



Deputy Principal's Message

Week 2 Term 4 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well here we are, Term 4 and only 8 more weeks left of the 2019 school year! Special welcome to several new families who have joined our school community this term.

Looking Toward 2020

As you are maybe aware, the NSW Department of Education recently announced changes to the enrolment policy for parents. The revised policy is designed to support schools to manage all enrolment applications, encourage greater consistency in decision-making and make sure the enrolment choices are clear for parents. Please let us know if your child/ children will not be returning to Harcourt in 2020, to help with planning our school structure to optimise learning spaces and teacher expertise. A copy of the overview of changes is attached at the end of this newsletter.



Student Success in Debating

Congratulations to the Harcourt Gold Debating team who recently made the Semi-Finals of the Premier's Debating Challenge. Out of the 140 schools entered in the Sydney region our school placed in the top 4 which is an outstanding achievement. A huge thank you goes to Ms Nicos, Ms Kilmister and Ms Udovicic for their work in preparing and organising the students for their debates both at school and abroad.

We look forward to the 2020 Premier's Debating Challenge and developing the skills and strengths of our students.

Film By Banks - Student Film Premiere Success!

Throughout 2019 Mr Wang has been working with dedicated students in developing their video production and film editing skills. Recently, a project was submitted for Film By Banks - an initiative run by Canterbury Bankstown Council and was successful in making the selection of films to be screened publicly at the event.

Last week students and teachers attended the Film By Banks Screening at Bankstown Sports Club. A great time was had by both parents and students and the community thoroughly enjoyed the video.



Life Education—K to 4

Healthy Harold had a great time visiting students, teaching them about their bodies and how to live healthy, active lifestyles. Students who attended are engaged in interactive and fun activities that help to inform them about how important exercise, good food habits and working with others is to maintain physical and emotional wellbeing.



Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Signage

At the end of Term 3 our PBL signage has been installed a range of locations around the school. These signs inform students of our four school expectations (Respectful, Responsible, Safe, Active Learners) and what these expectations look like in the designated area. Teachers each week conduct lessons on these expectations to reinforce and promote understanding of expected behaviours at Harcourt.

Thanks to the PBL committee for their work in developing, organising and promoting PBL at Harcourt!

Selective High School 2021 (students currently in Year 5)

Applications for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2021 must be made online between before 10pm 11 November 2019. Late applications will not be accepted.

- Parents must apply online at <https://hpsuplacement.org.au/register> (only 1 registration per child)
- All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on Thursday 12 March 2020.

Have Your Say—Before & After School Care

The NSW Government is committed to providing before and after care to all students of public primary schools in New South Wales. As part of the reform, a parent web form has been established by Service NSW that will enable parents to tell the Department of Education [DoE] about their specific needs and to stay up to date with any new developments. The information provided by parents will help the DoE to understand your needs, give them insights into where there are gaps in service delivery and to help ensure extra places are delivered where they are required. Have your say at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/basc>

Enrolments 2020



We are currently accepting enrolments for 2020. Please make sure you get your enrolment papers in as soon as possible so we can start organising our orientation program and have everything organised to make sure your child's first days at Harcourt PS are happy and successful. Also if you know of anyone who intends to enrol their child in kindergarten at HPS next year who is not currently involved with the school encourage them to contact the office. If you have a school-aged child who will start kindergarten next year or any questions related to enrolment please contact our helpful office staff.

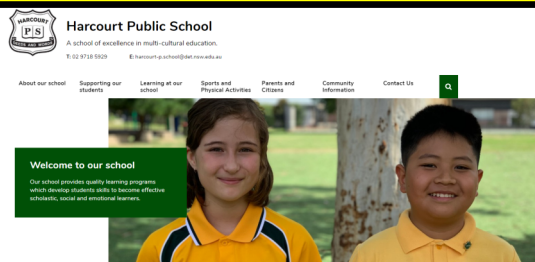
Please note that as part of the application process, proof of residential address is required.

School Website

Over 2019 we have been working on feedback from the school community to provide clear and up to date information on the school website.

Recently, galleries and calendars have been added to further promote the school and provide information on school events and programs occurring at the school.

Events can be located at <https://harcourt-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/events.html> and can be added to your smart phone calendar.



<https://harcourt-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Road Safety - Students & Parents

Recently, we have noted an increase in poor driver and pedestrian behaviour outside the entrances to our school.

- Parents are reminded that the School Zone on First Avenue is not for parking. You are not permitted to exit your vehicle to collect students.
- Three point turns / U turns are not permitted and endanger both the driver and pedestrians.
- Students should always cross the road using the pedestrian crossings on First, Second and Ninth Avenue and obey the instructions of the crossing guards.
- Bikes and scooters should be walked across pedestrian crossings

Remember, the behaviours we as adults demonstrate are often viewed as acceptable by the children we care for. Please assist us in adhering to and promoting safe driver and pedestrian behaviour.

