



Durack School Family Information

2025



Respect, Responsibility and Kindness

50 Woodlake Boulevard
Durack NT 0830
PO Box 225 Palmerston NT 0831
School ~ 08 8997 7555
Email: durack.school@education.nt.gov.au Website: <http://durackschool.nt.edu.au>

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Durack School, an Independent Public School (IPS) funded by the government, enjoys decision-making autonomy while adhering to government regulations and NT Department of Education directives. As a member of Palmerston City Schools (PCS) and the Palmerston and Rural Region (PARR), Durack collaborates within its educational community.

Founded in 1998, the school draws its name and heritage from the pioneering Durack family, aligning with its motto, “Dignity and Determination.” The school’s houses—Lissadell, Ivanhoe, and Argyle—honor Durack cattle stations, reflecting its historical roots.

Durack School prides itself on fostering a supportive community with robust partnerships between school, home, and the broader community. Together, they aim to equip students with a well-rounded education, preparing them with the skills to make meaningful contributions locally and globally. A comprehensive curriculum includes specialist programs in Physical Education, Dance, Art, Design and Technology, Environmental Science, Japanese, and instrumental music for Years 4–6.

Aligned with the Australian Curriculum and the Grow Your Mind Wellbeing Program, Durack’s collaborative staff focus on developing lifelong learning skills, attitudes, and behaviours in students. Continuous improvement is a core commitment, supported by professional learning that emphasizes explicit instruction, technology integration, learning goals, and transparent data sharing with families.

Durack School is dedicated to cultivating positive relationships grounded in high expectations, driving students to reach their fullest potential.

Cindy McLaren
Principal



Durack School Overview



VISION

Every Learner
Making Progress

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Durack School

Dignity and
Determination

Durack School inspires all learners to embrace learning, achieve their **personal best** and build their **emotional, social, and physical wellbeing** in a nurturing and **inclusive learning environment**.

We encourage learners to be **kind, compassionate, and creative** while striving for academic and social excellence, through **explicit learning**, utilising innovative **digital technologies**.

At Durack we strive to share our **knowledge** and **inspire** our students to be **confident, motivated** and **prepared for lifelong success**.

MISSION

THE HEART OF
SUCCESS

**Respect
Responsibility
Kindness**

for ourselves, others
and the
environment

CODE OF CONDUCT

In our school community
we have a responsibility
to:

- **Be Respectful**
- **Engage in Learning**
- **Feel Safe and Valued**

V
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As an Independent Public School, Durack School is governed by a School Board.

Each year, parents have the opportunity to nominate for vacant board positions when advertised. The board seeks individuals who can offer expertise that enhances the school's initiatives, particularly those with experience in strategic planning and school infrastructure.

Joining the board provides a unique opportunity to actively engage in your child's education while contributing to the school's future direction. This involvement allows parents to support and shape decisions that impact Durack School's educational environment and long-term goals.



Preschool

The Durack School Preschool program provides stimulation and enrichment for young students, as they become familiar with the Durack School environment, and part of the Durack School community.

- The Preschool opens at 8.00am and children **must be signed in** by a parent or carer.
- Families and carers are encouraged to spend time in the Preschool as part of the morning routine and settling students in.

- The parent/carer signing the child into the Preschool is required to ensure that the child is received by an educator before leaving.

- Only the parents/guardian, or an authorised nominee on the enrolment forms, are allowed to collect a child from Preschool.
- The parent/guardian is to inform the school in writing if somebody other than themselves is going to collect their child (including any Outside School Hours Care Service).

If an unauthorised person arrives to collect a child, Durack School will contact the child's parent/guardian to confirm authority. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, an authorised nominee will be.

Group 1

- Semester 1: Attend 8.00am-2.30pm: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
- Semester 2: Attend 8.00am-2.30pm: Monday, Tuesday

Group 2

- Semester 1: Attend 8.00am-2.30pm: Thursday and Friday
- Semester 2: Attend 8.00am-2.30pm: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

The Durack Preschool Information Handbook provides further information about our preschool program.

