

EARLY YEARS

Signature Practices



At Sherwood...

Our vision is for students to be courageous, resilient, life-long learners.

Our belief is that every child matters, in every classroom, everyday.

Our focus is on building fantastic foundations for each child in the early years.

We utilise student voice and develop strengths and interests through learning.

We foster positive relationships with parents as partners in learning.

Our approach



Whole Child Approach | We support and nurture all areas of your child's learning and development in a safe and caring school environment.

Age-appropriate pedagogies | Our teachers use a research-driven and custom-built framework to actively engage your child and build positive dispositions towards independent learning. This means learning decisions are made to be responsive to each child, teacher, context, and curriculum, across diverse environments.



Fine and gross motor development | We engage students with a daily Perceptual Motor Program (or movement-based program) in the form of an obstacle course, to develop age-appropriate gross motor skills. Students also engage in daily 'tricky fingers' exercises to ensure they develop the muscle strength required to cope with everyday demands of school life.

You Can Do it! Values | Our classroom-based social-emotional learning program gives students the five 'keys to success' - *Getting Along, Confidence, Organisation, Resilience, and Persistence* - to maximise success, foster positive relationships, and overall wellbeing. We live by these keys every day and recognise the collaborative efforts of family, school, and community on a child's journey to realising their potential.



In the classroom



The Curriculum | The Australian Curriculum is designed to teach students what it takes to be a confident and creative individual. We recognise every student is unique, with different needs and interests, and our teachers provide a high-quality education, supporting every student to succeed through each stage of schooling in a safe and supportive environment (*P-12 CARF*).

Speech Sound Pics (SSP) | This approach to teaching phonics uses 'Speech Sound Monsters Mapping', which makes speech sounds 'visible' to children. The written code was created to represent speech sounds, and as such, a 'speech to print' approach is taken, known as Linguistic Phonics. Our students have great success using this program, and SSP is taught in our early years classrooms every day.



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Student wellbeing



At Sherwood, we teach emotional intelligence using a number of tools such as: *'The Zones of Regulation'*, *'keys to success'* and the *Social Thinking Curriculum*. Students learn to name their emotions, understand their changing emotions and reactions which allows them to build self-awareness and positive relationships with others. We have support staff and visual aides to help all students to develop their emotional intelligence and wellbeing.

We also promote overall wellbeing by encouraging students to explore and appreciate the natural environment around them in an active way. Our playground areas, outdoor obstacle courses, and colourful footpath games have been designed to enrich our students' learning and development through play.

Our organised physical activities extend beyond our HPE and swimming programs, with students having the opportunity to join a dance troupe, walking/running groups, our Friends of the Nature Area (FONA) gardening club, as well as our famous Sherwood Arrows skipping team, who are renowned across Queensland for promoting positive healthy lifestyle messages.

We are a digital technologies school

At Sherwood, we support our students to use media and digital technologies safely and responsibly. We encourage them to inquire and create over multiple platforms, allowing them to express themselves, connect, and collaborate with other learners in our ever-changing digital world.

How we do it

We adopted a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in 2020 to ensure we are best preparing students for the future. This concept has evolved and below are the three device options which begin in our Year 2 classrooms, to ensure equity and choice for parents.



BYOD iPads

Parent-purchased and app-managed
1:1 ratio



School Provided Technology (SPT)

Classrooms will have 'pods' of iPads to support students where families choose not to opt in
iPads left at school and managed by school tech
1:2 ratio



Hire program

Families can hire a school device to allow financial equity
1:1 ratio during school time, with devices remaining at school