



# School Information

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Student growth and attainment  
Social connection and belonging  
Building character through curiosity

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE SAFE



# Welcome Message

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I am immensely proud to serve as the principal of Anson Street School and to witness the accomplishments we achieve together each year. Anson Street School is truly an exceptional place, dedicated to children with unique talents and vibrant spirits. Here at Anson Street, we don't just educate; we empower. We recognise and celebrate the diversity of our students, understanding that each child brings their own set of talents, abilities, and dreams. Our school is not defined by limitations; rather, it is a place where we can showcase our innovation and successes. This commitment to excellence was recognised with the Excellence Award for National Special School of the Year in 2023, as well as the State Award for our Skills House. Our devoted team of educators embodies a spirit of inclusivity. They are advocates, mentors, and champions for our students, going above and beyond to create an atmosphere where curiosity is nurtured. Together with our parent community, we foster an environment where every child feels not only accepted but celebrated for who they are. Our school isn't just about education; it's about empowerment. We believe in unlocking each child's potential and letting their abilities shine. Whether in the arts, sciences, or sports, we provide a platform for every child to explore their strengths and discover their unique capabilities. Your partnership is invaluable. Together, we form a powerful alliance dedicated to the wellbeing and success of every student. To our students, remember: there is no limit to what you can achieve. Embrace challenges, celebrate victories, and always be proud of the incredible individuals you are becoming. Our school is a place where laughter, learning, and friendship are at the heart of everything we do. Here, differences are not just accepted but celebrated. Most importantly, Anson Street School is a place where every child can be their amazing, unique selves.

Melanie Meers  
Principal

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Anson Street School is a School for Specific Purposes that caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 12 with diverse and specific needs. We cater for students with physical and intellectual disabilities, mental health disorders and challenging behaviours. We are a positive education, trauma-informed school with an enrolment of 135 students across 21 classes. 30% of our students are Aboriginal.

**A Personalised Learning Plan** is developed for each student, with programs being implemented by staff in collaboration with parents and carers and other relevant personnel. This ensures quality educational outcomes for all students. Individual Transition Plans are developed from Year 10; focussing on future transition to work or post-school organisations when they complete Year 12.

**Programs** are reviewed each semester to ensure that appropriate educational opportunities are being offered to meet each child's developing needs. All personalised plans are designed to maximise opportunities for students through utilising the school's excellent facilities as well as a diverse range of resources that are available in the community.

The school employs a speech pathologist, physiotherapist, dietitian and an occupational therapist for one to two days each week. They work with individual students and develop programs for the staff on class. Anson Street School also has a **School Counsellor** and a **Student Wellbeing Officer**.

**Information and communication technologies** are an important element in teaching and learning. Digital Main Learning Displays are available in all classrooms in the school, and students benefit from using networked devices. The school also has a number of iPads for use across the school and an interactive Multiball System in the gym for fun, game-based learning. iPads are loaded with the program Proloquo2Go which assists students to communicate in the classroom.

Students complete the **Record of School Achievement** or **Higher School Certificate** through the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and may have the opportunity to undertake studies through TAFE as part of transition planning and availability in Years 10-12.

**Stage 6 students** choose a variety of subjects based on interest and needs to meet their Mainstream or Life Skills study requirements.

Anson Street School is also part of the **SPARKE Learning Community**, collaborating with network primary schools for professional development opportunities to support quality teaching and learning programs.

The school's 4 buses, 2 Kias and utility allow students to readily access the community to participate in **educational excursions, integration activities, work experience, workplace learning** and to pursue **leisure and recreation** options including athletics, canoeing, community outings, concerts and performances, horse-riding, indoor cricket, gymnastics, sailing, soccer, sports and swimming.

Parents and carers are invited to **visit Anson Street School** to discuss their child's needs and to discover how the school can work with them to benefit students with a disability or difficulties in learning.

