Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Dapto Public School. We pride ourselves in the excellence of learning where children can work towards and achieve their potential. With a strong emphasis on the development of the basics, success is achieved through becoming effective readers, writers and mathematicians. However, we hold most pride in the creation of a supportive and caring atmosphere throughout our school. An atmosphere where children can grow in an environment conducive for learning.

Our reputation for providing the best possible education, which includes a wide range of activities ensures all students are engaged and motivated. Our school is the winner of numerous awards in educational initiatives. Our programs in the creative arts have a proud tradition of excellence and we are renowned throughout the Wollongong and South Coast area. Our teachers have been recognised for their personal excellence and contribution to education. Most importantly, past students have gone on to selective educational placements and post schooling, to successful careers.

Dapto’s proud history continues in the day to day interactions with children and in giving them the ‘keys to success in life’ through a strong and effective education.

I warmly welcome you again to your community’s school.

Mr Tony Friedrich
Principal
Contents

Section 1: Dapto Public School ................................................................. 5
  Our Statement Of Purpose ................................................................. 5
  A Brief History ..................................................................................... 5
  Our School Education Director – Shellharbour SEA ......................... 5
  The Staff ............................................................................................... 5
  Learning Support .................................................................................. 6
  School Administrative Support Staff .................................................... 6
  Classes .................................................................................................. 6
  School Hours ......................................................................................... 6
  The School Environment ..................................................................... 7
  Supervision .......................................................................................... 7
  Late Arrivals .......................................................................................... 7
  Early Departure ...................................................................................... 7
  Visiting The School .............................................................................. 8
  School Uniforms .................................................................................... 8
  Interviews ............................................................................................... 9
  Home School Communication ............................................................ 9
  Student Welfare ...................................................................................... 9
  The Discipline System ......................................................................... 10
  School Website ..................................................................................... 11

Section 2: The School Curriculum ............................................................ 12
  English / Literacy ................................................................................... 12
  Mathematics / Numeracy ..................................................................... 12
  Human Society And Its Environment (HSIE) ..................................... 13
  Science And Technology .................................................................... 13
  Computer Education ............................................................................ 13
  Creative Arts (CA) ............................................................................... 14
  Personal Development, Health And Physical Education (PD,H,PE) ...... 14
  School Sport .......................................................................................... 14

Section 3: General Information ................................................................. 16
  Change Of Details ................................................................................ 16
  Emergency Contacts ............................................................................ 16
  Custody Of Children ........................................................................... 16
  School Attendance ............................................................................... 16
  Money Collection .................................................................................. 17
  School Library ....................................................................................... 17
  School Counsellor ................................................................................ 17
  First Aid ................................................................................................ 17
  Medicine ................................................................................................ 18
  School Photographs ............................................................................. 18
  Lost Property ......................................................................................... 18
  Bus Travel .............................................................................................. 18
  Bicycles .................................................................................................. 19
  Religious Instruction ............................................................................ 19
  Classroom Assistance .......................................................................... 19
  Classroom Requisites .......................................................................... 20
  The Parents’ And Citizens’ Association .............................................. 20
  The School Canteen ............................................................................. 20
  Mufti-Days ............................................................................................ 20
  Homework ............................................................................................ 21
Section 1: Dapto Public School

Our Statement Of Purpose

Dapto Public School provides quality educational experiences and opportunities for all students.

We aim to develop the individual talents, interests and abilities which will enable students to reach their full potential, with the capacity and confidence to succeed in the 21st Century.

A Brief History

Dapto Public School was opened in 1876 in Dapto. It was relocated to Horsley in 2004 and has 18 permanent classrooms. Currently the school has eight demountable classrooms. The school has an extensive library and a hall which can be used for school and community functions.

Our School Education Director

Mrs Carol Marshman
Wollongong Network of Schools

The Staff

The School Executive

Mr Tony Friedrich - Principal
Mr Dark - Relieving Deputy Principal
Ms Manahan - Assistant Principal
Mrs Klepczarek - Assistant Principal
Mrs Harford - Relieving Assistant Principal
Mrs Tucker - Relieving Assistant Principal

At the commencement of each school year a list of class teachers' names is published together with the class that they will be teaching.

