

Gulyangarri Public School

Opening the door to possibility



Preschool handbook

for families

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the lands of the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation on which Gulyangarri Public Preschool is built.

We also acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the various lands on which you may be reading this from.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



Dyurali Ngarra

(Grow, listen and think)

“This artwork showcases the Country that Gulyangarri Public Preschool has been built on. The Georges River runs through the entire piece, connecting many different elements throughout the work.

The left-hand side shows plant life that was not only used by local fauna of the region, but also played a large role in medicinal and healing use for the Cabrogal clans’ men and women.

Footprints, tracks and human symbols along the banks show reliance on the water source and how vital it was to the continued survival of the Cabrogal people.

Ancestors in the sky, watching and guiding continued learning and knowledge, being passed down through generations and the positive ripple effect that has on a school community as a whole.

The centre of the artwork shows Gulyangarri Public School and all the teachers, staff and children that grow, learn, develop and thrive in this new environment.

Dharug Country, in her many beautiful layers, sits at the bottom and small camp sites along her represent the many different communities, ethnicities and families that will play a huge role in the success of Gulyangarri Public School.

The last element is the sun’s spirit, Guwing, shining down on all below. She is the creator of life, allowing all elements of Country to be born, grown, developed and thrive. Providing warmth and light in life.”

Melissa Barton

Alkiira Indigenous Art

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Welcome to Gulyangarri Public Preschool

Welcome to the Gulyangarri Public Preschool community. We look forward to beginning this exciting educational journey with you and your child.

Our preschool is an integral part of the school community and we look forward to working closely with you to support your child's learning journey.

At Gulyangarri Public School, we believe that early childhood education is the foundation for future success. Our preschool programs are grounded in strong educational practices that are aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework. Our team of dedicated and passionate educators are focused on creating a warm, inclusive setting that fosters your child's personal growth.

We recognise the importance of working closely with families to support each child's development. This handbook is designed to be a valuable resource, guiding you through our procedures and programs, and helping you understand how we can best work together to support your child's learning journey.

Thank you for trusting us with the opportunity to play a part in your child's early education. We look forward to developing a wonderful partnership with you and to sharing in the many milestones and successes that lie ahead.

Mr Ian Tapuska

Principal



Licensing

Our preschool is licensed to care for a maximum of 40 children each day. We are licensed to operate Monday to Friday during NSW Public School terms, between the hours of 8:30am and 2:30pm. At all times the children are in attendance, the adult to child ratio in our preschool is one adult to 10 children.

Approved Provider

NSW Department of Education

Service approval number

SE-40029470

Quality rating

Provisional – Not yet assessed under the National Quality Framework

This license is subject to the conditions set out or referred to in *Section 51 of the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW)*, which include conditions prescribed in the Education and Care Services National Regulation.

Preschool contact details

Site address

Cnr Burnside Drive and Lachlan Street,
Liverpool 2170

Postal address

18 Forbes Street, Liverpool NSW 2170

Phone

(02) 8777 6500

Email

gulyan-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website

gulyangarri-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/preschool

Preschool days and hours

The preschool operates between 8:30am and 2:30pm Monday to Friday during NSW Public School term times.

In addition to NSW scheduled public holidays and school holidays, our preschool is closed on school development days. To stay informed about preschool open and closed days, parents and carers can access the preschool calendar in the School Bytes parent application. Families will be reminded of these closures in our school newsletter and on the notice board located in the Preschool foyer.

Policies and procedures

Department policies, procedures and guidelines apply to the preschool. In addition, department preschools operate within scope of the National Quality Framework, therefore implementing the law and regulations relevant to the broader early childhood education and care sector. Gulyangarri Public Preschool has developed preschool procedures based on NSW Department of Education policies. We ensure that everyone working or volunteering in our preschool implements our procedures.

Gulyangarri Public Preschool procedures are available on the school website. The relevant hard copy laws, regulations and our preschool procedures are available for you to access in a folder in the entrance of our preschool. Please ask a staff member for assistance, if required. Translated copies of these policies and procedures are available upon request.