Transition

Transition is a period of time between the informal, play based learning at Preschool and the more formal learning structure of Year One.

Further information on our Transition program can be obtained in our Durack School Transition Handbook.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Enrolment Procedures

Parents or Guardians can obtain the appropriate forms for enrolment from the school office. Immunisation records, proof of date of birth and proof of residency are required when enrolling.

Palmerston City Schools work under a priority enrolment system which means Durack School only accepts enrolments from families in the priority areas of Durack, Durack Heights, Pinelands, and Robbie Robbins Reserve.

An interview with the Principal or Assistant Principal is required before your child commences school.

Durack Preschool Enrolment Eligibility

- Children turning 4 on or before the 30 June are eligible to commence Preschool at the beginning of that year.
- Children turning 4 after 30 June of that year are eligible to enrol after their birthday **if places are available** and with the understanding that the child will access more than 12 months of Preschool.

Parents may put their child’s name on a waiting list for Preschool enrolment however when a position becomes available priority will be given to the **eldest** child on the list provided all other criteria for enrolment are met.

Enrolment in Transition

Children who **turn 5 on or before 30 June** are eligible to enrol in Transition at the commencement of the school year. Children who turn 5 after 30 June are not eligible to enrol in a Transition class until the following year.

2024 School Terms

Term	Start	Finish
Term 1	Wednesday 29 January	Friday 4 April
Term 2	Tuesday 15 April	Friday 20 June
Term 3	Tuesday 15 July	Friday 19 September
Term 4	Tuesday 7 October	Thursday 11 December

8:05 -10:25	Class time	10:35	11:00 – 12:55	Class time	1:10 – 1:30	1.30 – 2.20	Class time
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10:25- 10:35	Supervised eating in classrooms		12:55 -1:10	Supervised eating in classrooms		2.20 - 2:30	Pack up and home time
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School Timetable

Please do not drop children at school before 7:45am and ensure they are picked up at 2:30pm.

Back to School Vouchers

The NT Government will provide parents with vouchers to the value of \$200.00 for essential equipment such as books and uniforms for preschool and primary school aged students.

Parents are asked to purchase a resource pack from the school for \$100 which provide students with additional equipment and subscriptions for online learning platforms in reading and maths, which they need to participate in classroom activities.

If the resource pack is not redeemed with the voucher, parents are requested to pay for this.

Parent Voluntary Contributions

The Parent Voluntary Contributions are set at \$25.00 per student, per term. These contributions are essential in providing funding support for items such as:

- Library resources
- Information Communication Learning and Technology (ICLT) maintenance
- Ambulance cover
- First aid supplies

Your support in providing these contributions will be very much appreciated.

Attendance

Durack School aims to provide the best possible education for all students. In order for students to achieve their full potential, it is essential that they attend school/preschool and arrive on time. Students miss vital steps in the teaching and learning process if they are regularly absent or late. For further information, please refer to the Attendance Policy found on our website.

If your child is absent from school, contact the school as soon as possible, verbal messages from siblings will not be taken as confirmation of absence. Parents will be contacted regarding regular unexplained lateness or absence, and any ongoing concerns will be referred to the Department of Education Attendance and Truancy Officer.

No student is allowed to leave the grounds during school hours unless collected by approved parent/caregiver. **All students must be signed out by a responsible adult at the office if leaving before 2.30pm.**

Late Arrivals/Leaving Early

Students who arrive at school after 8.15am will need to go through the office to collect a 'Late Slip',

Students who leave school prior to 2.30pm must be signed out through the office.

Uniforms

The wearing of the school uniform, including the school hat, is compulsory, and parents will be notified if their child is not wearing the appropriate uniform.

The Durack School uniform consists of the Durack polo shirt, black Durack logo skorts/shorts and Durack school bucket hat. Students must wear enclosed shoes. Durack House Team shirts are also available. Uniforms can be purchased from the school office.

In 2025 Durack School is transitioning to a new Durack polo shirt in some sizes.