Regards,

Paul Keevers
Deputy Principal



Enrolment policy

Information for parents

The Enrolment of Students in NSW Government Schools policy is in place to assist schools to meet their obligations under the *Education Act 1990* - to ensure that every student has a place at their local school. The policy also communicates to staff and the community a transparent enrolment process.

Why was the enrolment policy revised?

Across the state, many communities are changing. Some are growing at rates never seen before. Some schools that used to be able to accept out-of-area enrolments, no longer have the room to do so.

The revised policy is designed to support schools to manage all enrolment applications, encourage greater consistency in decision-making and make sure the enrolment choices are clear for parents.

What are the changes?

The enrolment cap

The enrolment cap is the number of students that can be enrolled at a school based on the school's permanent accommodation. The enrolment cap tells us whether the school may or may not have the capacity to accept non-local enrolments. It is not a target or limit on the number of local enrolments a school can take.

Each school with a local intake area will have a cap set by the department from Term 4 2019.

Within the enrolment cap, a number of enrolment places (the buffer) must be kept aside for the likely number of local students who will need to enrol during the year. For this reason, a school will not take non-local students once they reach their buffer, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

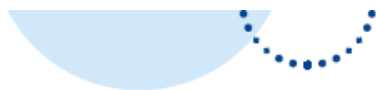
100-point residential address check

Parents planning to enrol their child at a school that is near or at its buffer or cap will be asked to complete the 100-point residential address check to confirm they live within the school's designated intake area. This means parents will need to provide documents to verify the child's current address.

So that schools only seek information relevant to the child's enrolment, a list of approved documents for the residential address check is available from the school or the department's website at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/enrolment-of-students-in-nsw-government-schools>.

Selection criteria for non-local enrolment

Sibling enrolments are now clearly prioritised (where possible) and selection criteria for non-local enrolment will not include student ability, performance or achievement.



What has not changed?

Schools will continue to enrol students who live in their local intake area, regardless of the school's cap status.

Enrolment procedures for students accessing particular education settings (for example selective schools, distance education, specialist support classes for students with disability, Intensive English Centres) are not affected by the revised policy.

In schools with available places, there are no changes to enrolment rights of siblings of non-local students. Each enrolment application is considered on its merits, including if siblings currently attend the school. If the school is below capacity, out-of-area applications for siblings of current students will be given enrolment priority.

Schools will continue to provide families with support and advice during the enrolment process, including assessment of exceptional and compelling circumstances particularly for vulnerable students and their families.

Schools will also continue to apply the policy fairly and consistently using transparent and accountable processes when making decisions about enrolment applications. Parents have a right of appeal to determine whether the stated processes have been applied in a procedurally fair manner.

But what do the changes mean for me?

What if my child is already enrolled but we do not live in that school's intake area?

Your child will remain enrolled at the school as the revised policy does not affect students already enrolled in NSW Government schools.

We were in area when my child was enrolled in the school. The department has since changed the school's boundary and our residence is now out of area. I have other children and I want them all to go to the same school. What are my options?

At times it is necessary for the department to make adjustments to a school's local enrolment intake area. This could mean a family with a child/children already enrolled is then outside the local intake area. When this happens, the family will still be able to enrol siblings together at the school, regardless of whether the school is over the buffer or cap.

I already have a child enrolled as an out-of-area student in a NSW Government school. Can I enrol my other children at that school too?

This will depend on the capacity of the school:

- If the school is **not near its buffer**, then siblings should be able to be enrolled at the school. In fact, siblings of students currently enrolled will be prioritised, where possible, over other non-local enrolment applications.
- If the school is **nearing its buffer**, then the school will form a non-local enrolment panel. The panel considers non-local enrolment applications when the number of non-local applications received exceeds the number of places available below the buffer. Again, in this instance, siblings of students currently enrolled will be prioritised, where possible, over other non-local enrolment applications.
- If the school is **at capacity**, it will not accept non-local enrolment applications unless there are exceptional circumstances.

I have already accepted an offer for my child to attend a school in 2020 that is not my local school. What happens now?

The enrolment will proceed. Non-local enrolments accepted before Term 4 2019 for students starting in 2020 should not be affected.

What are the criteria for enrolment in a school that is not my local school?

Schools that are able to accept non-local enrolment applications establish a non-local enrolment selection panel, if demand exceeds the number of places below the school's buffer.

Schools are required to make the selection criteria available to the school community.

My circumstances are challenging and I think this school is best for my child. We live outside the school's intake area. What should I do?

We understand that not everyone's circumstances are the same, and that there are instances where exceptional and compelling circumstances will need to be considered.

If this is the case, you should talk to the principal of your local school.

Contact

For general enquiries contact: 1300 679 332 or email: DoEnfo@det.nsw.edu.au

For enrolment enquiries, speak to your local school.

Find school contact details at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/finding-a-public-school>