School Contact Details
Ph. 4261 2247 or 4261 1015
Fax: 4262 2038
Email: dapto-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.daptos.nsw.edu.au.
DEC Website: www.shellharbour.det.nsw.edu.au
Learning Support Team
The school has a Learning Support Team (LST). This team consists of an English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher, Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA) and a Reading Recovery Teacher. These experienced teachers provide additional help to students requiring assistance with learning.

A School Counsellor service is available through the school 3 days per week. In general the service assists with identifying appropriate techniques in teaching students who have experienced learning difficulties or who need academic assessments to utilise various resources within the Department of Education or counselling.

A Teacher/ Librarian is employed for five days each week. This is for children to access literature for research or enjoyment.

Release from Face to Face (RFF) teaching is provided to all full time teachers for two hours release per week to allow them to plan lessons, conduct parent interviews and to prepare individual programs. RFF teachers continue to work on each class' learning program during this time.

School Administrative Support Staff

Mrs Linda Long - School Administrative Manager
Mrs Helen Cunningham - School Administrative Officer
Mrs Debbie Mitchell - School Administrative Officer
Mrs Alison Relf - School Administrative Officer (Permanent Part-Time)
Mrs Colleen Robinson - Relieving School Administrative Officer
Mr Kim Wall - General Assistant
Mr Ted Farrugia - Spotless Site Manager

Classes

Classes are formed at the beginning of the school year. Class formation will be carefully considered in regards to individual need. At the beginning of each year the school will retain students in holding classes (which are last year’s classes) for a couple of days while numbers are confirmed for the year.

School Hours

School commences - 8:55 am
School finishes - 2:50 pm
Morning Session - 8:55am – 10:55am
Lunch - 10:55am – 11:35am
Mid Session - 11:35am – 1:20pm
Recess - 1:20pm – 1:50pm
Afternoon Session - 1:50pm – 2:50pm
The School Environment

The school is situated in Horsley in the middle of an established residential area. The grounds are pleasant with large grassed and concrete playing areas for the students. Security fencing surrounds the school supporting a safe learning environment.

Our classrooms contain the latest in technology and educational teaching aides. Every class has an interactive whiteboard. This is the latest in educational technology. All computers are connected to the internet ensuring that all children have access. Each classroom has a class bank of computers which have filtered internet access.

The school hall provides a venue for assemblies, dance, drama and musical activities. Visiting performance groups use the hall to present items of educational value to the children. The hall is also used by After School Care and government elections.

Our school has two covered outdoor learning areas (COLA) to provide areas for Dapto students a place to play out of the sun and rain, along with another venue for assemblies and special events.

The Library is a focal point of the school, and is situated in the middle of our grounds. It is computerised and connected to the Internet. There is a small network of computers for students to enhance their research and technology skills. Our school’s computer lab and multimedia centre are located in the library building. This houses 30 desktop systems to provide for the tuition of technology. Features of this room include: projector, full internet access and a server for students to individually logon and retain their work.

Supervision

Supervision by staff is provided from 8.25am each day. It is not safe for students to be on the premises before this time as they are not supervised.

Students who need to come to school before 8.25am and require care after 2.50pm, Before and After School Care is available in the school hall. Interested parents should contact Big Fat Smile on Ph. 4283 9911 for more information or click the link from our school’s website.

Late Arrivals

Any child who arrives at school after 8.55am must obtain a late stamp from the school office before going to class. This is because class teachers would have already marked the student as absent on the class roll. This is very important to ensure that during an emergency all students are accounted for.

Early Departure

To ensure the safety of our children, if you wish to collect your child before the end of the school day you must obtain a leave pass from the school office before going to the classroom. The leave pass is then handed to the class teacher. A note must be provided to the class teacher if someone other than yourself is to pick up your child.
Visiting The School

When visiting the school during school time you must report to the office and sign in the visitors book. You will be issued with a visitors badge to wear whilst in the school grounds and classrooms. Please return the badge to the office when leaving the school.