Emergency Contact Numbers

Please ensure that the contact information you have provided to the school is **current**. It is the family's responsibility to inform the school as soon as possible if there are any changes to addresses or phone numbers. **Please remember, we need to be able to contact you in case of an emergency.**

Assemblies

Assemblies are held weekly alternating between Upper Years and Early Years with whole school assemblies in Week 5 and 10 each term. Students will only attend fortnightly. Assembly is on Friday mornings, commencing at 8.30am.

Parents are notified by class teachers if their child is performing or receiving an award.

Car Parking and Kiss and Go

Please exercise extreme caution when dropping off and collecting your children from either within the school grounds or in nearby streets.

The speed limit in our car park and drop off area is strictly 10km per hour.

When using the Kiss and Go zone please move forward as far as you can before stopping to allow other cars to move into the zone.

Do not park in the Kiss and Go zone at front of the school or get out of your vehicle. This zone is for a quick drop off/pick up of students only.

Disabled car parks can be found in the carpark to the right of the administration block.

Bikes and Scooters

Fenced and secure racks for bikes and scooters are provided at the front of the school, and we recommend that students use a bike lock for extra security. The school takes no responsibility for lost or stolen bikes or scooters.

Students are asked not to ride their bikes or scooters on school grounds.

Please note, the wearing of helmets for children under the age of 16 is a legal requirement in the Northern Territory.

Durack Outside School Hours Care

Durack School provides Outside School Care for our school community from Preschool to Year 6.

Hours of operation are:

- Before School Hours Care (6:30am – 8:00am)
- After School Hours Care (2:30pm – 5:45pm)
- Vacation Care (6:30am – 5:45pm)

For bookings contact Durack School on 89 977 555 or email durack.oshc@education.nt.gov.au

Visitors

Between 8.15am and 2.15pm all parents/visitors are required to enter through the office to sign in and out.

This is for safety reasons, so we are aware of all persons on the school grounds, ensuring that everyone on site is accounted for should there be an emergency.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Durack School is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment.

2024 Durack School implemented the new school wellbeing program, Grow Your Mind.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum guides our programming and planning in all key learning areas for students in Transition to Year 6.

The Northern Territory Preschool Curriculum and the National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) guide our programming and planning in Preschool. The EYLF focuses on programs catering for the individual needs and interests of the child, with a strong emphasis on play based learning.

Japanese

All students from Preschool to Year 6 take part in Japanese lessons with dedicated Japanese teachers from the Darwin Language Centre and their classroom teacher.

Durack is a sister school with Japan's Kansai International Academy in Kobe, Japan.



Student Leadership

School Captains and School Vice-Captains are Year 6 students who are elected by their peers. They are leaders of the Student Voice Positive Choice (SVPC) leadership team and work closely with the House Captains and House Vice Captains, Class Representatives, Executive Leadership and School Board, to improve the school, organise events and represent the students at Durack School. School Captains are also members of the NT Learning Commission.

House Captains and Vice Captains are Year 6 and 5 students that lead their teams on Sports Day, are members of SVPC and work with the Executive Leadership Team.

Class Representative from Year 4 to 6, one student from each class is the voice for the class. They are members of SVPC.

VIP Year 6 Leaders are SVPC members identified by Executive Leadership and teachers as students who demonstrate excellent leadership skills.

The Northern Territory Learning Commission is an initiative placing 10 students at the centre of leading research and providing evidence-informed recommendations alongside their teachers and Executive Leadership to improve learning within the school, across regions and the entire system.



Durack School Sports

Students are allocated a House Team upon enrolment, we have 3 house teams at Durack School, which are named after three Durack family cattle stations.

Their names and colours are:

Argyle

RED

Lissadell

GREEN

Ivanhoe

YELLOW

In addition to the regular Physical Education program in which all students participate, other opportunities exist for students to be involved in various physical activities.

The school holds annual sports days and participates in Interschool Athletics Carnivals through the Palmerston and Rural Region Schools (PARRS) or Gala Days.

The opportunity exists for students to represent the school, the Palmerston and Rural Region, and the NT in various sports.



