



Heathcote Primary School

School Information Handbook 2025



Heathcote Primary School
Respect ~ Learning ~ Teamwork ~ Responsibility

Phone: (03) 5433 3090

Email: heathcote.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Address: 31 Herriot Street, Heathcote, VIC 3523



Our History

Heathcote Primary School has a long history of providing quality education to the children of Heathcote and surrounding areas.

Opening its doors for the first time in 1853 and originally known as Heathcote State School, the school is now in its 172nd year. When the school opened there were 60 students and classes were held in a tent. The school grounds have changed significantly – no tents insight! The 'History of Heathcote' includes a stone schoolhouse, a teacher living onsite, secondary classes starting, secondary classes stopping and at one point, an enrolment of 320 students along with being renamed Heathcote Primary School in 1970.

The original school building was knocked down in 1961. Two new timber classrooms were built on a new site. Today, there are two main buildings which house seven classrooms and administration areas.

A mixed and interesting history indeed!

The historical information and image on this page is sourced from Department of Education 'History of Heathcote' webpage.



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School Profile

Heathcote Primary School is a Foundation to Grade 6 primary school located in Herriot Street, Heathcote, Victoria, Australia.

In 2025, approximately 150 students are enrolled at Heathcote Primary School and there are seven classrooms. The core subjects of literacy and numeracy are complemented by a variety of specialist subjects including visual art, STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths), PE, performing arts and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program. Auslan is taught weekly, individual music lessons are facilitated by an external provider and a choir meets (and performs) regularly.

All staff are committed to maximising opportunities for every student and provide an inclusive learning environment. A dedicated team of teaching, education and administration staff partner with families to support students to achieve their goals.



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School Values

Heathcote Primary School has four values.

Respect: treating people well, recognising and accepting individual differences and valuing other students, our environment and belongings

Learning: developing the skills, values and attitudes to become a lifelong learner

Teamwork: working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for all

Responsibility: being accountable for our own actions, what we say and what we do and accepting the consequences for our behaviour

The school values are displayed in the astroturf area. This location was chosen as it is a central meeting space. The graduating class of 2024 created the murals as part of a community project in collaboration with our art specialist.



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Daily Timetable

8:45am

Classroom doors open

Students take their bag inside and unpack for the day ahead. After doing so, students can go outside to play.

8:57am

Music begins followed by school bell

Students make their way to their classroom via the toilets and drink tap (if needed)

9am – 11am

Learning time

Includes a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables at approximately 10am and lunch eating time at 10:50am

11am – 11:30am

Break 1

11:30am – 1:30pm

Learning time

Includes lunch / snack eating time at 1:20pm

1:30pm – 2pm

Break 2

2pm – 3pm

Learning time

3pm

Home time

After School Care is available offsite through Trinity Academy. A bus travels from Heathcote PS to Trinity Academy after school each day. Bookings for After School Care can be made by contacting Trinity Academy on 03 4411 6803.



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Learning

VERSION 2.0

The Victorian Curriculum F-10

A curriculum that sets out the knowledge and skills every student should learn during their first 11 years of schooling to become lifelong learners, confident individuals, and active and informed citizens prepared to navigate a diverse and changing world.

From:



VICTORIAN CURRICULUM
AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



Key



Learning areas and disciplines



Capabilities



Foundational skills



Cross-curriculum priorities



VICTORIAN CURRICULUM
AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



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Specialist Subjects



Science Technology
Engineering and Maths (STEM)
(Foundation – Grade 6)



Physical Education (PE)
(Foundation – Grade 6)



The Arts
Visual and Performing Arts
(Foundation – Grade 6)



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen
Garden Program
(Grades 3 – 6)



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Wellbeing

At Heathcote Primary School, all classes teach the Resilience, Rights, and Respectful Relationships curriculum. Developed following the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, RRRR is part of a broader initiative to promote respectful relationships and create a safe and supportive learning environment. The program focuses on eight key areas: Emotional Literacy, Personal Strengths, Positive Coping, Problem Solving, Stress Management, Help Seeking, Gender and Identity, and Positive Gender Relationships.

Supporting students to identify and manage their emotional state, we are introducing students to the Zones of Regulation. Emotional states are categorised into the Blue, Green, Yellow, and Red zones, and through explicit teaching, our students are first taught to identify and categorise how they are feeling, then how to manage these feelings.

This year we have started a small group social-emotional learning program using the SuperFlex series. Starting with 'You Are a Social Detective', the SuperFlex series helps students to observe their social environment and begin to understand the hidden rules of social interactions.

Evie, our Dogs Connect school dog, enjoys helping students when they are feeling big emotions and need some puppy love.





School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Like many other schools in Victoria, Heathcote PS has adopted a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program. In 2025, the students, staff and families came together to create a school wide behaviour matrix.

Learning			
	Always	Inside	Outside
Respect	We use an appropriate voice	We follow classroom expectations	We leave nature in nature
	We use manners and kind words	We walk	We share our spaces
	We follow instructions		
	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves		
Teamwork	We are inclusive	We participate	We choose teams fairly
	We pack up		We determine and play by the rules
	We share		
	We wait our turn		
Responsibility	We use equipment for its intended purpose	We use resources for their intended purpose	We return our equipment
	We arrive on time		
	We look after school property		
	We place rubbish in the bin		
	We use our 'calm down' strategies		

What is SWPBS?