School Uniforms

School policy, determined by the school community, is that the children should wear school uniforms. We are extremely proud of our students and our school. Wearing school uniform fosters pride in the school and assists in the development of good tone and conduct.

The Uniform Shop is located directly opposite the office. Please contact the school for opening hours.

Current Price List/Order forms can be downloaded from the school's website.

Cash and EFTPOS only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girl’s Uniform</th>
<th>Summer Options</th>
<th>Winter Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue and white check A-Line dress, white socks, black shoes &amp; school hat.</td>
<td>School shirt worn with royal blue culottes white socks, black shoes &amp; school hat.</td>
<td>School shirt, royal blue slacks, royal blue fleece jumper or school jacket, black shoes, white socks &amp; school hat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boy’s Uniform</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey shorts worn with school shirt, grey socks, black shoes &amp; school hat.</td>
<td>School shirt, grey pants, royal blue fleecy jumper or school jacket, grey socks, black shoes &amp; school hat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the interests of health, children are required to have a school hat when playing in the playground, at sport or on an excursion. Our school’s policy is “No hat, play in the shade.”

**Labelling**

You are asked to ensure that all school clothing is appropriately labelled so that lost items may be readily returned.

**Interviews**

You are always welcome to arrange an interview to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling. If you wish to have an interview please contact the office to arrange a time when the class teacher will be available. Interpreters can be provided. There are scheduled interviews at the beginning of Term 3 each year. Additionally each year in the first 3 weeks of Term 1 there is a meet the teacher evening.

**Home School Communication**

The school recognises that the education of our children is the shared responsibility of the home and the school. A newsletter is produced each week to celebrate the achievements of groups and individual students. This newsletter is emailed each Wednesday. Please ensure that you leave your email address with the office to ensure that you receive your newsletter. All notes requiring permission will be given to children and will also be attached to the school’s website for parents to download.

We try to keep you as fully informed as possible on all matters relating to your child’s education. Any concern felt by you should be discussed with the class teacher or the Principal as soon as possible. In turn we will contact you if we have concerns for your child as well. Please ensure the office has your latest contact numbers.

**Student Welfare**

Student Welfare involves everything that the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of our students. It is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered. It incorporates effective discipline and preventative health and social skills programs.

The Dapto Public School’s Student Welfare program provides opportunities for our students to:

- enjoy success and recognition
- make a useful contribution to the life of the school
- derive enjoyment from their learning
At Dapto we have developed a Discipline Policy which promotes and encourages the growth and development of self discipline and excellent behaviour. We provide a safe and happy environment in which students can achieve their full potential.

We have a system of rewards/awards to encourage and support positive behaviour. Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour are also in place so that children can realise that there are consequences for their actions.

The Discipline Policy, which is strongly based on the Department of Education’s Student Welfare, Good Discipline and Effective Learning document, has been reviewed during 2012 to incorporate changes.

Students work towards awards all aimed at positive reinforcement which supports their development. Awards include, Merit Certificates presented at fortnightly assemblies and the School Spirit Award which is given out twice a term to recognise and support positive behaviour.

There are 3 encompassing ‘School Rules’ which is the basis of the values we teach here at Dapto. They are; Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner.
You can visit our school website at

www.daptops.nsw.edu.au

There you will find information about our school, student work samples, newsletters and news updates.
Section 2: The School Curriculum

**English / Literacy**

The aim of the Australian English K-10 Syllabus is to develop competence in using language and encourage positive attitudes towards learning English.

The new Australian English Syllabus was implemented in 2014 and covers the following objectives:

- Speaking and Listening
- Writing and Representing
- Handwriting and using digital technologies
- Reading and viewing
- Spelling
- Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary
- Thinking imaginatively and creatively
- Expressing themselves
- Reflecting on Learning

You can best support the school's program by reading to or with your child for a short time each evening and by encouraging your child to choose and read books in their areas of interest. It is a good idea to then discuss the text with them.

The handwriting style used in NSW schools is called Foundation style. In the later years of primary school, children are encouraged to develop their own style of handwriting.

