

Mount Ommaney Special School

2026

INFORMATION HANDBOOK



94 Capitol Drive, Mount Ommaney Qld 4074

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Fax: 07 3717 6800

24 Hour Absentee Line: 07 3717 6860
24 Hour Absentee SMS: 0407 676 597

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Facebook page: [Mount Ommaney Special School](#)





FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MIKE CURTIS

Welcome to the Mount Ommaney Special School community (MOSS)

Since opening in 1992, Mount Ommaney Special School has proudly served as a centre for specialised education, supporting students aged 5 to 18 who meet specific enrolment criteria. We are also home to the Mount Ommaney Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP), which provides dedicated services to young children (birth to 5 years) with high support needs, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual and Physical Impairments, Speech and Language Impairments, as well as Visual and Hearing Impairments. In 2026, we look forward to welcoming approximately 175 school students and 120 ECDP participants from across Brisbane's South-West suburbs and the Ipswich area. Our mission is to provide an engaging and tailored curriculum within a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment. At MOSS, our values of teamwork, communication, empathy, and trust are at the heart of our work. These values guide us in our daily interactions and our commitment to creating purposeful, equitable, and connected learning experiences. Our team is united by a shared sense of purpose, belonging, equity, and connection, which drives our dedication to supporting each student in reaching their potential. Our newly developed motto — “Every Student, Every Way, Every Day” — reflects this commitment. We are dedicated to enacting this model through the individualised, differentiated support we provide for our students each day, in ways that best meet their unique needs. This belief is embodied in our approach to personalised learning, where goals are co-designed by classroom teachers and families to ensure every student’s growth is meaningful and relevant.

A unique approach to learning through our Hub Model

Our innovative hub model encourages collaboration within classroom teams, each comprising up to four classes. This approach strengthens teamwork and professional growth, with staff sharing insights and strategies to better support students’ varied needs. While your child will have a main teacher and teacher aide, the hub structure provides a broader base of support and advocacy from a team of dedicated educators.

Partnering with families and the community

We know that partnerships with families and community members are essential to student success. Our staff work closely with families, school-based therapists, nurses, and Advisory Visiting Teachers, creating a network of support that addresses each student’s unique needs. Through this collaborative approach, we offer tailored educational and therapeutic interventions that promote student growth.

Curriculum and Personalised Learning Goals

Our curriculum, based on the Department of Education’s P–12 Framework and aligned with the Australian Curriculum, follows a four-year cycle, offering a range of meaningful learning opportunities. In addition to curriculum-based goals, we place equal priority on Personalised Learning Goals (PLGs) across four domains: Access and Participation, Communication, Health, Personal Safety and Care, and Social Participation. These PLGs, developed in partnership with families, ensure each student has opportunities for growth in areas essential to everyday life and community participation. For senior students, we provide pathways toward the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) and offer vocational training opportunities, including Certificate I qualifications in Vocational Pathways, Active Volunteering, and Hospitality. Year 12 students also develop a Transition Plan with family input to help build skills for life after school.

We look forward to partnering with you on your child’s educational journey, confident that MOSS offers a caring and connected community dedicated to your child’s growth, safety, and well-being.

VALUES AND BELIEFS - At MOSS we believe

Learning

Flourishes in safe, engaging, and individualised environments where success is celebrated, guided by data-driven practices

Communication

Thrives in an environment that presumes competence, values every voice, and fosters empathy and respect.

Teamwork

Is built through shared goals, collaboration, and celebrating achievements within a supportive, inclusive community.

Empathy

Grows through recognising and supporting each individual’s strengths, challenges, and unique contributions.