Principal's role as nominated supervisor of the preschool

The school principal is accountable for the leadership and management of the preschool consistent with state legislation and the policies and priorities of the NSW Government. The preschool is part of Gulyangarri Public School which is a Preschool to Year 6 public school. Our school principal assumes the role of:

- Nominated Supervisor
- Educational Leader
- Responsible Person in charge

Our preschool educators are responsible for the daily care and education of the preschool children.

Benefits of preschool

Research shows that children who participate in quality early childhood education in the year before school are more likely to start Kindergarten equipped with the social, cognitive and emotional skills needed to engage in learning. The minimum recommended level of participation is an average of 600 hours per year, or 15 hours per week.

Public preschools provide secure, positive and stimulating learning environments to ensure all children make a strong start in life and learning and make a successful transition to school. Teachers and educators in our preschool implement high quality play-based educational programs. These programs are responsive to the abilities and interests of each child and provide a balance of child directed and adult initiated learning experiences to promote positive wellbeing and development.

Our philosophy

Gulyangarri Public Preschool is built on the lands of the Cabrogal Clan. The word *gulyangarri* is from the Darug language spoken by the Cabrogal Clan and translates to *children* in English. It was chosen to reflect the importance of children being at the centre of all that we do. Gulyangarri Public Preschool is a place of belonging for all children.

We believe education has the power to transform lives and our purpose is to create opportunities for children to build their sense of self and sense of their world. We see our place in a child's life-long learning journey, and our responsibility to enhance children's capabilities to participate actively in their learning journey as they construct their own identities and understandings of the world.

We recognise each family as their child's first teachers. We strive to build and maintain respectful, responsive and reciprocal relationships with our families and learn from and with them (*Early Childhood Australia: Code of Ethics*). We work alongside families and our community to ensure our preschool values the cultures, languages and traditions each child brings and the contribution they make to a multicultural Australia.

We believe in the agency of children and our programs are responsive to, and build on the interests, interactions and decisions made by children as they learn each day. Our collaborative educators draw on each other's strengths to ensure that teaching and learning enables all children to flourish.

We understand the power of a safe learning environment that supports children to feel valued, be confident and resilient, and have pride in their achievements. Our learning spaces are carefully planned to provide a stimulating space for children to play to learn.

As a new preschool, our philosophy reflects our starting point. We commit to working with our children, their families and the wider school as we establish ourselves in our community.

Preschool curriculum

Our preschool uses the Early Years Learning Framework (the Framework) as the basis for creating a learning program that supports and enriches each child's interests and abilities. Recognising children as competent and capable learners who have rights and agency, the Framework has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and the intentional role played by both educators and children in extending and enriching learning. The Framework identifies a shared vision for children's learning, principles and practices to underpin learning and teaching and 5 learning outcomes. Together these elements inform the professional work of our preschool staff. The Framework has been designed for use by preschool staff working in partnership with children, families, other professionals, schools and community members to inform educational programs and practices that are relevant to our preschool community.

Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by **Belonging, Being and Becoming**.

- **Belonging:** Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place
- **Being:** Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be' – time to play, try new things and have fun
- **Becoming:** Is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

The Framework conveys the highest expectations for all children's learning from birth to 5 years and through the transition to school. It communicates these expectations through the following 5 learning outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity
- Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
- Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

National Quality Standard

The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a high benchmark for early childhood education and care services across Australia. The NQS includes 7 quality areas that are important outcomes for all children. Services are assessed against these outcomes and given an overall rating based on their practices. The quality areas are:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Governance and leadership



Arrival and departure



Entry and exit

We are committed to the safe delivery of children to, and collection from, our preschool. We have detailed processes, procedures and practices in this regard and ensure that all educators and staff implement them.

The entrance to the preschool is located along the internal access road. Access is via the footpath along the internal access road. Pedestrians enter the preschool through Gate 1. Families arriving by car enter the internal access road via the gate on Lachlan Street. There are 4 dedicated preschool parking spaces to the left on entry – please use these. Parking spaces are time-limited, and parking is not permitted in staff spaces on the right or within the Kiss and Ride Zone.

