will encourage the student's social, academic and physical potential.

Values

- Respect
- Inclusion
- Knowledge



General Information

School Contacts:

School Address: 66 Wilkinson Drive Echuca
Telephone: 03 5410 7700 – Press 1
Email: echuca.twin.rivers.ss@education.vic.gov.au
Website: <https://www.echucass.vic.edu.au>

Term Dates

Term 1	27 th January (Teachers) 28 th January (Students) – 1 st April
Term 2	19 th April – 25 ^h June
Term 3	12 th July – 17 th September
Term 4	4 th October – 17 th December

Curriculum Days

27th January – Professional Planning Days
2nd November – Report Writing day

School Times

9:00am	Start of school	No students are to be at school before 8:45
11:00am – 11:30am	Whole school recess	
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Whole school Lunch recess	
3:00pm	End of school	

Public Holidays

New Year's Day:	Friday 1 st January
Australia Day:	Tuesday 26 th January
Labor Day:	Monday 8 th March
Good Friday:	Friday 2 nd April
Saturday before Easter Sunday:	Saturday 3 rd April
Easter Sunday:	Sunday 4 th April
Easter Monday:	Monday 5 th April
ANZAC Day:	Sunday 25 th April
Queen's Birthday:	Monday 14 th June
Friday before AFL Grand Final:	Subject to AFL schedule
Melbourne Cup:	Tuesday 2 nd November
Christmas Day:	Saturday 25 th December – Monday 27 th Additional Public Holiday
Boxing Day:	Sunday 26 th December - Tuesday 28 th Additional Public Holiday

School Buses

The education department supplies a bus for students who require transport to and from school. If you require assistance, contact the school. Each bus has its own phone in case of emergencies to allow communication with the school and parents. Please contact the bus if your child will not be on the bus.



Contact the School

Our school will be guided by the "Operations Guide – Victorian Government Schools" updated 18th August, 2020. Please contact the school to discuss any matters or to make an appointment to see a staff member.

Emergency Details

Emergency details for every student is kept on file in case of an illness or accident. Parents are asked to contact the school as soon as possible if there are any changes.

Breakfast

As part of the students wellbeing, the school provides breakfast for students that require food in the morning. There is no cost for this service.

Lunch Orders

Molloy's/School Lunch online provides the lunch order service to the school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Orders can be placed on line via "School Lunch On-Line" or placed in a brown lunch bag or envelope with correct money if possible. A Menu sheet is available at the front office or on-line.



Finances

Student Charges

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School fees are broken into Secondary and Primary. All the fees include essential classroom materials such as pens, pencils, workbook etc. Extra curriculum activities such as swimming, gym, music performances, and sports activities will be charged accordingly to the individual activity. The Primary and Secondary departments may organise a camp within the year. This will be an extra charge to families. All effort is made to notify families of this charge as early as possible.

Fees for 2021 will be: TBC

- \$220 for primary students
- \$220 for secondary students.

Payment Options



Payment Options include Eftpos, credit card, direct deposit, cash or cheque, which can be made via the school office. Payment of fees can be made in full, per term or payment arrangement. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact Business Manager Tracey Paine. Centrepay is available if you would like a deduction made and paid into your school account. You will need to quote Customer Reference Number (CRN) 555 107 171C. Centrelink will then deduct your requested amount and send the payment directly to school. You can contact Centrelink to set up this facility or Tracey in the office on 5410 7700.

Absences

Parents/Carers are required to inform the school when their child is absent from school. This can be done via written note, email, Flexibuzz or phone call to school. A text message will be sent after 9:30 if your child is an unexplained absent.

Uniforms

Uniforms are compulsory and can be purchased from Work Locker Echuca

Primary:

Blue & Orange polo, blue short or pants and dark blue windcheater.



Secondary:

Black & Orange polo, black short or pants and a black windcheater



Broad Brimmed Hat



Student Engagement & Wellbeing

Attendance

All students should attend school on a daily basis. It is essential that each student establish a regular pattern of attendance. Regular attendance is vital in developing sound learning habits and social relationships.

Regular attendance will:

- Allow students to learn to their full potential.
- Ensure continuity of learning.
- Ensure that students develop sound friendships with their peers.
- Ensure that students will develop a positive partnership with the class teacher and other members of staff at the school.
- Instill in students the importance of establishing and adhering to a daily routine.

Leaving School during School Hours

If your child is required to leave the school at any time, a note or email to the school must be provided. Students must sign in/out via the iPad in the front office.

If your child is late for school, they must sign in at the front office before going to class.

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When School Is Out

A teacher supervises the Parent Pick Up gate area from 3:00 until 3:30 or until all children have left the school grounds. After this time supervision is no longer available and any child who has not been picked up or walked home will be brought to the School Office. It is expected that students are collected as close to 3:00 as possible.

To assist with the safety of students please only park in the designated parking area.

Parent Permission

Parents will be notified in advance in writing of any proposed excursion or extra curriculum activity. No child will be taken out of the school grounds unless the child's parent/guardian receives written permission/authority.

These forms are sent home for parent/guardians to complete, sign, and return to school as promptly as possible.

School First Aid

Most staff at Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School annually attend First Aid, Anaphylaxis and Asthma training.

If your child becomes ill or suffers an injury during school time you or your emergency person will be contacted via telephone to seek instructions or second opinion. In serious situations, an ambulance may be called. Ambulance membership is at individual family's discretion however, this will not affect the school's decision to call an ambulance if deemed necessary.

