

→ WELCOME

TO AMAROO SCHOOL



Amaroo School values excellence and inclusion by being safe, respectful, responsible learners.



Starting

KINDERGARTEN



Amaroo School enjoys the support of its community; we educate students from Preschool to Year 10 and presently have 1811 students. Our school provides an educational experience that enables students to engage with and respond to the opportunities and challenges of a changing world while learning foundational skills in literacy and numeracy.

Welcome to Amaroo School. Our school is designed to cater for the learning needs of students from Preschool to Year 10. We pride ourselves on providing the very best learning experiences for all our students.

In Kindergarten our students enjoy a program that focuses on building their foundational literacy and numeracy skills, and social-emotional development.

We foster an inquiry mindset that promotes students' curiosity through questioning and wondering about their world. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership as we work with you to ensure students are able to learn and develop to their full potential.

This booklet is designed to provide you with the information you will need to know now, before your child starts Kindergarten, and as the year progresses. Ongoing, additional information will also be provided in the form of emails, the Parent Portal, fortnightly newsletters and website updates. If you have any queries or concerns please contact us in person, via phone on 6142 1266 or via email info@amaroos.act.edu.au.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning and working in close partnership with you.

Cindie Deeker
Executive Principal

Matthew Gowen
Acting Principal Primary

THE FIRST DAY

THE FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN IS A BIG EVENT IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE – AND THAT OF YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY. TO HELP YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THE DAY AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE, HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS...

The first day

Prior to the first day of Kindergarten, parents will receive an email from Amaroo school. This email contains your child's individual starting time, their teacher's name and class colour.

Kindergarten start times are staggered for the first day only to allow teachers and educators to welcome and support all students and families. A small amount of students will arrive every 15 minutes beginning at 8:45am until all students within the class have arrived. Please arrive at your start time and make your way to the Kindergarten courtyard which will be filled with colourful balloons.

Once students have collected their balloon our teachers will invite students and families into the classroom.

School finishes at 3.00pm. Please collect your child from the courtyard area outside the Kindergarten Terrace.

Your child will have fun stories and memories to share with you. We encourage families to have a predictable dinner and bed time routine to give them the best chance to develop the stamina for five full school days of learning.

The night before

- Lay out your child's clothes, shoes and socks.
- Make your child's morning tea and lunch and put it in the fridge.
- Help your child pack their school bag.
- Pack a labelled spare pair of underpants, socks and a change of clothes. Let your child know these are there in case they have any toilet accidents at school.

On the day

- Be confident with your child and let them dress themselves as much as possible.
- Apply sunscreen and get your child to wear their hat on their way to school.
- Don't forget to capture the moment and take photos.
- Make your goodbye quick, cheerful and confident.
- Tell your child where you will be waiting at the end of the day for them.
- Pick your child up on time.





AMAROO SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH YOU TO ENSURE YOU HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT YOU NEED TO HELP YOUR CHILD GET THE MOST OUT OF SCHOOL.

Connect with your child's learning

- Get to know their teachers, other school staff, other parents and your child's friends.
- Attend school events, for example parent and teacher nights, assemblies, award ceremonies, performances or showcases.
- If you can, provide your child with out-of-school opportunities to bond with their friends and the community such as volunteering, scouts, sports and supervised play dates.

Positive Behaviours for Learning

Amaroo School actively teaches and promotes positive behaviours for learning. The focus on positive social and individual behaviours builds social skills and respect for others. Amaroo School has frameworks and processes to manage classroom routines and structures to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. You can read more about this on our school website.

Students with additional learning and support needs

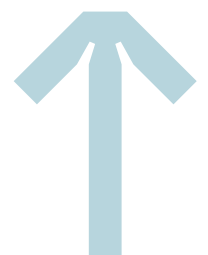
Amaroo School is inclusive, where every student feels welcome and can learn. All ACT public schools provide a range of specialist services to support students with additional needs. This includes support for students' diverse needs in learning or behaviour, students with disability, students with additional health and wellbeing needs. Amaroo School has specialist trained staff and a Disability Education Coordinator (DECO) who works directly in the school to support students with additional learning and support needs and their classroom teachers.

English learners

If your child is learning English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) they may require additional support to develop English language skills. Amaroo School provides language support for EAL/D learners to participate fully in schooling, including specialist EAL/D teachers in multiple grade levels. EAL/D teachers conduct small group, whole class and individualised instruction and support to meet the needs of EAL/D learners.