**Mathematics / Numeracy**

Mathematics is best learned in an atmosphere of engagement and challenge. The Mathematics program at Dapto provides children with opportunities to learn to:

- describe and apply patterns and relationships
- reason, predict and solve problems
- calculate both mentally and in written form
- estimate and measure
- interpret and communicate information presented in numerical, geometrical, graphical, statistical and algebraic forms

The K-6 Mathematics Syllabus ensures that children progress through sequential activities in the areas of Number, Space and Geometry, Patterns and Algebra, Measurement, Data and Working Mathematically.
Human Society And Its Environment  (HSIE)

Human Society and Its Environment is the learning area where children develop their skills and knowledge of cultural studies, Australian studies and environmental education. In cultural studies they find out about themselves, their relationships with other people and culture from around the world. The Australian studies component allows children to investigate Australian physical, social and cultural environments both past and present so that they can reflect on the future directions for the Australian society.

Science And Technology

This learning area is concerned with preparing children for life in the 21st Century so that they are able to respond to the growth of scientific and technological knowledge. Science is concerned with finding out about the world in a systematic way. Technology is about the effective use of resources to meet the needs of our modern society.

Computer Education

The school operates a computer education program using networked Mac computers. The program is designed to develop computer awareness in children while building skills in the use on computer software. All children are given the opportunity to use computers as a learning tool across all areas of the curriculum. All students have access to our computer lab and use it each week. The lab allows students to learn on an individual machine so they can practice and learn from the tuition of teachers.

Each classroom has a small bank of computers to support classroom learning programs. All machines are connected to the internet. The internet is filtered by the department to ensure inappropriate material is not accessed by children.

Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard. This educational tool is the latest in educational technology and provides students with access to the internet. This tool stimulates learning and allows teachers to demonstrate skills in a creative and effective way.
Creative Arts (CA)

Incorporates Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. The Creative Arts Curriculum is designed to enable students to gain increasing understanding and accomplishment in the visual arts, music, drama and dance and for students to appreciate the meanings and values that each of the art forms offer personally, culturally and as forms of communication. At the beginning of each year children will be offered an area of the arts to specialise in for the year.

Personal Development, Health And Physical Education (PD,H,PE)

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education is the Key Learning Area in which children gain an understanding of themselves, how they can relate effectively with others, make responsible decisions and take action enabling them to enhance the quality of their lives. More directly than in any other curriculum area, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education emphasises the importance of leading healthy lifestyles and the need for understanding the mental, physical and social factors that influence personal health.

School Sport

We offer a large range of sports to all our children both through the school sports program and the interschool competition (Primary PSSA). The sports program aims to encourage participation and cooperation whilst providing training in skills needed in a variety of sports.

Programs we offer are:
- The Gymnastics Program for children runs K-6 and operates in term 4 of each year and provides students with the opportunity to be coached by a qualified instructor. A qualified instructor conducts the classes during school time. This is to develop skills of gross motor and coordination.
• The 3 to 6 students have the opportunity to trial and participate in PSSA gala day competitions in various sports.
• Competitive competition in Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country
• Special sporting options include ten pin bowling, bushwalking, AFL clinic, tennis and table tennis.
• State knockouts including soccer, rugby league and AFL.
• For talented students in area of sport, there is the opportunity to trial for representative teams. Representative honors are at a Zone, Regional, State and Australian level. We have had many students successful in achieving representative teams. These students have enjoyed and developed their sporting abilities.

For purposes of school based sporting competitions, pupils are grouped into 4 Houses:

**Dimond (Blue)** named after Bob and Peter Dimond, both ex-pupils of our school who represented Australia many times in rugby league

**Wongawilli (Green)** the name of the coal mine opened here in 1888. One of the first coal mines to produce a million tons of coal a year in 1962.

**Beach (Red)** named after William Beach, a local blacksmith who became the world champion in rowing in 1884. He trained in Mullet Creek and defended his title 6 times before retiring, undefeated.

**Marshall (Yellow)** Sarah and Henry Osborne came to Dapto in 1829 to take up a 2,560 acre land grant they called Marshall Mount (after Sarah’s maiden name). They were very involved in public affairs and St Luke’s Church.