SWPBS is an evidence-based framework designed to help schools create positive, safe, and fair settings where students and teachers can thrive. It focuses on teaching and encouraging positive behaviour, supporting all students, and providing extra help to those who need it. By doing this, SWPBS helps improve behaviour, wellbeing, and academic success.

Source: <https://www.vic.gov.au/SWPBS>:



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Facilities & Grounds

Spacious school grounds provide space for different games and activities.

Students have access to:

- A covered basketball court
- An oval
- Two playground areas
- A sandpit
- Small netball court area
- Bike track
- Downball courts
- Quiet sitting areas



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Special Events

Throughout the year, Heathcote Primary School hosts multiple whole school events. Some of these are organised by the Junior School Council representatives alongside other student leaders and with the support of staff. We encourage families to attend.

The events provide opportunities for student leadership, for students to work in mixed age groups and participate in a variety of activities across curriculum areas.

Popular events include:

- 100 Days at School
- Easter Hat Parade & Easter Activities
- Book Week
- Colour Run
- Christmas Concert
- Working Bees
- Mother's Day Morning Tea
- Father's Day Breakfast

Students also have the opportunity to attend camps, incursions and excursions.



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General Information

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Absences

There are times when students are unable to attend school, including illness and medical appointments. If a student is unable to attend school, parents/carers are asked to contact the school to advise the reason for the absence. Contact can be made via phone, email or through Compass. Our goal is to have zero unexplained absences.

After School Care

After School Care is available offsite through Trinity Academy. Students attending after school care travel by bus from Heathcote PS to Trinity Academy. Families make arrangements for attendance directly with Trinity Academy.

Bikes

Students can ride their bike or scooter to school and must wear a helmet to do so. Bikes and scooters are 'parked' in the bike rack during learning time. Students have the option of riding their own bike on the bike track at break times or borrowing one from the school's bike shed. To ease with traffic congestion, junior students use the bike track at Break 1 and senior students use it at Break 2.

Birthdays

Students can wear casual clothes to school on their birthday (or the nearest school day if a birthday falls on the weekend or in the school holidays). If students bring a birthday treat to share with classmates, we encourage pre-packaged treats with a list of ingredients included.



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Buses

The school is serviced by two buses. Prior to travel, students and their families complete an application form (available from the office). There are guidelines and expectations that govern bus travel.

Car Park

The main carpark is accessed from Herriot Street. It is one way and drivers are asked to limit their speed to 5km/h. The drop off and pick up zone is not a parking space. Vehicles are only able to pause in the zone briefly. If students are not visible upon pick up, please park in one of the parking spaces.

Communication

The school website houses newsletters, policies, annual reports and other key information. A newsletter is published weekly and emailed to all families. Each unit publishes a newsletter at the start of every term to share key learning content that will be covered during the term along with details about upcoming events.

Heathcote PS uses Compass. Compass is an online portal. Parents/cares receive a unique login to access the portal.

The school has a closed Facebook group page. News, photos and reminders are shared on the page.



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Late Arrivals and Early Pick Ups

If a student arrives after 9am or requires picking up before 3pm, they must sign in / out at the office. This is part of our emergency management plan. A parent/carer needs to sign students out as no student can leave the school grounds before 3pm unaccompanied by an adult.

Medication

If a student requires medication during the school day, an adult must complete an administration of medication form. Medications are stored securely at the office. Students with asthma and/or anaphylaxis must have a current plan along with the required medication.

Music Lessons

Music lessons are provided by an external provider.

Student Leaders

Teachers and students work together with student voice and leadership a key feature of Heathcote PS. During a student's primary school years, there are multiple opportunities for formal leadership positions. Every class elects two Junior School Council representatives (JSC reps). In 2025, there are two School Captains and four House Captains.



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Student Learning Conversations

Students and families are invited to attend a student learning conversation in the middle of the year. This is an opportunity for teachers, students and families to meet and discuss student achievements and future goals. These conversations follow the publication of mid-year student reports.

Student Reports

Students receive a written report at the end of each Semester.

Uniform

Heathcote Primary School has a compulsory school uniform. School t-shirts are available in blue or red. Shorts and long pants are blue along with jackets and jumpers. Grade 6 students have the option of purchasing a Grade 6 t-shirt. From September to April, all students are required to wear a broad brimmed hat when outside.

The school keeps uniform onsite and most orders can be completed within a week. To order uniform, please complete an order form (available from the office). Uniforms can be collected on Tuesdays.



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Values Cards

As part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program, students earn values cards for demonstrating the school values and expected behaviours.

Wellbeing Room

Students are invited to access our wellbeing space if they need a rest, a reset, or a quieter place to work or play. They are able to choose from sensory activities, books, and games, before returning to their classroom when they are feeling ready. The wellbeing room is also open at break times for students who prefer a quieter space to spend break times.

Whole School Assemblies

Assemblies are held each Friday at 2:15pm in the astroturf area. In the event of wet weather or high temperatures, assemblies move online.

Assemblies are led by the Grade 6 School and House Captains. Assemblies celebrate student achievements throughout the week and include the presentation of awards, class presentations, the weekly values card totals and sports reports.



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