Learning at

AMRS



HEALTH & WELLBEING

YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING IS A PRIORITY FOR OUR SCHOOL. WITH ALL THE NEW EXPERIENCES THEY'LL BE HAVING AS THEY START AND MOVE THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Create routines

- Make sure your child is getting a good night's sleep and at least 30 minutes of daily exercise.
- Cook nutritious meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner and make sure they're eating regularly.
- Encourage your child to stay hydrated, even in the colder months.

Talk with your child

- Check in with your child before, and particularly after school.
- Communicate with comfort and connection. Be relaxed in your facial expression and body, get down to your child's level and offer gentle touch or affection.
- Validate and relate to your child's feelings. Consider how they're experiencing the situation from their point of view.
- Discuss and set limits regarding behaviour (language and physical). Support your child to consider the feelings of others and help them solve problems. It is important to remain calm, clear and collected.
- Notice and address any physical, behavioural or emotional changes.
- Normal reactions to stress include tiredness, struggling to fall asleep, boredom, feeling irritable or acting out, being withdrawn or avoiding school and home learning, complaints of an upset stomach or headache, excessively asking questions, or seeking reassurance.

Sun safety

Amaroo School promotes sun-smart behaviour by encouraging students and staff to wear a hat and sunscreen. Sun safe uniform items; including bucket hats that protect the head, neck and ears – are included in school uniforms. School staff encourage students to play in the natural and built shade environments around the school. Your child will need a hat to play with their friends during breaktimes. If your child forgets their hat they will be required to play in a shady area. You can protect your child from the damaging effects of UV radiation by applying sunscreen each morning before they leave for school. Please help staff to return lost hats by clearly labelling hats with your child's name.

Medical needs

It is important to inform the school if your child has a medical condition. Medical action plans must be created to support and care for your child at school. Amaroo School and parents work together to put arrangements in place for health care support to meet individual needs during the school day, on excursions and in other school activities such as sport.



The starting school

CHECKLIST



TRANSITIONING FROM PRESCHOOL/CHILDCARE

We encourage families to support their child in transitioning from one educational setting to the next. Please attend the sessions of the transition program so that your child has the opportunity to visit the Kindergarten setting, meet the staff, learn about the routines and experiences they will be involved in when they come. It is also critical that any information you would like shared from one setting to the next is communicated. Please contact the school to talk with a School Leader.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Amaroo School we encourage children to be comfortable so they are able to run, jump, skip and hop. Our uniform options are varied and hard wearing. Uniforms can be purchased from Lowes in Gungahlin town centre or through the school's second-hand school uniform shop (see page # for more information).

Please label all items of clothing.



BACKPACK & LUNCHBOX

- A full drink bottle of water
- An Amaroo School reversible bucket hat (with Sporting House Colour)
- A lunch box with a fruit/vegetable snack, food for Break 1 (B1) and a substantial lunch for Break 2 (B2).
**Note: Amaroo is a nut free school. Please do not send any nuts or nut products such as peanut butter or Nutella.*
- A complete set of labelled spare clothes to accommodate changes in weather and accidents of any kind
- A warm jacket, gloves & beanie in the colder months



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please order your child's 'book pack' of school supplies before the start of the new school year. Book packs contain all the stationary and school items required for learning. You can find the book pack list on the school website, under the menu of 'Our Students', you can have the book pack delivered directly to school or to your home. You are encouraged not to cover and name items. Our staff will organise this for the students in the first week of school.



HELPFUL ACTIVITIES

- Putting on their school shoes, tying their laces and wearing them in
- Dressing in their school uniform independently and packing their own bag
- Drinking from bubblers. Refilling drink bottles at water stations
- Writing their name, alphabet letters and numbers
- Reading stories together every night
- Cutting and pasting pictures from a magazine and drawing pictures
- Opening and closing small food containers, lunch box clips and commercial yoghurt tubes etc

AMAROO SCHOOL CANTEEN



The Amaroo Canteen is operated by the P&C and is open for B1 and B2, 5 days a week. Orders can be placed online via Flexi Schools . Items can also be purchased during break times.

Lunch orders need to be placed before 9am each morning. You will need to place 2 individual orders for B1 and B2.

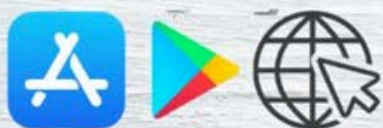
More information including a copy of the menu is available on the [Amaroo School website](#).

For any specific dietary or nutritional information of menu items, please email the canteen manager allstarscanteen.manager@gmail.com.

