

# Comleroy Road Chronicles



## School contact details

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**Relieving  
Principal:** Miss Rachel Graham

## Principal's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Working in Partnership

We have been very fortunate of late to have the privilege of working collaboratively with our Comleroy Road Public School families through our Meet the teacher conferences and our Building A Shared Vision Workshops. Students, staff and parents have actively contributed to developing a shared vision that outlines our community values, where students learn and from who we gain our knowledge. It has been an absolute pleasure to work together with our families towards strengthening our partnerships between home and school. Strong relationships and ongoing support for one another establishes positive culture and school improvement. I would like to personally thank the many parents and students who attended these events and the staff for all their hard work and preparation.

## Upcoming events

### March 2021

**March 23** – Harmony Day

**March 25** – Young Leaders Day

**March 26**- School photos

**March 30**- Epilepsy awareness day

**March 31** – School Cross Country

### April 2021

**April 1**- Easter Hat Parade & last day of term

**April 19** – SDD

**April 20** – Students return

### COMLERROY ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Comleroy Road Public School is a dynamic and collaborative learning community that is committed to developing independent learners who are self-directed, motivated and creative individuals. The school community values respect, honesty and kindness. An appreciation for knowledge and tradition creates a strong sense of belonging and connection within and beyond the school.

Kind regards,

*Rachel Graham*

## 2021-2024 School Plan

Comleroy Road Public School is in the process of writing a Strategic Improvement Plan. The Strategic Improvement Plan will outline the ways in which the school will drive improvements in literacy, numeracy and collaboration over the next four years. This involves a close examination of our progress as a school in these areas, identifying areas of strength and areas for further development. Community consultation with students, staff and parents has been integral to our school planning and I would like to thank the many stakeholders who have contributed to this process throughout the term.

## Congratulations Mrs Taylor!

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Megan Taylor has been offered a permanent appointment at Comleroy Road Public School. Mrs Taylor will continue to remain on her class 1/2T and is very excited to join the Comleroy Road team in a permanent capacity. Congratulations Mrs Taylor! We are very lucky to have you!



## Break Times

This year we have made a slight adjustment to break times for students. Recess and lunch times have been reorganised to enable students to eat their lunch in their first break followed by their recess in the second break. This ensures that students eat something more substantial earlier in the day enabling improved concentration and learning. All students are encouraged to make healthy choices when it comes to nutrition and we thank the many families who are working hard to ensure your children lead a healthy lifestyle.

## Changes to school pick up procedures

As of Monday 8 March 2021, parents and carers were welcomed back on to school grounds under the easy of COVID-19 procedures. This change has impacted on current drop off and pick up procedures, assemblies and school events.

Parents and carers are reminded to continue to help keep our school and community safe by following COVID-safe practices, including social distancing between adults of 1.5 metres. We are asking that parents quickly enter and exit the school during drop off and pick up times and avoid congregating in groups to reduce crowding and ensure adequate social distancing. During school events and assemblies or if needing to be in the school for an extended period of time, parents and carers will need to check in using the QR code displayed on the office door.

After introducing new pick up arrangements, we have experienced some congestion in the front of the school and walkways. To alleviate this issue, we will be trialling a new pick up procedure from Monday 22 March 2021 until the end of term. From Monday, all students will be dismissed from their classrooms. We ask that parents/carers wait in the areas outside the classrooms using appropriate social distancing measures. Once students have been dismissed at 2:55pm, we ask that families make their way to the closest gate to exit the school grounds. Students who are catching the bus will continue to line up under the Hall COLA with the teacher on duty. Any students who are required to wait for a few minutes for their parent will also line up under the Hall COLA with a supervising teacher.

## NAPLAN Online 2021

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Our school will be participating in NAPLAN Online between 11 and 21 May 2021. In preparation for NAPLAN Online, our school will also be participating in practice tests between 22 March and 1 April. The practice test is a trial-run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN Online in May. It is not an assessment of student ability and the tests will not be marked. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN Online is not recommended. Students can use the public demonstration site ([https:// www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site](https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site)) to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN Online tests. If you have any questions about NAPLAN Online, exemptions or withdrawals, please contact your child's teacher.