Trust

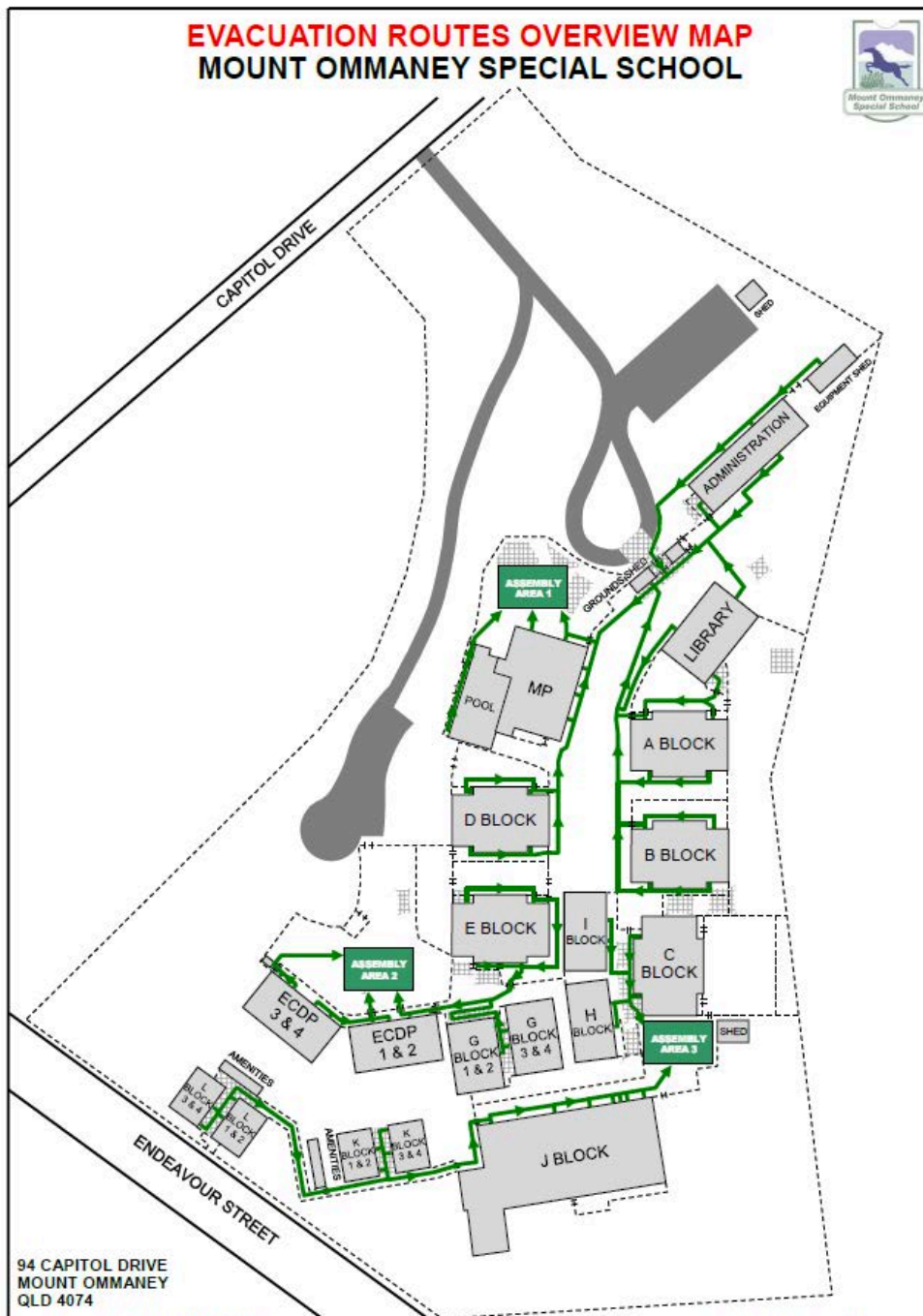
Is nurtured through consistency, transparency, and dignity in all interactions, promoting positive relationships and inclusion.

SPECIALISED FACILITIES



Our facilities include a senior secondary building, library, accessible playgrounds, indoor heated pool, and gym—all designed to meet the diverse needs of our students in a welcoming, supportive environment.