Children are not to be dropped at the front gate, preschool entrance door or left unattended. Children's safety and wellbeing is of primary importance, and for safety reasons children are not to be left in the playground before or after school with their siblings. Parents and carers are required to present children directly to educators on arrival. This means if you are arriving by car, you need to park so you can bring your child into the preschool and sign your child in.

Gates to the internal access road are open until 9am. They are then closed and locked until 2pm. Entry to the preschool between 9am and 2pm is pedestrian only. To gain access to the preschool when gates are closed, please use the intercom and press 'Preschool'. An educator will open the pedestrian gate. The internal road gate will not be opened during preschool hours.

Drop off

The doors to the preschool open at 8:30am. Children remain in the care and under the supervision of the person delivering them to preschool until the preschool opens. Parents and carers who arrive early will need to wait until 8:30am for the preschool to open to sign their child in to the preschool.

On entering the preschool premises, the person delivering the child must sign the arrivals and departures register, noting time of arrival. The arrivals and departures register is located in the preschool foyer. It must be completed in full and signed by the parent or carer accompanying the child. We appreciate your cooperation in signing your child in and out of preschool.

Late arrival

If you arrive late you will need to enter via Gate 1. Late arrivals are unable to use the internal access road to park and will need to use the pedestrian gate. To gain access, please press the 'Preschool' button on the intercom. A preschool staff member will answer your call and then open the gate for you. Once the gate has been opened, please walk to the preschool entrance and a staff member will open the door to the preschool for you.

Pick up

Children are required to be collected by an authorised adult and signed out in the afternoon between 2:00pm and 2:30pm. The preschool closes at 2:30pm. Upon entering the preschool to pick up your child, parents and carers must sign out their child on the departure register before exiting the building.

Children are only able to leave the preschool premises in the care of a parent or carer (unless otherwise directed by a court order), or a person authorised by the parent or carer to collect their child – an authorised nominee or authorised collector.

The minimum age requirement for an authorised person to drop off and pick up your child from our preschool is at least 18 years of age. Preschool children will not be released to their sibling from the primary school. Preschool children cannot be collected by older siblings who attend Liverpool Boys High School or Liverpool Girls High School.

Late pick up

If you will be late to collect your child, please notify the school by calling (02) 8777 6500. Educators will wait with your child and reassure them until you arrive. Children who are not collected by 3pm are taken to wait in the school office.

After the preschool closes, the premises are checked to ensure no child remains. The teacher in each preschool classroom will complete this check and verify that no child remains on the premises by signing and noting the time, no later than 2:40 pm on the arrivals and departures register.

Authorised collector

An authorised collector is a person who has been nominated by the parent or carer on the preschool enrolment form to collect their child from preschool. Children will only be released to authorised collectors who have been recorded in enrolment forms. If parents or carers wish to amend authorised collector information they must advise the school in writing.

General preschool information

We are committed to providing a child safe environment that prioritises children's safety, health and wellbeing. Our vigilant educators do daily indoor and outdoor safety checks for hazards. If you notice anything which you are concerned about, please let us know.

Medical conditions

If your child has a medical condition, please record this in the relevant sections on the enrolment form. Before your child's first day at preschool, our educators will discuss your child's individual plan with you. Children with severe asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes or other medical conditions which require support must have an Individual Health Care Plan, based on information provided by doctors and parents or carers, before they can start. This is to ensure that we can take the necessary actions to support your child at preschool.

Asthma

Parents or carers need to provide prescribed medication (inhaler) and spacer for use when needed. Asthma medication will be administered by school staff in accordance with your child's Individual Asthma Plan.

Anaphylaxis

Parents or carers need to provide an EpiPen to be left at school for use when needed. Treatment will be administered by school staff in accordance with your child's Individual Anaphylaxis Plan. All staff are trained in the identification and management of anaphylaxis and the correct way to administer an EpiPen.

Other prescribed medication

We prefer that parents or carers give their child any prescribed medicine before or after preschool hours. However, if you require our educators to administer medication to your child during the preschool day, please speak to one of our educators. You will be asked to record the details of the medication, dosage and method of administration and give your written consent. We are not permitted to give children any non-prescribed medications such as Panadol, Nurofen or cough medicine under any circumstances.