## Farewell Ms Brickley

On behalf of Comleroy Road Public School I would like to extend a heartfelt farewell to Ms Kerri Brickley, Director Education Leadership, Hawkesbury Principal Network. Ms Brickley announced that she will be retiring at the end of Term 1 and so, it is with a little sadness that we say goodbye to one of our most treasured Directors. The Hawkesbury Principal Network will miss the outstanding support, guidance and compassion of Ms Brickley. We will remember her enthusiasm, dedication and passion for Public Education along with her ability to challenge and inspire leaders across the network and beyond. We wish Ms Brickley every happiness as she embarks on a new chapter and hope that our paths may cross in the future.



## Sydney West Swimming Championship

On Wednesday 17 March Vienna competed in the Sydney West Swimming Championships at Sydney Olympic Park. She came away with great results, coming 9<sup>th</sup> in junior girls 200m individual medley, 9<sup>th</sup> in junior girls' butterfly and an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> in 9yrs girls 50m freestyle. Congratulations on your achievements Vienna, we are very proud of you!



## Hawkesbury Zone Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their trials and selected to represent Hawkesbury Zone at the Sydney West Championships in their respective sports. Good luck boys!

AFL – Charlie Lennie

Touch Football – Jack Hockley and Ryan Phillips-Parsons

Baseball – Hunter McAdam





**SAFE:** I make wise choices to ensure no harm comes to anyone.

**RESPECTFUL:** I appreciate everyone for who they are. I will use positive words and actions to ensure everyone feels accepted.

**LEARNERS:** I am always ready to do my best. Education is a life-long process. It gives me opportunities for life.



## ***Comleroy Road P&C Association***

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 4 May, 6:30pm

**Contact details for the P&C:**

**President:** Kerrie Dalley

The P&C have a Facebook page. Search for Comleroy Road P&C and like the page to keep informed about the great work the P&C do.



### ***March & April***

Liam, Jacob, Jordan, Hudson, Brock, Adam, Eli, Riley  
Indiarna, Vienna, Charlie, Ryan, Lily

## ***Congratulations Week 6 Assembly Awards***

### ***Principal awards***

***KM*** -Aaliyah

***KE*** - Jay Jay

***1/2R*** - Bethany

***1/2T*** - Nate

***3/4G*** - Jack

***4/5P*** - Rachel

***5/6K*** - Cooper

### ***Merit awards***

***KM*** - Hallie & Lucas

***KE*** - Koa & Mackenzie

***1/2R*** - Byron & Luke

***1/2T*** - Hudson & Jax

***3/4G*** - Ruby & Zara

***4/5P*** - Charlee & Ben

***5/6K*** - Madyson & Cooper

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# NAPLAN Online 2021 Information for parents and carers

**Schools across Australia started the move from paper to online testing in 2018. The move to NAPLAN Online brings new benefits for teachers and students.**

## Why are schools moving to NAPLAN Online?

Significant planning, research and trialling has been ongoing since 2012 to support the move to NAPLAN Online. Online testing creates new opportunities for teachers and students that are not possible with paper tests.

## What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

- NAPLAN Online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information.
- Most students find online assessment more engaging.
- NAPLAN Online uses tailored testing, which gives students questions better suited to their ability, resulting in more detailed individual assessment.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools and teachers.
- The precision and improved timing of the results will help teachers streamline their teaching more specifically to student needs.
- By 2022, online assessments will significantly reduce the time it takes for student results to be returned to parents and carers.

## Practice test

NSW schools transitioning to NAPLAN Online in 2021 will participate in a school practice test between late March and early April 2021.

The practice test is a 'practice run' for students to participate in a trial NAPLAN Online test. The practice test is not an assessment of student ability but will allow schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN online test format and processes
- check they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

## More information

More information about the NSW transition approach to NAPLAN Online, including answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the NSW Department of Education NAPLAN Online website:

<https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online>

Parents wanting to familiarise themselves with the NAPLAN Online platform can visit ACARA's public demonstration site, which includes online demonstration tests for each NAPLAN year:

[www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site](http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site)

Detailed information on NAPLAN is available on the ACARA parent and carer support webpage:

[www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support](http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support)



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## Frequently asked questions

### **When will NSW schools transition to NAPLAN Online?**

Education ministers have recently agreed to extend the current plan for schools to transition to NAPLAN Online by one year to 2022. More than 50% of all NSW Department of Education schools completed NAPLAN online in 2019.