Children are placed in a House in Kindergarten and remain in that House for the rest of their time at the school. Children from the same family are placed in the same House.
Section 3: General Information

Change Of Details

Please notify the school of any alterations to custody, work contact numbers or address details as soon as there is any change. Providing accurate details promptly will allow for effective communication between parents and the school. This process is for both the health and safety of your child and as stated above for the collection of relevant data.

Emergency Contacts

It is extremely important that in the event of an emergency the school is able to contact parents during school hours. Any change to emergency contact telephone numbers or relevant information during the year should be notified immediately to the school office.

Custody Of Children

When children attending school are in the custody of one parent or guardian, a copy of the court order outlining the conditions of custody should be sighted by the Principal. It is important that this procedure be carried out so that we are aware of the situation and can act in the best interests of your child.

School Attendance

The Education Act (1990) requires that parents ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school. Regular attendance plays a vital role not only in a child’s academic progress but also in their social and emotional development. The Department of Education requires a valid reason from parents and carers when their child is away from school.

These may include:
- An unavoidable medical or dental appointment
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstances
- Being sick, or having an infectious disease

If your child has to be absent or is absent the school must be notified within seven school days of the absence occurring. This is usually by way of a note but can also be a phone call or visiting the school to inform the class teacher or office.

Holidays
Parents are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. However, if it is necessary to take holidays during school time, parents can apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school. This will ensure that absences are not recorded as unjustified. Forms are available from the office.

Arrival on time
Arriving at school and class on time:
- Ensures that students don’t miss out on important learning activities
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Reduces disruption to the class.
- Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained the same way as other forms of absence.
Money and Permission Notes Collection

When money and permission notes are needed to be returned to school it should be sent in an envelope to the office and placed in the postal slot in the school foyer wall. The envelope needs to have clearly written:
• your child’s name
• class
• the activity the money is for

School Library

The school library is open for children to read or borrow books at lunch and recess each day and also during class library lessons. All children must bring a library bag to school when borrowing and returning books during their library class time. A good serviceable library bag can be purchased from the Office.

School Counsellor

The school has the services of a school counsellor for three days per week. The counsellor is available on appointment to discuss any matter relating to the education of your child. Interviews with the school counsellor are confidential.

First Aid

First aid for any serious injury incurred by your child at this school is provided by a member of the Administration Staff who has a current First Aid certificate. Any child requiring first aid should firstly report to the class teacher or the teacher on playground duty. All teachers receive training in emergency care. Any injury or illness of a more serious nature will be notified to the parents on the contact number provided.
**Medicine**

In the interests of safety for all children the school requires that all medications be handed in at the school office where the office staff will oversee distribution and dosage. All medication must be accompanied by a completed form for the administering of medication which is signed. On this form parents are to indicate:
- the child’s name
- dosage
- time for administration

Teachers are not permitted to administer any medication. Members of the Administrative Staff are certified in the Administration of Prescribed Medications and Asthma Treatments.

Please advise your child’s class teacher of any medication regularly administered at home, which might have an impact on your child’s performance and behaviour.

Asthma puffers may remain with students after consultation with the office staff.

Students requiring a medical management plan are required to arrange a meeting with the principal to ensure procedures are documented and that the school is best meeting the needs of the child.

**School Photographs**

In Term 1 the school arranges for individual, class and special group photos to be taken by professional photographers. Photographs are organised on a prepaid order basis. Every class and student is photographed.

**Lost Property**

All items of lost property that have no names marked on them are placed in the lost property basket inside the Hall. Children or parents wishing to look for missing items should check the lost property basket. Please remember that labelling your child’s belongings will greatly assist in preventing lost property.

**Bus Travel**

All students in Infants are eligible for free bus travel to and from school. Primary students are eligible for free bus travel if the distance travelled to school is greater than 1.6km. Bus passes must be shown to the bus driver. If lost or stolen a replacement pass can be purchased from the bus company.

When travelling on buses, students must observe the NSW Department of Transport Code of Conduct to protect their own safety and the safety and comfort of other students. A copy of the code of conduct is available from the school office.

