Warriappendi School

Providing opportunities for success

Government of South Australia
Department for Education and Child Development
Warriappendi is black and deadly.
Louisa, Year 12.

About us

Warriappendi is a small secondary school specifically for Aboriginal students. We are located in Marleston, 5.4km from the Adelaide GPO.

Warriappendi School caters for students who, for a variety of reasons, have experienced difficulties with achieving success in mainstream schooling. We strive to re-engage young people in their education by creating a positive learning environment in which students are able to experience a strong sense of belonging.

The school provides students with an opportunity to build on existing knowledge through high level individual planning and support. We offer small class sizes (staffed at a 1:8 teacher to student ratio), and a focus on quality teaching and learning.

Our students come from a range of regions across South Australia, but most live in the north western suburbs of Adelaide. The school provides morning and afternoon bus transport for students who live between Port Adelaide and the school. Those who live outside this area are provided with Adelaide Metro tickets so that they can access public transport.

Our school day runs from 9.00am to 3.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. School finishes at 2.15pm on Wednesdays. There are 7 lessons every day (6 on Wednesdays) of 40 and 45 minutes duration.
“My reading has improved because I come to school every day and I get extra help.”
Fraser, Year 9.

What programs/initiatives are offered?

Junior school
We offer a range of junior secondary Australian Curriculum options including Science, Maths, English, Geography, History, Technology (Woodwork and Digital technologies), Art, History, Geography, Media, and Health and Physical Education. We also offer Aboriginal Studies and Horticulture. Students can also participate in engaging and fun outdoor education activities including surfing, bushwalking and aquatics.
All subjects are tailored to individual needs, and we offer comprehensive testing and data analysis that ensures all students are not only challenged, but also receive individual 1 on 1 support for Literacy and Numeracy if required.
What programs/initiatives are offered?

Senior school

The senior curriculum is SACE and VET focused. We offer the SACE compulsory subjects- SACE Maths, English, Personal Learning Plan (PLP), and Research Project. We also run a variety of non-compulsory SACE subjects including Aboriginal Studies, Modern History, Community Studies (stage 1 and 2), Art, Research Practices, and more. In VET we offer Certificates 1, 2 and 3 in Hospitality in our industry standard Trade Skills Centre.

From 2018 Selected SACE and VET offerings will be available, on a fee for service basis, to Aboriginal students who are part of Flexible Learning Options (FLO) programs in other high schools.

We aim to support every student to have a post school pathway. Accordingly, we offer Employment Skills Development across all year levels, and encourage students in taking opportunities to engage in work experience. The school works consistently to link outgoing students to constructive post school options, and offers ongoing support through our Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer for up to 12 months post school completion.
What programs/initiatives are offered?

STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is an important focus at Warriappendi.

It allows students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in STEM subjects and to apply that learning to shape their world. Students experience these subjects and apply their skills in new ways using collaboration, problem solving and interdisciplinary thinking. The STEM approach to teaching and learning gives students the opportunity to work on challenging problems and projects.

Hands-on practical activities help learners experiment, use new technologies, test ideas, and make and create innovative solutions to real, complex problems through the Engineering Design Process.

As well as dedicated STEM lessons we offer coding and robotics to the junior students.

Media

Students live in a visual world dominated by media. We have developed a media editing suite which includes green screen and audiovisual equipment allowing students to produce content of a broadcast standard. We upload content regularly to our dedicated YouTube channel and Facebook page.
Wellbeing

At Warriappendi we are committed to teaching the Child Protection Curriculum, and a Health curriculum that is specific to the needs of our site. We run a wellbeing program where the expertise of outside practitioners is utilised to teach strategies around managing mental health. We are also a member of the Safe Schools Anti-bullying Initiative and are committed to creating a learning environment inclusive of LGBTIQ diversity that values positive wellbeing. All students are offered annual health checks and those with complex health needs are managed under a case management model where a nurse practitioner oversees their health. Students are supported by Aboriginal health workers with referrals and transport to access doctors and specialists. Additionally, a youth worker offers counseling weekly, or on a needs basis. We also provide breakfast, recess and lunch to students each day.
“Warriappendi isn’t just a place of learning. It’s a family environment where culture matters.”

Year 12 students.

Student Voice

Warriappendi has an active Student Action Team (SAT). The SAT offers students a legitimate voice in how the school works for them. Students have unique expertise and perspectives on learning, teaching, and schooling, and through SAT they have the opportunity to actively shape their own education. SAT involves students actively participating in their school by contributing to decision making processes and collectively influencing outcomes by putting forward their views, concerns and ideas. SAT not only allows students to engage and participate meaningfully in their own learning, it also contributes to developing 21st century learners by encouraging critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and developing a sense of character and citizenship. Students have applied their learning to fundraising, facility development and event management.
What next?

Students, parents, schools and agencies can make an appointment to visit the school for a tour and/or interview by calling our Daily Business Coordinator on 8293 3137.

At the interview the Coordinator will gather information on previous schools; any presenting issues around behaviour; student strengths and challenges (academic and social), and other agencies involved.

After the interview the school may choose to contact previous schools and/or DECD Support Services before accepting a new enrolment.

When enrolled, new students begin with an induction programme. This session outlines the school expectations, values and processes.

Can I finish year 12 at Warriappendi?

Definitely! We expect that students will commit to attending the school on a daily basis, and long term. We focus on ‘futures’ thinking and support students through to the completion of SACE.

Many students have completed Year 12 and moved into employment or further training.

Thanks for considering Warriappendi. We look forward to seeing you soon!