

Avondale Primary School

GRADE PLACEMENT POLICY



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Avondale Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

Avondale Primary school's approach to creating and maintaining a child safe school environment is guided by our school philosophy and values. At Avondale Primary School our vision is 'to create a community that strives for excellence through high quality learning, engagement and wellbeing for all.'

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risk of harm to students in our school environments.

We promote positive relationships between students and adults and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.

When child safety concerns are raised or identified, we treat these seriously and respond promptly and thoroughly.

Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Inappropriate or harmful behaviour targeting students based on these or other characteristics, such as racism or homophobia, are not tolerated at our school, and any instances identified will be addressed with appropriate consequences.

Child safety is a shared responsibility. Every person involved in our school has an important role in promoting child safety and wellbeing and promptly raising any issues or concerns about a child's safety. We are committed to regularly reviewing our child safe practices, and seeking input from our students, families, staff, and volunteers to inform our ongoing strategies.



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on 9318 1755.

PURPOSE

To build understanding of the processes we follow at Avondale Primary School to manage student grade placement, including requests, for the following year. Grade structures are dependent on projected enrolment numbers and corresponding funding allocated to staffing in the Student Resource Package.

POLICY

All students will be placed in a supportive environment where teacher/s, parents/caregivers and students are in partnership to achieve the very best learning. Our grades represent a balance of academic, wellbeing and behaviour considerations.

The process that Avondale Primary School undertakes to plan each student's grade placement begins months before the end of the school year. The main considerations when placing a student in a future grade include:

- Academic performance
- Social and Emotional development
- Gender balance
- Adjustments and support required to engage in learning

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- Medical conditions
- Previous grade placements

Grade lists are created using the above criteria, discussed, reviewed and adapted by classroom teachers, specialist teachers, support staff and School Improvement Team/ Wellbeing Team who makes a final review of the grade groupings.

Students will meet their new grade and teacher/s during the final week of school on our whole school Step Up Day. Parents/Caregivers will be formally notified in writing about their child's placement for the following year.

Requests for placement with certain teachers or students

All teachers at Avondale Primary School are caring and committed educators and the school strives to ensure that all students are provided with a high quality education through engaging learning experiences and proactive approach towards wellbeing.

Whilst Avondale Primary School considers requests made by parents/carers, these requests are not a guarantee of placement. Our school's leadership team has an in-depth understanding of each teacher's strengths and will always endeavour to place our students with teachers who are best placed to suit their needs. We do not re-allocate students to different classes during the school year, unless exceptional circumstances arise.

Requests for students to repeat a year level

Our school will follow the Department of Education and Training policy in the Department's *Policy and Advisory Library* on Year Level Movement – see [Repeating a Year Level](#) policy.

We regularly promote students to the next year level and exercise our professional expertise and judgment in relation to these matters. Students are only able to repeat a year level in exceptional circumstances where Avondale Primary School considers it is required for the long-term benefit of the student. We ensure that parents/carers are advised of the options that we consider best meet individual student needs. Students will not repeat a year level without the consent of parents/carers.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	24 October 2023
Approved by	Principal Education Subcommittee School Council
Next scheduled review date	24 October 2026