Bus passes may be withdrawn as a result of poor behaviour. All bus enquiries to Premier Illawarra on 4271 1322.
Bicycles

Children may park bicycles in the bike racks which are located on the school grounds:

- Only children 10 years or older are permitted to ride a bike to school. This is in line with the Department of Education and Training and NSW Roads and Traffic Authority recommendation that children under 10 years of age DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult.
- Children must return to school a completed Bicycle Users Contract before riding to school.
- the bicycle is to be parked and locked in the bicycle racks and not ridden in the school grounds
- the road rules are obeyed whilst riding to and from school
- helmets are worn at all times while riding
- the bicycle is road worthy

Under no conditions are bicycles to be ridden on school grounds.

Skateboards, scooters and rollerblades are not permitted.

Religious Instruction

Members of the clergy and other volunteers conduct half hour classes in religious instruction for students each Tuesday. Classes are formed according to religious denominations. Parents are asked to give permission for their child to attend these classes and to select which denomination they wish to attend.

Ethics Classes

Ethics classes are available for students who do not attend the available Scripture classes. Ethics is a branch of philosophy and examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances.

Classroom Assistance

During the year parents, grandparents and caregivers provide valuable assistance by helping in the classrooms. They supervise activities, listen to children read, help with writing and research and also with Physical Education. If you are able to help in any way, please contact your child's teacher. If you are assisting in the classroom you are required to complete a Child Protection form and to sign in at the office each time so that we have a record of your visit. This is for safety and insurance purposes.
Classroom Requisites

The Department of Education and Training provides most of the exercise books and other materials required by the students. Pencils, pens and rulers etc are tools or resources that students need to bring daily to school to enable them to complete their tasks. Childrens’ learning opportunities are hampered by the absence of these resources. Your child’s class teacher will send home a list of resources that you need to buy for your child. Please supply your children with these resources as soon as possible.

The Parents’ And Citizens’ Association

The active Parents’ and Citizens’ Association (P & C) meets Monday evenings on the second Monday of the each month. The branch organisations of the P & C work together to raise funds to provide additional materials and equipment which is needed for the school's educational programs. The P & C operates the Uniform Shop employing volunteer parents and caregivers. At the regular monthly meetings matters are discussed relating to the educational programs of the school and the welfare of the children.

We encourage you to join the P & C of the school and attend these meetings.

The School Canteen

Our school canteen offers pupils a wide selection of healthy foods at lunchtime at very reasonable prices. The canteen welcomes volunteers to help with the day to day running. Any parent who is able to give some time every few weeks should ring the school or contact the Canteen.

Orders are handed in at the canteen before commencement of school. Orders should be written on a paper bag of suitable size, showing the name and class of your child. Please ensure that sufficient money is enclosed with orders, preferably the exact amount.

With the new school year just around the corner we are once again looking for volunteers to fill our canteen roster. All profits made through sales are used by the P & C for educational and school improvement programs.

Mufti-Days

Occasionally during the year the school will have "Mufti-Days". Generally these days are held for fundraising purposes and children are asked to donate either an item or gold coin for the privilege of attending school in plain clothes (not uniform). On these days there are still guidelines to follow:

- No thongs
- No midriff tops
- No shirts with inappropriate language or slogans
### Homework

At the beginning of the school year each teacher informs parents of the homework procedures for his/her class. In general homework in Stage 1 should not exceed 20 minutes per night. In higher grades homework should be limited to not more than 30 minutes. Kindergarten homework will commence when the children are ready. Homework is valuable in that work learned during the day can be consolidated. It develops good study habits and provides a link between home and school. It is also a good practice to read to or listen to your child read each night. Please visit our website to view our homework policy.

### How Parents Can Help

You, as the parent, can help greatly by showing your interest. You can:

- see that your child brings homework home regularly and returns it on time.
- help to provide a regular time and place where your child can work free from interruptions.
- be available to hear reading and discuss the content of the text.
- make this time a happy, sharing time for you and your child. If homework becomes stressful for your child, please discuss the matter with the class teacher.

### The Environment

The whole school is concerned with our environment. We are active recyclers. We participate in the paper recycling. The school is actively investigating ways to utilise our water resources effectively whilst developing conservation ideals. A rainwater tank to harvest the water from the school stormwater has been installed and used to water gardens. Our school fosters revegetation of the local area and students run an environmental program where seedlings are grown and distributed to the families of the school.