Head Lice

Anyone can get head lice, but they are most common in children aged between four and 11. This may be because of their close contact with each other at school. You can only get head lice through head-to-head contact. They cannot hop, fly or swim. Within the enrolments form your may have signed permission for staff to check your child for head lice. If head lice is detected the parent/caregiver will be called to come and collect their child from school. Once the child has been treated, they may return to school. It is important that the treatment be followed up each week until there are no sign of lice or eggs.

Medical Exclusion of children from School

To reduce the risk of infection to staff and students at school the following infectious diseases have various exclusion periods from school in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines:

Chickenpox	Ringworm
Conjunctivitis	Poliomyelitis
Diphtheria	Rubella
Diarrhoea	Scabies
Hepatitis	Trachoma
Hepatitis B	Tuberculosis
Impetigo	Typhoid
Leprosy	Paratyphoid
Measles	Meningococcal Infection
Mumps	Streptococcal Infection
Head lice	Whooping Cough

For more information visit

www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas.bluebook

COVID -19

Students experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19) should be encouraged to seek the advice of their healthcare professional who can advise on next steps. Where students have been tested, they must isolate until they receive their test result. Students are generally not required to present a medical certificate stating they are fit to return to an education setting after a period of illness, however students should not return until symptoms resolve.

Medication at School

If a student is required to take medication at school parent/carer must fill out a "Student Medication Plan" form, which can be obtained at the office. The preferred method of administering medication is via Webster Pack.

If your child suffers from Asthma, Allergic/Anaphylaxis or Epilepsy the school requires a copy of current management plans. These need to be signed by a medical practitioner.



Yard Supervision

Staff that are on duty during recess and lunchtime will wear a yellow high viz vest so students can identify them.



New Enrolments

The Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School welcomes all enrolment enquires. Enrolment packs are available at the front office. An interview can be arranged with the Principal or Assistant Principal and generally lasts 30mins. We will collect information applicable to the child/ren including any medical or physiological assessments.

The following information must be sighted with the application:

- Birth Certificate
- History of Immunisation
- Medical/physiological assessments and records.

All enrolments will be consistent with the Department of Education & Training enrolment policy into specialist school settings.

Transition

- October/November
Foundation teacher will visit preschool and talk to the students, parent and preschool teacher.

- December

Orientation day at school TBD

Whole school transition for students "Stepping up" into their new classroom for the following year.

- January

First day of school (28th)

- February

SSG meetings to discuss how your child/ren have settled into school and their progress.

Dual Enrolments

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School collaborates with local schools to provide dual enrolment for a small number of students. Families work with the schools to decide if dual enrolment would enhance the learning outcomes for individual students.

Student Engagement & Wellbeing Policy

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School is dedicated to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for every student.

The engagement and wellbeing policy outlines the steps the school follows to support students and families. This document can be found on our website or can be provided from the office.

The school is required to meet the "Child Safe Standards". Our school has a "Child Safe Policy" and "Staff code of conduct". These can also be found on our website or from the office. Teachers are required by law to report any evidence of physical or sexual abuse of children. Guidelines are in the Schools of the Future Reference Guide, which is found on line.

Koorie Engagement Support Officer



Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) are an integral part of Victoria's state education system. KESOs support Koorie children and their families with assistance to make the journey through primary and secondary school as seamless as possible.

KESOs focus specifically on the engagement of Koorie students, families and communities within the government school and early childhood systems, as well as kindergartens and other areas of early childhood. KESOs connect with other relevant internal (school and regional staff) and external support workers to assist family engagement.



Junior School Council

A representative from each classroom makes up the Junior School Council. They meet with the Principal or his representative on a fortnightly basis to discuss school issues.

Curriculum

Victorian Curriculum F-10

The school follows the Victorian Curriculum as set out by DET. Classroom teachers modify the curriculum to meet the individual learning styles and requirements of individual students.

VCAL

Students in their final three years of school participate in VCAL programs. These programs are created to engage students whilst meeting learning outcomes.



Homework

Whilst there are no formal homework requirements, individual teachers might set tasks to support and enhance learning. This might include reading at home or playing number/word games. Families can also request homework for their child to complete. However, this is not mandatory.

Specialists Subjects

Physical Education

All students are involved in a range of physical activities these including bike riding, swimming, gym program, interschool sports, etc.



Performing Arts: Music Program

The key focus of the school's Music Program is to help students develop their listening skills so that they will enhance their enjoyment of music throughout their future life. In addition to listening skills, students will learn performance skills on a range of percussion instruments, guitars, ukuleles, keyboards and singing. These newly acquired skills will be applied to the performance of songs and instrumental music, where students will be trained to play and sing the correct sequence of notes at the correct time. It is widely acknowledged in the academic world that this process is having a positive effect on learning of numeracy and literacy.

The overriding aim of the Music Program is to provide students with the opportunities to express themselves about and through music.



Library

Students have access to borrow books from our library. Staff ensure the current shortlisted books are in stock and work in conjunction with the Art programme to provide exciting hands-on library activities.



Excursions & Camps

Excursions are regarded as an integral part of the school curriculum as they enable students to explore, extend and enrich their learning and their social skills development, in a non-school setting. Excursions complement, and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at the school. An excursion is defined as any activity beyond the school grounds.

AIMS

- To reinforce, complement and extend the learning opportunities beyond the classroom
- To develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school, and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world.
- To provide a safe, secure learning experience for students in a venue external to the school.
- To further develop social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, communication, individual and group interaction.
- To further, develop problem solving and life survival skills.
- To extend understanding of their physical and cultural environment.

Work Experience

Senior students are supported in work experience programs with local businesses and Vivid. This enables students to get experience within the work force before they leave school



Pictures—Activities at Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School

