

SPW Out of School Hours Care Philosophy Statement



***We will nurture our students to be happy, curious and creative young people
who care for others and make a positive difference in the world.***

SPW Out of School Hours Care (SPW OSHC) aims to provide an outstanding leisure program within a safe, friendly and nurturing environment that ensures a sense of belonging for all users of our service. We acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of each child and seek to embed a natural desire to be curious and question their world by identifying and supporting individual interests. We value our partnerships with families and the wider school community and recognise the vital role they play in each child's development - 'It takes a village to raise a child'.

We are guided by the core values at SPW:

- Wonder:** Approaching each day with curiosity and appreciation; sharing fun and happiness; and expressing gratitude
- Courage:** Always doing our best; being honest, strong and resilient; and standing up for what is right
- Respect:** Being true to yourself; appreciating other people and cultures; and caring for the environment
- Service:** Helping others; contributing to the community; and being a good citizen

We believe positive and supportive relationships are integral to the development and wellbeing of each child.

Positive relationships are fundamental to success within any group. Respectful, caring relationships and communications create a comfortable environment for children to develop socially, emotionally and cognitively.

In practice we endeavour to:

- provide a happy, engaging environment
- interact with children and parents in a friendly, approachable manner
- be easily accessible to children and parents for conversations
- model respectful behaviour and communications
- promote positive conversations and supportive attitudes

We believe the social and emotional development of each child is essential to becoming a valued citizen.

For children to become valued and connected citizens requires a positive view of self, respectful and responsible attitudes and the ability to interact effectively with others.

In practice we endeavour to:

- develop social and emotional skills through play and leisure activities
- ensure all children feel safe and valued
- help children develop empathy for others
- celebrate achievements

We believe children should have a life-long love of learning.

In this ever changing world it is clear we are preparing children for a future that is both exciting and yet full of uncertainty. Futurists predict the children of today will likely change careers multiple times, including working in jobs still to be created. It is imperative children develop skills and attributes for living in the 21st Century.

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." Alvin Toffler

The key will be the ability to foster a life-long love for learning.

In practice we endeavour to:

- deliver an outstanding program, following the My Time, Our Place framework
- provide provocations to promote curiosity
- promote an inquiry approach to learning

- support children to pursue strengths and interests
- offer a variety of experiential learning opportunities, both child and adult initiated, structured and unstructured
- make experiences engaging and fun
- develop key skills of 21st Century learning – Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration

We believe in empowering the individual.

Children, and adults alike, learn best when empowered through decision-making, responsibility and ownership. Success for an individual is best achieved when they are fully immersed in their learning.

In practice we endeavour to:

- actively listen to children
- develop each child's sense of identity
- engage children in making choices and decision-making processes, which impact their OSHC experience
- promote self-directed learning
- offer opportunities to pursue interests, seek challenges and solve problems that matter
- encourage risk taking, problem solving and resilience
- encourage children to undertake roles and responsibilities, which matter to them
- be flexible and responsive to needs and requests
- support staff in their ongoing professional learning

We believe in the value of 'connectedness' - to each other; the school; family; community and environment.

A basic human requirement is the sense of belonging. Connecting with others and our environment gives meaning and value to our existence. Helping children build these connections and relationships is vital.

In practice we endeavour to:

- provide regular opportunities for collaboration and teamwork
- share experiences between home, school and OSHC through a variety of communication modalities
- seek opportunities to engage with the wider community through learning and service
- promote diversity and inclusivity
- connect to the outdoors through play and exploration
- demonstrate responsibility and respect for the environment