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## SCHOOL HOURS

The school provides supervision from 8:30 am

School hours are 9:00 am - 3.00 pm

Break 1 11:10 am - 11:40 am

Break 2 1:25 pm - 1:55 pm

## VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

When visiting the school for various reasons parents and carers are requested to enter through the Administration area and check with the School Administrative Team regarding the purpose of the visit. This process is to ensure correct procedure and to keep lesson time interruptions to a minimum.

Your co-operation in this matter will be appreciated. Unless it is urgent that you immediately speak to the teacher, the office staff is available to take messages.



## SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL

The Sentral Parent Portal app is used for any communication, including daily activities and information, excursion permissions, payments and attendance. If you require support accessing the portal, please contact admin staff and they will be able to help you. A communication book will be provided if this is a more suitable form of communicating.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

NSW legislation requires that students attend school each day that instruction is provided. Where students are unable to attend school, an explanation must be provided within 7 days of the absence. This explanation should be in writing where possible, via communication through Sentral Parent Portal, email or phone.



## LUNCHES

Students should bring a packed recess and lunch to school. Recess and lunch is very important for school-aged children. It's a chance for children to fuel their bodies with healthy nutrients, such as fruits and vegetables to help grow a young child's ability to focus and retain information.

Classes may have a weekly cooking session and students will be asked to contribute to the cost of purchasing ingredients. Details will be provided by class teachers.



## SCHOOL TRAVEL

a) Some students are eligible for bus or taxi transport to and from school through the Assisted School Travel Program. Please contact the school to discuss eligibility.

Once students leave school by bus or taxi, they are no longer under the supervision of the school staff. If any problems occur during travelling time, parents and carers can discuss the problem with the appropriate transport provider. Telephone contact numbers are: Taxi Cabs of Orange - 131 008 and Live Better Community Transport - 6362 6554.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to cancel the bus or taxi if it is not needed at any time. Please contact the school regarding any changes to transport on 6362 4563.

b) Where there is no public transport available parents may be eligible for a subsidy towards transporting their child to school by private vehicle. Application forms for the School Drive Subsidy are online at <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/usefulFormsAndInformation#/>.

c) The School Student Transport Scheme may also provide subsidised travel on local school buses for students. Information and application forms are available online at <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/usefulFormsAndInformation#/>.

## ANSON STREET SCHOOL BUSES

Transport to most school activities and special excursions is by 4 buses and 2 Kias that are operated by Anson Street School.

The maintenance and running costs of the buses must be met by parent and carer contribution as there is no Government or other subsidy available.

Please refer to 'Student Fees' for related costs.





## BREAKAWAYS

Our Lunchtime Breakaway Groups give students the chance to build social connections by developing key social skills through play and teamwork. These groups provide guided practice in playground games, focusing on teamwork, fair play, sharing, and cooperation. Typically small and flexible, the groups are designed to create a comfortable and enjoyable lunchtime experience suited to the interests of students. Current options include Mindful Art, School Radio, Beading, Retreat, Cooking, Computer Club, Gym Ninja, Gym Climbing, and Bike Skills.

## TRANSPORT

Our school offers three designated drop-off and pick-up locations:

1. Front Transport – Located on Anson Street, this area is reserved for Assisted School Transport (ASTP) vehicles during the peak times of 8:45-9:00 am and 3:00-3:10 pm. If you need to drop off or pick up your child during school hours (9:00 am - 3:00 pm), administration staff can open the gates to allow you to park on-site.
2. Back Transport – Located at the rear of the main site on Lords Place, this area is used by parents and carers for drop-off and pick-up from 8:45-9:00 am and 3:00-3:10 pm.
3. Campus Carpark – Located on Anson Street across from the main site, this area is used by ASTP vehicles and parents to drop off and pick up students based on campus, including Years 9-10 classes, the Tutorial Centre, and the Orange Suspension Centre.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform fosters a sense of belonging and pride while promoting a positive school identity. We ask that all students wear the correct uniform each day, as outlined below:

- School Uniform – Both boys' and girls' summer and winter uniforms include a navy blue polo shirt, a polar fleece jumper, and a hat or cap with the school logo. Solid, enclosed shoes are required. Boys wear grey shorts or pants, and girls have the option of navy shorts, pants, or a skirt.
- Sports Uniform – The unisex sports uniform includes a sky blue polo shirt with the school logo, navy shorts or pants, a polar fleece jumper, a school hat or cap with the logo, and sneakers.