Staying healthy and infection control

The wellbeing of all children and staff is essential. Families are asked to help us protect everyone involved with our preschool, by keeping any child who is unwell at home until they have fully recovered. This is particularly important with contagious and infectious illnesses and symptoms.

The educator will inform all parents and carers in writing, if there is a confirmed case of an infectious illness or head lice in the preschool. If your child develops an infectious illness, such as measles or chicken pox, please let us know so that we can inform other parents and carers that exposure may have occurred. Please refer to the poster in the preschool foyer for the recommended exclusion periods as stated by NSW Health, which we must follow.

If your child appears unwell at preschool, we will closely monitor them. If they do not improve or we have concerns about your child's health, we will contact you immediately. If your child has a temperature, vomits or has diarrhoea, we will contact you to collect them as soon as possible, to minimise the risk of infection.

When a child is sick, the best place for them is to be at home where they can rest and be monitored closely throughout the day. If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please contact the school office on 8777 6500.

You can see further information by accessing the NSW Department of Health Infectious Disease factsheets by navigating to this link below:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/infectious_childhood.pdf

Handwashing

Handwashing, including drying hands, is one of the most effective ways of preventing the spread of infection. At our preschool, we encourage children to wash their hands regularly, including on arrival at preschool, after going to the toilet, after wiping their nose, before and after eating and after outside play.

Allergies

We develop an individual risk assessment in partnership with parents or carers of any child with a food allergy or at risk of anaphylaxis in line with NSW Department of Education procedures.

- Consideration is given to where children with food allergies and at risk of anaphylaxis are seated when eating with the group.
- The children's food is monitored by the educators to ensure none contains a trigger food for another child.
- The children are asked not to share food with other children.
- Special events such as birthday celebrations or class parties which involve the sharing of food are closely monitored to minimise risks of food contamination and the consumption of trigger foods. If a child has an allergy, parent/carers are asked to provide alternate options. If an alternative is provided, the teacher keeps this separate from other food, and ensures it is kept in a sealed container that is clearly labelled with the child's name, the date it was provided, expiry date of the food and the ingredients also need to be listed.
- Food handling spaces are kept clean and hygienic. Tongs are used to serve food, including separate tongs for children who have an allergy. Teachers and educators use a colour coded cloth to wipe down the eating area, using detergent and warm water. Food preparation utensils are washed daily by the School Learning Support Officer (SLSO). These cloths and utensils are not used for any other purpose.
- Food is not used as an incentive or reward throughout the day.
- Before cooking activities, all children and adults wash and dry their hands thoroughly.
- As directed by department policy, peanuts, tree nuts or any nut produce are not used in any cooking activity (this does not include foods labelled as 'may contain traces of nuts'). Additionally, any ingredient for which a currently enrolled child has a known allergy, intolerance or is at risk of anaphylaxis for, is not used.
- Children who have had vomiting or diarrhoea do not participate until they have been symptom-free for 48 hours. If the preschool has recently had, or is currently experiencing, an outbreak of gastrointestinal disease, no cooking activities are held.

Interactions with children

Our educators are guided by the Early Childhood Australia (ECA) Code of Ethics, the National Quality Framework (NQF), and NSW Department of Education policies, ensuring a nurturing and high-quality learning environment for every child. Our educators will:

- act in the best interests of all children
- create and maintain a safe, healthy, inclusive preschool environment that supports each child's agency and enhances their learning
- provide a knowledge rich, developmentally appropriate curriculum to enrich children's learning, balancing child and educator initiated experiences
- ensure our curriculum and interactions focus on being in the here and now, supporting a sense of belonging and positive wellbeing
- prioritise both social-emotional and cognitive development, using high-quality interactions to extend children's language, thinking, and overall wellbeing outcomes
- collaborate with children as global citizens in learning about our shared responsibilities to the environment and humanity
- value the relationship between children and their families and enhance these relationships through our preschool practice
- respect children as capable learners by including their perspectives in teaching, learning and assessment
- safeguard the security of information and documentation about children, particularly when shared on our digital platforms.

Child protection

All of our school staff are mandatory reporters. This means that we are legally obliged to report any child abuse that we suspect. We will do this through our school principal.

