



Bulleen Heights School

Autism/Intellectual Disability

Principal Rose Walthers

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BULLEEN HEIGHTS SCHOOL PROFILE

The Bulleen Heights School community is diverse. It includes all those individuals and groups who work in direct and indirect ways to support and promote the school's Strategic Plan, vision and mission statements both at the school and in the wider community. The school will promote and uphold the values of: integrity, high professional standards, care and support, and consistency, in dealing with the community.

Bulleen Heights School is situated at Bulleen in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, approximately 14kms from the city centre. The school is in a residential area close to public transport and local community facilities such as the Bulleen Plaza shopping centre and the Bulleen Library.

Bulleen Heights School is a Department of Education specialist school for students who are diagnosed with autism and for students with a mild intellectual disability. Our school is a dual mode school currently providing educational programs for approximately 190 students ranging in age from five to eighteen years. Approximately one hundred and sixty students have a diagnosis of autism and thirty have a mild intellectual disability. Classes vary in size with staffing reflecting student needs. The school is divided into Departments 1, 2, 3, & 4. Students are in classes based upon a combination of age, developmental level and maturity. Off campus classrooms are located at Belle Vue Primary School, Templestowe Valley Primary School and Manningham Park Primary School. Department of Education and Training contracted buses and taxis transport most of the students to and from the school.

The school provides excellent teaching programs and learning experiences designed to develop and extend the particular skills and strengths of each student. This is achieved by encouraging decision making and risk taking within a structured, predictable and secure environment. Bulleen Heights is committed to providing core teaching and learning programs and supporting students and their families. It looks at both immediate and long term goals and expectations in the belief that all students can learn, achieve success and enjoy adult life as contributing members of a community.

Partnerships between parents, siblings, past students, local schools, consultants, universities, government and non-government agencies and the local community provide vital contributions to programs. A psychologist, social worker, occupational therapists, speech therapists, physiotherapist, dance therapists and assault response therapist support our extensive educational programs. This team of professionals compliments our educational programs. The school is closely linked with post-graduate students working with the school community to conduct research and implement appropriate programs. Inclusive learning and interaction programs are a feature of students' programs and involve local primary and secondary schools.

Curriculum development and implementation across the school is based on the *Victorian Essential Learning Standards*, providing a framework for planning the whole school curriculum by setting out standards for students to achieve in core areas. At Bulleen Heights School the Learning Standards assist in the development of student programs, according to individual need, assessment and reporting of student achievement and progress. Student goals will be developed within the three integrated strands: Physical, Personal and Social Learning, Discipline – based Learning and Interdisciplinary Learning. Each strand has a number of domains from which student standards of achievement and progress are measured.

The school continues to be involved in a DE&T initiative, *'Innovation and Excellence'*, as part of a local cluster of schools.

Program delivery, using Applied Behaviour Analysis teaching techniques, continues to be an option predominantly for students in Department 1. Applied Behaviour Analysis teaching methodologies are

implemented by classroom teachers and teacher assistants, and supported by a team of therapists in this specialist area.

The varied characteristics of our student population demand the implementation of a variety of teaching methodologies. Individual Learning Plans are developed through Program Support Group meetings involving parents/carers, teachers and other appropriate professionals and agencies. Teaching and learning takes place within many contexts including the community and is structured to be functional and meaningful. Social, academic, independent living, recreational, behavioural and vocational goals are developed for each student.

Learning Programs

- Victorian Early Years Literacy Program
- Community participation and Access Programs
- Career and Work Education, Vocational Education, Work Experience
- Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)
- Information Technology
- Multisensory Integration
- Independent Living Skills
- Travel Training
- Physical Education – GYM, Swimming, Outdoor Education, Bicycle Education
- Riding for the Disabled (Horse Riding)
- Leisure Skills
- Dance Therapy

Educational Support Services

- Psychologist
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Therapists
- Social Worker
- DE&T Speech Therapist

The school has three main buildings, several portables and a three bedroom brick house in extensive grounds. The campus includes classrooms, a multi-purpose room, gymnasium, homecrafts room, vocational education and training room, computer centre, a gross motor room, ABA consultancy room, sensory (Snozelen) room, and a staff resource room. There are three offsite classrooms at Belle Vue, Templestowe Valley and Manningham Park Primary Schools. There is a secure courtyard area with adventure play equipment for students. A landscaped bike track and Soundscape, fitness circuit, basketball and tennis courts, oval, challenge playground, recreational equipment and gazebo are all available for student use. Various school facilities are available for community use outside school hours. Three school buses service the school's external programs.

Students at Bulleen Heights have access to several after school activities run by local government and community organisations as well as an after school basketball program and a past pupils' association. A holiday program has been developed in conjunction with Manningham Council.

There is ongoing development of current specialist consultancy and support to schools.

- School community priorities;
- School Self Assessment / School Review 2006
- Development of new School Strategic Plan 2007 – 2010
- Performance & Development Culture Accreditation
- Implementation & Consolidation of Organizational Health Project
- Quality in Learning Project
- Sustainable Schools Project –Waste & Water Re-cycling