Music

In Years 4, 5 and 6, children are offered instrumental tuition lesson by NT School of Music teachers. This currently includes percussion, guitar, brass and wind. Durack also has a School Band that rehearses once a week.

ICLT (Information Communication Learning Technology)

The school has an ongoing commitment to improving the use of technology in learning for students and teachers.

Durack School has a comprehensive scope and sequence to build student capacity in 21st century digital learning with a 1:1 iPad allocation for students from Year 2 to Year 6. Preschool to Year 1 are allocated class sets for student use.

Students in Years 2 to 6 are required to sign an Internet Users Agreement (green form) on enrolment. Parents of students in Transition to Year 1 sign an agreement (pink form) on behalf of their children. This agreement outlines the acceptable use of IT equipment and systems at school, as well as, the consequences if these are not followed.

Students with Additional Needs

Although classroom programs fulfil the needs of most students, some students may have additional needs. The Inclusion Support Teacher works with students, families and staff to support students with additional needs and assist with referrals to services when need.

Middle Years

Durack School is a feeder school for Palmerston College, therefore students from Durack School have priority placement at Palmerston College.

Our Year 6 teachers work with Palmerston College teachers on transitioning activities to ensure students are prepared for the move to their new school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Durack School students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extra activities. Some of the extra-curricular activities we may have available include:

- Literacy and Numeracy Week
- Science Week
- NAIDOC Week
- National Maths, English and Science Competitions
- Technology and coding competitions and learning events
- Concerts
- Music events such as: The BEAT (choir) and Play Days (children who learn percussion, guitar, brass or wind instruments)
- Primary Years Elective Program
- World Kindness Day
- International Student Day

Excursions and Camps

Excursions are planned as an extension of the teaching and learning curriculum. They are designed to extend on the children's developing knowledge, to help them to learn.

Parents may be asked to contribute to the cost of planned excursion, and students will only be allowed to go on excursions with signed parental permission.

Year 5 and 6 students will have the opportunity to participate in an outdoor camp.

The availability of a camp of this nature is dependent on the cost, the number of students expressing interest in attending and the availability of staff who are able to participate in these out of hours activities.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN STUDENT LEARNING

Durack School encourages parents to be involved in their child(ren)'s education. Open communication between parents and teachers is strongly encouraged.

Parents are welcome to make an appointment to see their child's teacher at a mutually convenient time.

Reporting to Parents

Term 1

- Three Way Conferences are held so students can share their learning and goals.
- A Progress Report is sent out prior to the Three Way Conferences.

Term 2

- Transition students receive comments on their progress in learning but are not graded.
- Formal A-E reports are sent out at the end of term for Years 1 to 6.

Term 3

- Three Way Conferences are held at the end of term so students can share their learning and goals.
- A Progress Report is sent out prior to the Three Way Conferences.

Term 4

- Transition students receive comments on their progress in learning but are not graded.
- Formal A-E reports are sent out at the end of term for Years 1 to 6.

If at any time you have a concern regarding your child, please contact the school to arrange an interview with the classroom teacher.

COMMUNICATION

Website

The Durack School Website has up to date information that will be useful to prospective and current parents. The web address is durackschool.nt.edu.au

Class Dojo

Durack School uses the **ClassDojo** app to communicate with parents. At the beginning of the school year, a letter will be provided for families/carers to connect to their child's class and classroom teacher. Parents may contact the classroom teacher through the ClassDojo message option. Whole school events, the school newsletter and class notes are posted electronically on ClassDojo.

Facebook

Our Facebook page also has up to date information about current events and celebrations.



To follow us on Facebook, you can like us at **Durack School NT**.

HOMEWORK POLICY

It is an NT Department of Education (DoE) requirement that schools develop and implement a school Home Learning policy.

For further information, please refer to the Home Learning Policy on our website.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Students may bring their mobile phone to school. It is to be handed into the teacher at the beginning of the day to be kept in the front office. Phones are returned to students at 2.20pm. **Mobile phones are not to be kept in school bags.**

CANTEEN

The Canteen is open Monday to Friday every week for all students in Transition to Year 6.