If you, as a member of the public, have concerns about a child's welfare you should call the Child Protection Hotline on 132 111.

Changes to your child's contact information

It is important that families keep the preschool informed when changes occur. This includes:

- your contact details including your phone and address
- the contact details for your child's emergency contacts
- details for authorised persons who can collect your child from preschool
- changes to any medications or medical conditions that your child may have
- court orders that affect your child.



Our educational program

Our preschool program provides your child with many opportunities to develop essential social skills and learn, through a play-based curriculum that is responsive to children's needs and interests.

We are guided by the national early childhood curriculum – The Early Years Learning Framework (the Framework). The Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language, and social and emotional development.

Our educational program acknowledges the uniqueness of each child, whilst encouraging them to learn within a supportive and caring environment. We plan for both intentional and spontaneous learning in our indoor and outdoor environments.

In a typical day, we provide a range of learning activities and equipment where the children freely choose to play. These activities are planned considering the interests, needs and development of individual children. Children also participate in more structured activities, such as listening to stories and engaging in singing and musical experiences. Our educators support the children to make decisions about the activities they want to engage in, interacting and playing with them and helping them to solve problems they encounter. The current preschool program is always on display in the preschool classroom.

The indoor environment at Gulyangarri Public Preschool is designed for children to access a variety of learning areas to participate in dramatic play, science and mathematics, art and craft, literacy, and construction. The outdoor environment provides for a balance of physical, creative, and quiet play. We are committed to sustainable practices and foster an appreciation for and understanding of environmental awareness.

We use a daily timetable as a flexible guide and adjustments can be made to accommodate the children's needs and interests. Our preschool routine is designed to be flexible and responsive to children. The routine may be adjusted to accommodate for weather. During periods of wet weather, high winds, extreme heat or poor air quality, students remain indoors for their safety and comfort, and participate in indoor learning experiences. There are opportunities throughout the day for sleep and rest based on each child's individual needs.

Quiet time and rest

It is an important part of the preschool program for children to have a period of quiet time to relax their bodies. During this time children will have a choice of quiet, restful activities. Please speak to one of our educators if your child requires a sleep during this time. Our indoor and outdoor spaces offer areas where your child can select quiet time when needed. We will be guided by children and families if your child needs a day sleep. Please let our educators know in the morning if your child needs a sleep during that day.

During enrolment individual children's sleep needs are noted on the child's profile. Educators will also use daily judgements and feedback from parents and carers to accommodate adjusted sleep or rest needs for individual children.



Getting ready for preschool



What you need to pack in your child's backpack

- Drink bottle containing water only (no sweet drinks or fruit juices)
- Lunch and healthy snack in an easy to open lunch box or bag and ice brick in an insulated lunch box. Any hot food needs to be stored in a thermos.
- Spare clothes (label all clothing) in a separate bag (including underwear and socks)
- Hat
- Jacket or jumper in case it gets cold
- Raincoat and gumboots (only if it is raining)
- Towel for water play.



Food and drink

Healthy eating contributes to children's ability to socialise, concentrate, cooperate and learn. Learning about healthy lifestyles, including nutrition, is integral to wellbeing and self-confidence. We regularly discuss healthy lifestyles with children through stories, games and play and encourage children to make healthy eating choices while at preschool. We ask families to please provide your child with a healthy recess, lunch and a bottle of water. We will encourage children to eat their fruit, vegetables or other healthy choice options such as a banana, apple, orange, berries, cucumber or carrot sticks for lunch and recess.

Preschool parents and carers provide their child with packed food and water each day. There is no access to the school canteen. When preparing food for your child, please remember that staff are unable to heat food for your child.

Ideas for healthy lunches can be found online at:

healthykids.nsw.gov.au

Water bottles

We request each parent or carer provide their child with a full bottle of water each day. Water bottles should have a lid with a cover to avoid any cross contamination as they may be stored together in a trolley or sports caddy which can be flexibly moved indoors or outdoors. Staff will refill water bottles throughout the day. Please ensure the water bottle is labelled clearly with your child's name.

Celebration treats

We enjoy celebrations. If it is your child's birthday, you are welcome to provide an individual treat for each child such as a cupcake. Only commercial products in individual serves are allowed. Please speak to one of our educators at the preschool to organise the best time for the treat and to discuss allergies in the preschool.