CAMPUS MAP



STAFF AND SUPPORT 2026

ADMINISTRATION

Principal

Mike Curtis

Deputy Principals

Chrissy Hamilton

Katie Bartholomaeus

Head of Special Education Services - ECDP

Melissa Farrell HOSES

Head of Department

Emma Lancaster - Curriculum (P-6)

Jenni Hakl - Curriculum (7-12)

Business Manager

Sarah Hansen

Education Program Officer

Juliet Young

Administration Officers

Helen Gilmour

Rochelle Goobanko

Heidi Arnold

Tiffany Jarvis

Lindsey Penalver - ECDP

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Guidance Officer

Steve Madden

Chaplain

Deb Pasley (Monday, Tuesday)

Social Worker

Penny Cosh (Monday)

DoE Registered Nurses

Ainsley Robbins

Helen Higgins

Library

Sandy SIRRIS

PBL Leader

Andrea Loyer

Health & PE Specialist

Eric Smyth

Intensive Interaction Coordinator

Louise Ruzic

Student Engagement Coaches

TBC 2026

Drama

Emma Reid

Ainsley Robbins

HUB Leaders

The 2026 Hub Leaders will be announced in January 2026

THERAPY SERVICES

The school accesses Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Pathology services. Therapists work closely with classroom teachers to assess the needs of students for whom therapy support has been requested. These services are then delivered on a prioritised basis.

Speech Language Pathologists

Emma Goldston

Vickie Saunders

Occupational Therapists

TBC

Physiotherapists

Celia Hollands

Emily Heuer (ECDP)

KEY INFORMATION

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

P&C meetings are held around every six weeks at 5.30pm in the Administration building. We invite all parents/caregivers to come along and have your say. A Teams link is sent out on the day for those who wish to join remotely. If you can't attend, but have an issue you would like to raise, please email pandcsecretary@mtommaneyspecs.eq.edu.au to ensure the matter is on the agenda for discussion. More information and P&C meeting minutes are available on our website.

2025-2026 Committee

President

Natasha O'Sullivan

Secretary

Jane McLachlan

Vice President

Josh Thompson

Treasurer

Michelle Bright

UNIFORMS - STUDENT DRESS CODE

MOSS uniforms (as approved by the MOSS P&C) and order forms are available from the administration office. Upon enrolment every student receives one free uniform shirt from our P&C.

The wearing of uniforms is strongly encouraged, especially for outside school activities such as excursions.

When dressing your child for school, please consider ease of dressing to assist staff with any necessary changes of clothing and to maximise your child's independence wherever possible.

Please also pack at least one complete change of seasonally appropriate clothing in your child's school bag each day. Teachers will advise if they think more changes are required.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 am - Staff receive students from buses, taxis and cars.

9:00 am to 2:30 pm - Learning activities and instruction

2:30 pm - Staff assist students departing by school buses, taxis etc, and to meet parents/ carers at the bus setdown

TERM DATES 2026

Term 1 - Tuesday 27 January - Tuesday 2 April - 10 weeks

Term 2 - Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June - 10 weeks

Term 3 - Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September - 10 weeks

Term 4 - Tuesday 6 October - Friday 11 December - 10 weeks

ASSEMBLY

The school has a long history of celebrating student learning in fortnightly assemblies. Each Hub will detail their 2025 arrangements to their parents, in the new year.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

You will note the school has secure, gated fencing to support the safety of all students and other users of the site. During routine activities such as drop off and pick up times, gates are unlocked and can be accessed manually. At all other times during the school days, the gates are electronically controlled through the main office.

The school has traffic safety managers in the bus set down area in the mornings and afternoons. Families are asked to follow the direction of these staff members and remain with their car. Staff will escort students to and from vehicles and work with bus teams to ensure safe access and movement through the area.

There are two designated, 'Kiss and Go' parking space for MOSS families near the set down area. We ask those who need to park for longer than three minutes, move forward from the set down area to the far left, to these two 'Disabled' car parking bays, or to move down into the four 'Family' parking bays in the general car park to allow timely movement of vehicles through this space, with consideration to the needs of other drivers.