Canteen Contact Number: 0455 542 936. Please note: Canteen staff may not be available to answer the phone during serving times.

HOW TO REGISTER WITH FLEXISCHOOLS:

- 1 Download the Flexischools app and select 'Like to Register?'
- 2 Submit your email address to create an account.
- 3 Go to your inbox and click the link to verify your email (remember to check junk).
- 4 Follow the registration process, creating a password and adding your personal details.
- 5 Add your student under 'Profile' and start ordering online!



www.flexischools.com.au



AMAROO SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

The P&C operates the school uniform shop selling second-hand uniforms and a select range of new uniform items for students in Kindergarten to Year 10. The shop is staffed by volunteers and profits raised from sales are used to benefit all students.

Location: Building near the Playground. Please see front office staff you will direct you to the right location.

Opening hours: Please check the Amaroo School website and Amaroo School P&C Facebook page for full details on opening hours and any changes.

Current opening hours for 2024 are:

Monday	2.30 - 3.00pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	8.45 - 9.15am
Thursday	2.30 - 3.00
Friday	8.45 - 9.15am

Payment: Payment can be made via cash or EFTPOS

Contact Us: amaroopc.president@gmail.com

Second-hand School Uniform

Second hand uniforms cost \$5.00 and there are non-logo school uniform items for \$1. Donations of good quality second hand uniforms are always welcome and can be dropped off at the Uniform Shop or the Front Office.

Brand New Uniforms

The Amaroo P & C Uniform shop also stocks a range of new items including the Amaroo School reversible hats and pullover hoodies.

All money raised from the Uniform Shop goes to the P&C to help support our School.



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC) SERVICES



Communities at Work is the current out of school hours care provider at Amaroo School.

Communities at Work operates 18 Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) services across Canberra including Amaroo School. The service provides before and after school care and school holiday programs.

For information on operating hours, fees and how to enrol please visit the [Communities and Work website](#).

Amaroo School

We provide **Before School Care**, **After School Care** and **School Holiday Programs** at Amaroo School.



At Communities at Work's Out of School Hours Care, we are focused on children having fun. Our educators collaborate with children to ensure play, leisure and recreational opportunities are safe and meaningful.

Before School Care at Amaroo

Our before school care program at Amaroo School operates from 7.00 am until school begins. Before school care is about helping children have the best possible start to their school day, by offering fun recreational activities and a light nutritional breakfast.

After School Care at Amaroo

Our after school care program at Amaroo School operates during school term from the conclusion of school until 6.00 pm daily. Each program is uniquely responsive to the interests of the children, the school environment and the local community. We provide the children with a nutritious afternoon tea and offer a range of recreational games and activities designed to allow your child to have fun.

[Before and After School Care Enrolment Enquiry](#)

Amaroo School Holiday Programs

All Communities at Work's School Holiday Programs operate during weekdays from 7.30am – 6pm

Our school holiday programs provide an environment that encourages children to meet and make new friends, try new things and participate in a variety of activities.

[School Holiday Program Enrolment Enquiry](#)



FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

ADMINISTRATION

Explanation of student absences

It is a requirement that all student absences are explained by a parent/ carer. On the day the student is absent a text will be sent by the schools administration system. Please respond to this text to advise the reason for the absence. Alternatively parents and carers can explain absences via the Parent Portal or by sending an email to info@amaroo.act.edu.au

Arriving late to school

Students must be signed in by a parent/ carer at the main Administration building when arriving late to school. School commences at 9:00am. Any later than this, students will need to sign in.

Leaving early from school

Students must be signed out by a parent/ carer at the front office when leaving early from school. Where possible we ask that written notification be sent to the class teacher or info@amaroos.edu.au. For safety reasons students can not wait at the front office therefore we recommend that you come early if you need to attend an appointment.

Please be aware that locating students at break times can be difficult. If you have to attend an appointment it is suggested that the student is picked up before/ after the break. Break times for primary students are 10:45am - 11:15am and 1:00pm-1:30pm.

Medical Forms and Authorisation to dispense medication

For schools to administer student medication during school hours, families are required by the ACT Education Directorate to provide the following information:

- Medical Information / Consent form; and
- Known Medical Condition Response Plan

These forms are available from the main administration office and the Amaroo School website.

Change of details

Please email any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, home address or emergency contact details to info@amaroos.act.edu.au or alternatively use the Family Amendment Request on the Parent Portal. For emergency and correspondence purposes, it is important that these details are correct. and up to date. If you have any questions please contact the Front Office on 6142 1269.



ACT
Government



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