The families of children who have allergies are invited to supply an alternative treat or a few suitable cupcakes for us to freeze. We would then serve these to your child during a birthday celebration, so they feel they are still part of the event.

Dressing your child for preschool

At preschool your child will be engaged in a variety of learning experiences such as arts and crafts, sandpit play, riding a bike, kicking a ball, painting and messy play. To support the confident freedom of movement and full participation in the preschool program, please dress your child in practical, comfortable clothes that are appropriate for play and daily weather.

Appropriate shoes are needed for safety when climbing and bike riding. For your child's safety, we recommend sturdy shoes for all outdoor play. Some footwear such as thongs and clogs can be dangerous and awkward for climbing and confidently moving around the preschool, and best worn outside of preschool hours. Please label all clothing.

Lost property is located in the foyer.

Preschool Uniform

Our preschool offers a voluntary uniform with two items: a shirt and jumper featuring the Gulyangarri Public Preschool wording and logo. Families are welcome to have their children wear these, along with the school hat, and pair them with their own choice of clothing such as shorts, pants or a skirt.

The preschool uniform is designed to:

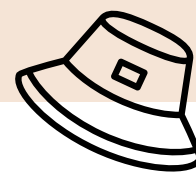
- account for choice, comfort, quality, and style
- be affordable, comfortable, and with easy-care fabrics
- be appropriate for the full range of preschool activities and
- be suitable for all body shapes.

The preschool uniform can be purchased from the school. Orders are placed through the School Bytes app or can be made at the school office. School branded items must be purchased from the school.

Please ensure your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name, including clothing and their preschool hat.

Personal items from home

Personal items such as toys are best kept at home. Small toys can get lost or broken at preschool and this causes distress and impacts on your child's day at preschool. Occasionally, a special day such as a teddy bear's picnic may be arranged where children can bring an item to preschool with the support and coordination of teachers and parents and carers. All personal belongings that come to school must be labelled with your child's name.



Sun-safety

Our preschool is working towards becoming Sun Smart accredited. Our educators model sun safe behaviours. Children will be expected to wear a hat to play outdoors. SunSmart recommends children wear a broad-brim, bucket or legionnaire hat that shades the face, neck, eyes and ears. Our preschool hat is a sun safe hat. Encourage your child to get used to wearing a hat when they are outside. Our preschool hat can be ordered from the school office or via the School Bytes app.

Sunscreen is supplied and we recommend putting sunscreen on your child in the morning on hot days and our staff will re-apply as needed. Sunscreen is applied under the supervision of staff before children go outside. Parent or carer approval is obtained for staff to apply sunscreen to children.

As we are facilitating a successful transition to primary school, we encourage children to return their hats to their bags alongside their lunchboxes at the end of the day. Hats left at the preschool will be stored until your child returns for their next preschool day.

Toileting

Preschool is a lively and engaging place where children can become so absorbed in their play that occasional toileting accidents may occur. To ensure children and educators are prepared, we ask families to provide spare clothing/nappies as needed. If an accident happens, one of our educators will assist your child by changing them into their spare clothes or nappies, and the soiled items will be placed in a sealed bag away from the classroom for you to pick up when you collect your child.

These experiences are a normal part of your child's learning and growth, and we are here to facilitate their independence and support them every step of the way. During your enrolment interview, our educators will have a conversation with you to discuss any toileting support your child might need, working together to ensure we meet their needs effectively.

Communicating with our families

Our communication channels

School Bytes

SchoolBytes is a parent portal where parents and carers will be notified by the school about whole school news and events. This is our primary channel of communication with families, where you can access the school newsletter, permission notes and make payments for your child.

Kinderloop

Kinderloop is a form of direct communication between educators and parents and carers. Educators will update 'Learning Stories' via the Kinderloop website. Parents and carers can access Kinderloop via an invitation from their educators and view their child's learning stories on their device via the Kinderloop app. Parents and carers can also view notifications about their child's daily routine and important messages from their educator.