## STUDENT FEES

We give students opportunities to participate in a range of community outings including shopping, visiting the library, museum, art gallery and adventure playground etc, depending on the class. We have a number of school vehicles to facilitate these activities.

### CLASS OUTING FEE

\$20/term or \$80/year with payments due at the start of each term OR \$3 per individual trip. This fee will be attached to the class activity if relevant.

### REPRESENTATIVE EVENTS

There is no transport cost for students using school vehicles to attend Representative Events or cultural events as this will be covered by the school.

### SPORT FEE AND SPORT TRANSPORT

The school subsidises the total cost of each sport to \$3 per week and can include swimming, tenpin bowling, putt putt, lawn bowls, gymnastics and martial arts. Students who choose a sport that involves transport will have an additional sport transport fee of \$3/week.

### EXCURSION TRANSPORT FEE

If teachers organise excursions outside of Orange this will be an additional cost and will be dependent on the distance. Parents will be given plenty of notice.

### SENTRAL FINANCE

We have upgraded to Sentral Finance which integrates fully and seamlessly with the Sentral Parent Portal app. You can now grant permission and make payments to provide an even more efficient way of handling your child's school finances.

### PAYMENTS

Can be made by cash, EFTPOS (over the counter at the office between 9am – 2pm) or online through the Sentral Parent Portal. Fees are processed in Sentral for outings, Sport and Voluntary Contributions. Payments can be made in instalments throughout the year. Payments for class cooking must be CASH only.

### VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION - \$50.00

You will be receiving an invoice for \$50.00 for Voluntary School Contribution fees via the Sentral Parent Portal. The school pays for all equipment used by students including books, pens, laptops, iPads etc. Payment is voluntary and a matter for decision by parents and carers. Discounts will apply for families with two or more children.

If you have any questions regarding these costs or if you cannot access the Parent Portal, please contact the school.

Student Assistance is available if families are experiencing financial difficulties. Applications are available on request and are strictly confidential.





## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Every 3 weeks students receive a newsletter which informs parents/carers of class activities and awards as well as details of upcoming events at the school and also in the community. This can also be accessed by the school website and Sentral Parent Portal app.

The school newsletter is published online every 3 weeks. To subscribe to the newsletter go to <https://inewsletter.co/vGIwNY/latest>

If you are unable to access the newsletter online and would like a printed copy, please contact the office.

## SCHOLASTIC AUSTRALIA BOOKCLUB

Every month the school receives Scholastic Bookclub brochures showing the different books and other items available for students at the different age levels. These brochures can be sent home so that you are able to look at them with your child and to decide if you would like to purchase.

Completed order forms are returned with money to the school. The orders are then sent from the school to Scholastic. The books, etc. are distributed to students when the ordered material arrives in the school.

If you would like your child/ward to receive the brochure, please contact the office.

## P&C ASSOCIATION

The P&C meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at the school and parents/carers are asked to join or participate. Information and reminders about the meetings are included in the School Newsletter, Facebook page and by notes in the communication books.

The P&C membership fee is \$2 per year per person. Information about the school, activities and items which will be of interest or help to parent/carers is provided at the meetings.

## GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

a) Carer Allowance is a supplementary payment if you care for someone who needs daily support.

b) Disability Support Pension:

Financial help for young adults who have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric condition that stops them from working. Students can claim this from 16 years old. The school provides a support letter.

c) ABSTUDY

Financial help for Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students or apprentices.

All available through Services Australia (Centrelink).





## SPORTING CARNIVALS

Each year the students take part in the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals. There are also interschool competitions. These events are held in a different town each year and information regarding the day is forwarded to parents at the appropriate time. Students should wear their sports uniform for these activities.