There is parking for parents of children in the Early Childhood Development Program at the end of the turning circle near the ECDP. These bays are for our ECDP parents to use during the day.



STUDENT ABSENCES

If a student is sick or unable to attend school due to an appointment or other exceptional circumstances, parents are asked to contact the administration office via **Preferred method of SMS with your child's name and reason for absence**. Alternatively, you can leave a phone message on our 24hr Student Absence Line or notify us via the Qparents App.

SMS Student absence line - 0407 676 597

24 hr Student absence line - 3717 6860

In accordance with departmental policy regarding managing student absences, state schools are required to notify parents on the same day that any student is absent from school without explanation. At MOSS, an SMS will be sent to parents/caregivers on day one and two of an unexplained student absence. On the third day of an unexplained absence, a phone call will be made.

LATE ARRIVAL/ LEAVING EARLY

We ask families to advise the school administration of any appointments via **SMS on 0407 676 597** or **phone on 3717 6888**.

When you arrive late or come early to collect your student during school hours, please advise the administration office. You can contact the office via the bus set down intercom, by phone or present in person with your student. Late students will be collected by staff from the bus set down or the office. Early leavers will be brought to the bus set down or the office.

If someone other than their regular caregiver is collecting your student, it will be necessary for you to authorise the school to hand over your student to this carer.

Please advise this person that they will need to take identification to staff in the front office before picking up your child.

SICKNESS OR INURY

When a child becomes unwell at school, parents/caregivers will be contacted and advised to take their child home. The decision to send a child home due to ill health will be at the discretion of the principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher and in accordance with the Department of Education's Infection Control policy (available on request).

Some illnesses/medical conditions have a specific exclusion period. The following link will take you to the Queensland Health site where you can download a copy of the Time Out poster, which provides information on the recommended minimum exclusion periods for infectious conditions as per Public Health Act 2005:

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0022/426820/timeout_poster.pdf

TEACHING AND LEARNING

PERSONALISED LEARNING

At Mount Ommaney Special School, we follow the Australian Curriculum, providing students from Prep to Year 10 with engaging learning opportunities across core areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), The Arts, Technologies and Auslan. We prioritise a student-centred approach, tailored to each child's unique strengths and needs.

Each student has an Individual Curriculum Plan (ICP), outlining semester learning goals and strategies. ICPs fall into two categories—Highly Individualised Curriculum (HIC) or Different Year Level – Partial (DYL-P)—based on curriculum level. Teachers report on ICPs, with approved copies sent to families, and end-of-semester reports in June and December document learning progress.

For Years 11 and 12, students pursue a personalised pathway toward a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).



REPORTING

Formal student reports and folios are generated at the end of Semesters 1 and 2 to reflect student learning across each six-month period. Graduating students, or those who have completed their 24 semesters of schooling will also receive the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement, issued directly to them by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.



NON-CONTACT TIME

Full-time teachers in Queensland state schools have at least two hours non-contact time per week. This is time away from classes for professional preparation, record keeping, making classroom resources, ICP development and reporting. At Mount Ommaney Special School, teachers' non-contact time is typically organised into whole day blocks, within their Hubs. Other registered teachers will take your child's class at those times.

VOLUNTEERS

The school uses volunteers to assist with the implementation of particular programs or for general classroom help. All volunteers are required to:

- have a current BLUE Card from the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
- participate in the school volunteer induction program
- work under the direct instruction and supervision of a professional staff member
- wear a volunteer name tag

Mount Ommaney Special School values the work of our volunteers, many of whom have and continue to donate their services over a long period of time.

SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

When your child moves into Year 10 they are in the Senior Secondary phase of learning. The focus of their educational programs shifts towards their future life, as a young adult, post-school.