Communicating issues or concerns

We value effective communication between school and home. Please ensure that all notes or requests for information are returned promptly and that you inform your child's teacher of any changes in your child's life throughout the year. Complaints and concerns should be discussed with your child's preschool teacher in the first instance. If you would prefer to speak directly to the Deputy Principal or Principal please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

All complaints will be dealt with confidentially as per the *NSW Department of Education Complaints Handling Policy 2020*. Where possible, less serious complaints will be resolved informally. Always remember that the best outcomes for children are achieved when staff and families work together.

If your complaint is of a more serious nature, you may choose to contact the NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Regulatory Authority via email at ececd@det.nsw.edu.au or by phone on 1800 619 113.

Getting involved

Our preschool and your child will benefit greatly from your input, suggestions, support and assistance. During the year we will provide opportunities for families to be involved. Information will be shared with families through our regular communication channels.

Transition to primary school

One of the many benefits of being part of the school community is that we have access to the school's facilities and resources, allowing preschoolers to feel comfortable, confident and at-ease about their transition to Kindergarten.

Preschoolers are regularly invited to participate in whole school events to become familiar with the school, its staff and fellow students. Our transition to school program includes taking the children for walks to visit different areas of the school such as the office, hall and library. Children will also be able to engage in gross motor activities such as bike riding, kicking large balls, and running within the school play grounds.



About Gulyangarri Public School

The importance of the school site

Gulyangarri Public School is built on the lands of the Cabrogal Clan. The Cabrogal are named after the cohbra grubs that were harvested along the banks of the Georges River, especially near Cabramatta Creek.

The school site is in a location that was once rich in natural resources along the Georges River. The land around Liverpool was generally open forest reflecting the Cumberland Plain Woodland that provided a variety of plants for food, artefact manufacture and a habitat for animals. The school site is located close to the wetlands that surrounded Lake Moore. The design of the school takes inspiration from the Cumberland Plain and Georges River in its colour scheme and landscaping.

Artefacts found during construction reflect the ongoing connection Aboriginal People have with the land and are a direct link to their ancestors. Stone tool artefacts found were predominantly made from silcrete and reflect trading between the Cabrogal Clan and neighbouring clans.

The artefacts provide scientific information demonstrating survival techniques used by Aboriginal People and an insight into Aboriginal history and values. A display of the artefacts in the school deepens an understanding of Aboriginal histories.

The school name

Gulyangarri Public School draws its name from the Darug language spoken by the Cabrogal Clan. While there isn't a direct equivalent Aboriginal word for every English word, the word "gulyangarri" is understood as translating to "children" in English. It was chosen to reflect the importance of children being at the centre of all that we do.

Just as Aboriginal Elders shared knowledge and culture with children over millennia, we too continue those traditions bringing together all Australians in a learning journey that nurtures and empowers our students. Gulyangarri is a place of belonging for all children.

School logo

Gulyangarri Public School's logo inspires our future. The logo's building blocks are based on our core values and represent being ambitious, courageous, kind and safe.

Our logo represents a school culture where education is the key to succeed. It uses five symbols to represent the school and our core values.



The arch border symbolises the entrance to the school.

A gateway to education that empowers all through the building of knowledge, personal growth and achievement.



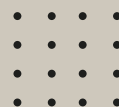
The target symbolises ambition.

A target captures the essence of ambition, striving towards excellence, a challenge to conquer, to reach our highest aspirations and be curious about our world.



The shield symbolises courage.

A shield embodies courage as it empowers us to embrace challenge, persevere and take risks in our learning, develop resilience and pursue our goals.



The dots symbolise kindness.

Representing the diversity of our school, the dots reflect our learning community, the links we have with each other and our connections with the broader community.



The pathway symbolises safety.

The horizontal stripes reflect the path that guides our learning, providing assurance and direction, a sense of safety, and a welcoming place for all where everyone belongs.

Useful preschool websites and resources

Getting ready for preschool guide

edu.nsw.link/starting-preschool

Useful websites and contacts to get you and your child ready for preschool

education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/going-to-school/getting-ready-for-school/useful-websites-resources

Educational resources to use at home

education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/information-for-parents-and-carers/learning-from-home



**Gulyangarri
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Opening the door to possibility

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