



## Yarraville West Primary School

Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Teamwork

### Q & A

#### Can we organise a tour of the school to view rooms and facilities?

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold school tours. This directive from the Department of Education is to reduce the number of people onsite, for the health and safety of our staff and students. The virtual tour was designed to answer the most frequently asked questions posed during previous school tours.

You can see the Prep children within their classroom, during the 'second a day' clip on the virtual tour. Here is a photo of one of our prep rooms...



#### Do you have a school holiday program?

The Out of School Hours Care program offers care from 6.30am in the morning and until 6pm in the evening. Care is often available on curriculum days however we do not provide a holiday program. Parents can seek to join holiday programs which run at some of the schools in the surrounding area.

#### In general, how many students are in each class?

Class numbers range from year to year, depending of staffing and classroom availability. We aim to keep junior classes (Prep to Two) at approximately 21 students, with senior classes (3-6) averaging around 26.

#### How many prep classes are there?

In 2020, there are currently 7 Prep classes. This fluctuates from year to year, according to student and staff numbers.

### **We don't live in the catchment zone, are we still able to apply and what are the chances there is a potential spot for our son?**

As you would have read, preference must always be given to those students who live within the designated neighbourhood area. Some enrolments may not be submitted until later in the year, due to change of location, for example. We will be in a position to consider applications from outside the zone, in mid to late term 4. Unfortunately, it is difficult to make a prediction around the likelihood of students being accepted outside of the zone as numbers fluctuate from year to year.

### **Does YWPS offer individual music tuition classes onsite?**

An instrumental music program is delivered by a private provider under a user pays system. Currently the program offers a limited number of spaces to students in grades two to six.

### **I am interested in the rationale for composite classes, is it mainly because numbers per grade would not generally split into reasonable class sizes or are there perceived benefits to teaching/learning?**

At YWPS, we have straight Prep classes and then composite classes for grades 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6. Some of the many benefits to having composite classes:

- children are taught at point of need and teachers differentiate their instruction to suit all learners in their class, regardless of age/level
- teachers have an extensive knowledge of the curriculum, including what comes before and what comes after each particular level, allowing them to extend or support each student
- allows teachers to have a more diverse range of learners to group together, either in 'like needs' or 'mixed ability' groupings. This allows a grade one, for example to work alongside a grade two in a reading group, when both have similar needs
- provides an opportunity for students in the older half of the grade to be leaders
- historically we have found that the younger grade benefits from the maturity level of the older grade and are often inspired by their work ethic
- children get to know a more diverse range of students which supports stronger community relationships within the playground