## CHARACTER PILLARS

At our school, Positive Wellbeing for Learning is woven into every classroom experience. Our Character Pillars—gratitude, kindness, curiosity, and hope—are explicitly taught across the year, with each term focusing on a specific attribute. Students are encouraged to apply these values in their daily lives, with special action days and celebrations organised throughout the year. Each week, class and school rewards recognise students who actively demonstrate these important qualities.



## SPECIALIST SERVICES

### School Counsellor

The Senior Psychologist Education (SPE) is based at Anson Street School. A school counsellor works at the school 3 days a week and is available for confidential consultation with parents and can provide student assessments, counselling, programs and advice on educational matters.



### School Therapists

The school employs a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, dietitian and a speech pathologist to see students who do not have their own external therapists. Therapy services may also be accessed through the Orange Hospital or private agencies in the community.



NDIS External Provider Service Request - see enclosed note for further information

There are 4 key steps for parents and carers who would like an NDIS-funded service delivered in school:

1. Ask the school in writing
2. Meet with the Principal to discuss details
3. The principal considers your request, taking into account the needs of your child, other students and the operations of the school
4. The principal lets you know whether or not the provider can deliver their services at the school.



## ANSON FARM VINEYARD AND WINE

The vineyard project (Anson Farm Vineyard) is part of Anson Street School's vocational program and assists in teaching senior students work related skills in order for them to gain open or supported employment in the local Orange viticulture industry.

In 2006 students from Anson Street, Orange High and The Canobolas Rural Technology High Schools planted 1600 vines (0.9 hectare) in the traditional European style with wine rows closer together and lower to produce a rare wine variety. This is now a well established vineyard, producing two varieties - Tempranillo and Tempranillo Rosé.

The students are now being trained onsite in the vineyard learning new skills such as ground maintenance, and pruning vines etc.

Harvest is in March or April each year and the whole school celebrate by wearing farm clothes and assist with picking the grapes.

We are fortunate to have the support of local vigneron Peter Hedberg to guide our Farm Assistants in growing Tempranillo grapes. Dan Shaw from Phillip Shaw Winery produced our Tempranillo Rosé and commencing in 2024, Dan Murphy's is selling our wine, with all profits coming back to the school to fund a range of projects. We are very grateful for the community support we receive for Anson Farm. The students enjoy having a farm to engage in practical activities related to agriculture and Primary Industries.



## SKILLS HOUSE

The Skills House is an exceptional initiative providing a safe and inclusive environment where students are supported to develop essential life skills to complement their unique abilities. The program's dedicated team of professionals works to create personalised learning experiences that ensure each student is working towards their specific goals. Through a combination of explicit teaching, practice and support, and transference of skills in real workplaces, the Skills House project empowers children to build confidence, improve communication, and foster independence. In 2023 Anson Street School was awarded a NSW Secretary's Award for an Outstanding School Initiative.



## **INITIATIVES AND SPECIALISED AREAS**

Barista  
Breakaways  
Engine Room  
Gym  
Hydrotherapy  
Intergenerational Learning  
Mini Woolies  
Radio School  
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Initiatives  
Return & Earn  
Skills House  
The Zone  
Vineyard  
Yarning Circle

## **ANNUAL EVENTS**

Welcome BBQ  
Leaders Induction  
Harvest Day  
Harmony Day  
Easter Hat Parade  
ANZAC School Service  
ANZAC March  
Reconciliation Week  
Art on Anson  
Public Education Week  
Book Week  
Eisteddfod  
Public Schools Orange - Performing Arts Project  
School Concert  
NAIDOC Week  
Schools Spectacular and Pulse Alive  
Sparke Young Archies  
Remembrance Day  
Presentation Day  
Orange Ex Services Club Christmas Party  
Year 12 Graduation  
Other celebrations and recognition days





Growth  
Connection  
Curiosity

RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE SAFE

## Contact Information

School Address: 94 Anson Street ORANGE 2800

Postal Address: PO Box 1171 ORANGE 2800

Telephone: 02 6362 4563

Email: [ansonst-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ansonst-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: [www.ansonst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ansonst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AnsonStreetSchool/>