### Extra Curricular Activities

Our school offers a variety of opportunities for students to join which are held outside of class time. These activities are used to develop individual talents of students while providing choice and personal interest in education. Some activities include:

- Dance Groups for students 3-6
- Sporting teams will often train before schools or during lunch breaks.
- Photography
- Debating and public speaking activities are required to practice during lunch breaks.
Excursions and Incursions

Excursions and visiting performances (Incursions) are part of the school’s educational program. Each activity is chosen to support an educational program which is operating in the classroom.

All children are expected to participate in the excursions and incursions organised for their class in order to gain maximum benefit from the classroom activities conducted before and after the activity.

Written details will be provided to parents and written parental permission will be sought before a child can participate in an excursion or performance.

Student Assistance

The school has access to limited funds for parents who are facing a financial difficulty in providing resources needed for their child at school whether it be uniforms, workbooks, incursions or excursions. Please contact the office at school for information on the guidelines for applying for Student Assistance. All requests for Student Assistance are strictly confidential.

Student Leadership

Dapto School strives to foster leadership in the students in a variety of ways;

School Captains
Each year School Captains and Vice Captains are elected. These students perform many important tasks at a variety of school functions. They are expected to provide an example of appropriate behaviour and attitude to the rest of the school, as are all senior students.

Opportunity Classes

In May each year, parents of Year 4 students may apply to sit for the placement test, to attend an Opportunity class.
**Entrance To High School**

This process begins in Year 5 with applications for interested students to Selective High Schools. Local High School placements are arranged when your child is in Year 6. Dapto High School & Kanahooka High School are our local High Schools. Children seeking entrance to Selective State High Schools, Technology High Schools, Schools of Excellence or other High Schools must nominate at the appropriate time. Private Secondary School enrolment must be arranged by parents.

**School Assemblies**

Formal Assemblies are held on a fortnightly basis for the Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) and Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6). Assemblies are run by the students and have student presenters who report on school activities. Classes regularly present items related to their class work. Merit awards and awards are presented at assemblies. Parents are invited to attend assemblies.

**Student Progress Reports And Parent Teacher Meetings**

Assessment of students is ongoing throughout the year.

All teachers will conduct Parent/Teacher interviews at the end of Term 2.

Our school reports on students to parents through a formal written report twice a year. This report is consistent with the NSW Department of Education policy on reporting.

**Kindergarten Enrolments**

Intending Kindergarten enrolments should be registered with the school the year prior to enrolment. Proof of Date of Birth and Immunisation Certificates will be required before enrolment day. A number of forms must be completed for school records.

Our Transition Program for future Kindergarten students takes place during Term 4 prior to the commencement of school. Written information will be given regarding the day and the time of enrolment.

**Immunisation**

Children enrolling in a Government school for the first time will be required to provide the school with an immunisation certificate which indicates whether or not a child has been fully immunised.
Preparing Your Child For School

Commencing school is a major step in the life of your child. When talking to your child about starting school be positive and encouraging. Show enthusiasm about school but do not build up unreal expectations. Encourage your child to be independent, self reliant and show initiative.

Please have all belongings clearly labelled. It is a good idea to tie a piece of ribbon or put a picture on the outside of your child’s school bag for easy recognition.

Before your child starts school it is very helpful if he/she:

- knows his/her full name
- can recognise and care for his/her belongings
- is able to take off and put on outer clothing, tie shoe laces and button and unbutton clothing
- knows how to use the toilet and wash hands after using the toilet

To help your child prepare for school you can:

- discourage baby talk
- listen to your child and share conversation with him or her daily
- read to your child daily
- ensure that he/she has adequate rest and a sensible amount of exercise and play in fresh air daily

Developing Independence In Your Child

Children need:

- praise, to develop self-confidence
- support and encouragement
- opportunities to talk about their day at school, to ask questions
- opportunities to become independent by doing small jobs by themselves
- plenty of sleep – regular hours

We are looking forward to working with you to provide the best possible learning environment for your child.