MOSS uses an Inter-programming model, similar to that of a Secondary School timetable, where our young people are engaged in different programs and subject areas with a range of staff members across the week. This means programming is tailored towards the young person's interests and provides a flexibility and range of options. It also assists in preparing our young people for life after school and practising the skills of dealing with unfamiliar people, transitioning, increasing independence and adjusting to changes in routine. Students are in a homeroom for mornings and afternoons. The homeroom teacher is the case manager for the young people in that particular homeroom.

The overarching aim of MOSS' Senior School program is for students to be set up to successfully transition as Year 12 progresses so they are familiar with and have found programs they enjoy and thrive in before their schooling finishes. Young people will experience a range of different programs as tasters in preparation for their post-school transition. These may be based around supported work places or social/leisure programs or a mix of both.

Program involvement and subject selection is based on PATH plans and the required curriculum set down by the QCAA (Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority) through the Guidelines for Individual Learning. (GIL)

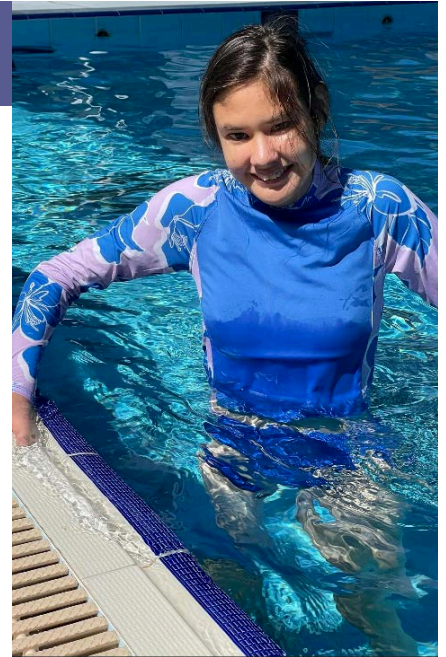
The MOSS Pathway Plan

In Year 10 staff will meet with you to commence the MOSS Pathway Plan. This is a holistic transition document to support a student's transition to post-school life. The MOSS Pathway Plan includes a number of important documents that are put in place to inform your child's transition. These include;

- SET Plan**
- PATH Plan**
- QCIA Curriculum Plan**
- Transition Goals**

The purpose of this plan is 3-fold:

- *To identify for the student, parents and staff the most likely post school pathways for each individual student.*
- *To identify the types of programs and resources we need to deliver throughout the senior secondary journey.*
- *To identify and enlist a transition network team to support the journey to post-school life, including key stakeholders, providers, and NDIS.*



SET Plan

Students must be registered with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, or QCAA and require a Senior Education and Training Plan, or SET plan to be created before they turn 16. The SET plan guides individual curriculum planning for students in the senior secondary phase of schooling (Years 10, 11 and 12) and is reviewed annually. SET planning is a process designed to guide your child on a successful pathway throughout senior secondary and beyond Year 12 into their post-school life. In Year 10, this plan is prepared in collaboration with families and the student, (where applicable).

The SET Plan establishes:

- Fundamental questions and aims at the end of Year 9
- Learning focus e.g. employment/volunteering or personal and community support

P.A.T.H - Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope

MOSS utilises the PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) planning process. Students and families create a PATH in collaboration with staff either at the end of Year 9 or beginning of Year 10. This is a chance for families to consider the future and start to consider short and long term goals and explore interests. It involves transition planning for the short term, including the senior years at school, but also considering and planning for the long term. It is a significant meeting for all involved. PATH plans are reviewed in Year 11 and then in Year 12 as they are a fluid document that may change and evolve over time.