### **Is NAPLAN Online compulsory?**

NAPLAN Online will replace the current paper NAPLAN tests. When schools have transitioned to NAPLAN Online, all eligible students in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9 must participate, unless they are exempt or withdrawn from NAPLAN testing by parents or carers.

### **Will the Year 3 writing test be online?**

No. At this stage, the Year 3 writing test will continue to be paper-based. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests (numeracy, reading and language conventions) will be online.

Education ministers have requested more research about the benefits or disadvantages for Year 3 students composing text in an online environment before any future decision is made.

### **What is tailored testing?**

NAPLAN Online uses tailored testing, where the test automatically adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.

This allows students to better demonstrate their knowledge and provides teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on students' performance. More information about tailored testing can be found on the NAPLAN Online website: [education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/whats-changing/tailored-tests](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/whats-changing/tailored-tests)

### **How will NAPLAN Online tests be marked?**

Automated marking is currently used in the paper NAPLAN test to mark numeracy, reading and conventions of language and will remain in use for NAPLAN Online.

Trained markers will mark student writing as is currently the case with paper tests. Automated essay scoring will not be used to mark NAPLAN Online writing tests.

### **Will students' personal information be safe?**

Yes. Information about your child is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained. The NAPLAN Online platform has been built with state-of-the-art security features that comply with national data security policies and data encryption standards.

### **How will parents receive their child's NAPLAN Online results?**

Printed individual student reports will be sent to parents and carers by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), as they currently are with paper NAPLAN tests. Once all NSW schools have transitioned to NAPLAN Online, this will significantly reduce the time it takes for all individual student reports to be returned to parents and carers.

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### **Will NAPLAN Online be accessible to students with disability?**

Yes, for most students. The accessibility adjustments provided in NAPLAN Online for students with disability will be equivalent to what is currently provided in paper NAPLAN tests in most instances. ACARA will provide new adjustments for NAPLAN Online, such as alternative items for students with visual, hearing or motor disabilities. Students requiring braille, or print larger than what the NAPLAN Online platform or assistive technology can provide, will sit paper tests.

### **Do students need headphones or earphones to complete NAPLAN Online?**

Yes. Headphones or earphones are required for each student to complete NAPLAN Online, as some questions include audio. For example, the spelling test includes audio delivery of words that students are required to type in.

Schools will be responsible for ensuring that all students have the appropriate headphones or earphones to complete NAPLAN Online.

### **Can students use their own devices to complete NAPLAN Online?**

Yes, however it will be at the discretion of the individual school. Each device will require the installation of a locked down browser application, which prevents students from accessing unauthorised websites, applications and spellcheck features.

The ACARA website has more information on technical requirements for NAPLAN Online:  
[www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/technical-requirements](http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/technical-requirements)

### **What happens if a computer experiences issues during a test session?**

No student is disadvantaged if their device stops working during the NAPLAN Online test. In the case of interruptions, tests can be paused and resumed as required with no time lost. If a device stops working, all responses will be saved and the student can complete their test in a rescheduled test session.

### **Who is responsible for administering the NAPLAN tests?**

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is the test administration authority responsible for the administration and delivery of NAPLAN tests in NSW, including paper test and NAPLAN Online.

### **Who is ACARA?**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent statutory authority responsible for the development of national curriculum, and the administration of national assessments and associated reporting on schooling in Australia.



# Compulsory School Attendance

## Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

### What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

### The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

### What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

### Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





### **My child won't go to school. What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

### **What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?**

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

### **What age can my child leave school?**

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

### **Working in Partnership**

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

**If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.**

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

#### **Policy, information and brochures:**

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

#### **The school leaving age:**

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

#### **Do you need an interpreter?**

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512  
[www.dec.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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