



HEATHRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Specialised Learning Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Primary)

What is the Specialist Learning Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

The Specialised Learning Program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Primary) at Heathridge Primary School is a withdrawal program for up to 25 students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who do not have the competencies at the point of enrolment to participate successfully full-time in mainstream classrooms.

The goal of the Specialised Learning Program is to meet the individual needs of students with ASD from Kindergarten to Year 6 by providing programs to assist the students to achieve positive academic, behavioural, social and emotional outcomes to enhance the skills required for primary education and a transition to full-time mainstream enrolment.

What will the program provide?

The Specialised Learning Program is managed in collaboration by the Principal and the Program Coordinator (Autism) and consists of three dedicated homerooms, staffed with specialist teachers and education assistants. The homerooms are designed to meet the specific needs of students with a diagnosis of ASD. Each student's individual program will be based on their unique profile, strengths, needs and goals, and will encourage the development of social and communication skills.

The Kindergarten and Pre-primary homeroom uses intensive teaching strategies to facilitate learning outcomes so that the students have greater skills for mainstream participation. A focus is also on the development of classroom behaviours to enable maximum participation and independence. Kindergarten students attend the program on a part-time basis. Pre-Primary students attend the program with gradual transition into the mainstream Pre-Primary classes.

The other two homerooms for the Year 1 to Year 6 students use explicit teaching strategies to teach academic skills, and provide teaching and opportunities to support the development of skills such as communication, self-regulation, peer interaction and organisational skills. Year 1 to Year 6 students may spend part of each week in mainstream classrooms.

What are the eligibility criteria?

- Eligibility for enrolment in Western Australian public schools.
- Documented evidence of diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (up to severity level 2 DSM V) without an intellectual impairment.
- Documented evidence of significant social, emotional and/or self-regulation challenges directly attributed to the impact of the ASD.
- Independent self-management of personal care requirements.

How do I apply?

- Parents and schools may refer students for the specialised program by completing an Expression of Interest Form that is made to the Principal and/or the Program Coordinator by contacting Heathridge Primary School on 9401 8088.
- The Expression of Interest Form provided to parents will deem if the student meets the eligibility criteria. (However, submitting an Expression of Interest does not guarantee that the student will be offered a place in the program.)
- Specialised Learning Program staff will conduct observations, assessments and/or interviews of/with students and parents who are deemed to be suitable for the program.
- Parents are notified of the outcome of the Expression of Interest, and if successful, these students will be offered a place in the program.
- Please note: submitting an Expression of Interest Form and/or meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee the student will be offered a place in the program.

If you require further information please contact the Principal or Program Coordinator at Heathridge Primary School on 9401 8088.