Lunch orders must be placed in the classroom lunch order box each morning or ordered online before 8:45am through 'QuickCliq – www.quickcliq.com.au

Students are able to purchase over the counter snacks at recess and lunch, the canteen menu and price list is available from the school website, office or canteen and is updated as appropriate.

HEALTH, MEDICAL & SAFETY INFORMATION

Sun Smart

Children are expected to wear the school hat and school uniform which are both Sun Smart.

Policies are in place to also ensure that our students are sun safe at all times while in attendance at school:

- School hats are to be worn at all times when the children are in the sun.
- Parents are to either supply SPF 30+ for their child to apply, or apply it before school.

For further information, please refer to the Sun Smart Policy on our website.

Medication

Sometimes it is necessary for children to take medication during school hours. When this occurs, please bring the medication, in its original container, to the office. You will be required to sign written instructions e.g. dosage, time to be taken.

Parents must notify the school if their child is on regular medication for example: asthma, epilepsy, or diabetes. The medication information form, obtained from the school office, must be completed and all medication given to the office staff for appropriate storage.

For asthmatic students, parents must provide a current asthma plan to the office. Students that self-manage their asthma may keep their inhaler in their bag or at the office.

Illness and Injury at School

Sick children should not be sent to school. They may pose a health risk to others and may increase the severity and length of their own illness.

The school has a sick bay where children who are hurt or become ill during the school day can rest for a *short* period of time. If a child is too ill to be at school or a serious injury occurs, parents will be contacted to collect their child.

In more serious cases, it may be considered necessary to have the child taken to the local medical practitioner or to the hospital for medical attention.

FAMILIES ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CURRENT EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS ARE ON ALL SCHOOL RECORDS

First Aid is only administered by staff members with current First Aid qualifications. They are available to assist in all emergencies.

Infectious and Communicable Diseases

If your child has an infectious disease or a contagious condition, he/she should be kept away from school until recovered. It is requested that parents notify the school as soon as an infectious disease is diagnosed.

The full list can be found on the Territory Health website or by via the link below:

<http://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjspui/handle/10137/1011>

Head Lice

It is the parents' responsibility to check and treat their children for head lice.

If we are aware of the problem, we will advise the parent that treatment is necessary. Notes are sent home if there is an incidence of head lice in the class asking all parents to check and treat on the same night.

Further information is available from Community Health Centres.

Dental Services

A free dental service for children is provided by Territory Health Services. They can be contacted on 89 226 466 to make an appointment.

Allergy Awareness

Our aim is to develop procedures and practices which keep students with allergies safe, therefore we ask that parents notify school staff if their child has or develops a food allergy.

We aim to keep students with allergies safe without unnecessarily isolating or excluding them from school activities or creating an unnecessarily restrictive school environment. The school ensures school staff are educated about recognising and responding to a student having an allergic reaction.

For further information, please refer to the Allergy Awareness Policy on our school website.

Pets

Pets should be left at home regardless of their size/cuteness!

Pets create hygiene and control problems and must not be brought to school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the Principal.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Cyclones

In the event of a cyclone becoming imminent, parents must collect their children from school immediately following the Radio Broadcast Evacuation Request.

Children should be collected from their classroom where teachers will record the time and who has collected each student. Adults other than parents may collect a child after signing the appropriate form supplied by the teacher.

If students remain at school and it becomes necessary they will be accompanied to a cyclone shelter by the Principal. Information concerning the location of the students will be posted on the front door and Social Media.

DURACK SCHOOL IS NOT A DESIGNATED CYCLONE SHELTER.

Fire and Other Emergencies

There is a predetermined evacuation procedure for fire or other emergencies. A continuous ringing of the fire bell signals an evacuation.

We also conduct drills, referred to as 'Invacuations', for other emergencies such as an aggressive or violent person in the vicinity of the school.

Each term emergency drills are conducted and practised, with all students and staff at the school.

Wet Weather

In severe weather and heavy downpours of rain, students will be required to stay indoors. If the weather event occurs at the end of school, students may be required to stay at school until the danger passes.

For further information, please refer to Wet Weather Policy on our website.