QCIA Curriculum Plan

Senior secondary students at Mt Ommaney Special School are on a QCIA pathway. It is an official record that provides students with a summary of their skills and knowledge to present to employers and training providers. In Year 11, students transition their curriculum learning to the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) Pathway. QCIA curriculum plans are created using the QCIA Guideline for Individual Learning (GIL) database. The student's Individual Curriculum Plan will be comprised of 5 Learning Areas:

- Communication and Technologies
- Community, Citizenship and the Environment
- Leisure and recreation
- Personal and Living Dimensions
- Vocational and Transition Activities

Upon graduation, all MOSS students will receive a QCIA issued by the QCAA. This certificate is an official record that acknowledges students have completed at least 12 years of education. It recognises the achievements of students whose learning is part of an individualised learning program and provides them with a summary of their skills and knowledge that can be presented to service providers and employers.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Mt Ommaney Special School currently offers Year 10, 11 and 12 students the following three nationally accredited Certificate 1 courses through the Special Education Training Alliance (SETA), a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) operating from Western Suburbs Special School

- Certificate I Access to Vocational Pathways (FSK10119)
- Certificate I Active Volunteering (CHC14015)
- Certificate I Hospitality (SIT10216)

Certificate 1 courses provide students with the opportunity to engage in a structured learning program which focuses on specific basic work readiness skill sets that are recognised through a nationally accredited qualification. They also provide students with basic functional knowledge in a narrow area of work, learning and basic skills. Completion of one or more of these certificates may assist towards future learning, work and community participation pathways in post-school life.





Mount Ommaney Special School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for all students, staff, parents and visitors. The Mount Ommaney Special School Student Code of Conduct 2024 -2027 sets out the responsibilities and processes we use in our school to promote a productive, effective whole school approach to behaviour.

Mount Ommaney Special School uses Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) as part of the multi-tiered system of support for behaviour in the school. This is a whole-school approach that promotes positive behaviour across the school and helps the school develop safe and supportive learning environments. The PBL framework makes sure all students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours and clear and consistent boundaries are established.

At MOSS we have 3 mascots who teach our students our school expectations. Buck the Kangaroo teaches us to be safe, Rosie the horse teaches us to be respectful and Blaze the water dragon teaches us to be our best!

Our school community has identified three core expectations:

Be Safe-Be Respectful- Be your Best



COMMUNICATING WITH THE SCHOOL

At Mount Ommaney Special School methods of communication with parents/caregivers may include phone calls, home diaries, apps such as ClassDojo, parent/teacher discussions, ICP and other team meetings as well as the fortnightly Family KIT and term newsletter. All classes have a home/school communication system by which parents/caregivers and teachers can alert each other to daily issues.

These diaries/apps are very important and when used regularly, allow for the quick and reliable sharing of information about a student's well-being, achievements, appointments and so on. Many teachers and parents at Mount Ommaney Special School are successfully using the ClassDojo app.



For various matters such as upcoming events, reminders, excursions, or urgent matters such as delayed bus routes, etc. the school will communicate with parents/caregivers via SMS.

A fortnightly Keeping in Touch with Families email (Family KIT) will be sent out to assist with the prompt sharing of information. At the end of each term a newsletter is also sent home. These newsletters highlight progress towards the school improvement agenda and provide information regarding school events, as well as celebrating class news. Our Education Program Officer (EPO) sends out regular emails with information about upcoming events, workshops, seminars and other information that may be of interest to families.

If you wish to see your child's Teacher or Therapist, the Principal or Deputy Principal for a longer chat or to discuss a problem, we ask you to please make an appointment. The school discourages telephone calls during class time, due to the disruption to student learning. However, for urgent matters all classrooms, the nurses' room and the therapists' rooms have a telephone.

COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

We are committed to providing a supportive and positive learning environment. If you have a concern, feedback, or compliment about your child's education, we encourage open communication. For formal complaints or compliments, please follow the Education Queensland complaints management process, which ensures all matters are addressed fairly and transparently. To make a formal complaint or compliment, you can contact our school administration team or refer to the Education Queensland website for detailed guidance on this process. You may also directly reach out via the official complaints email at complaints@ged.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3055 2991. Further information on the process can be found at <https://alt-qed.qed.qld.gov.au/contact/compliments-complaints>

PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

State schools in Queensland operate within the public education system and local community. Over the past few years, MOSS has undertaken a range of planning and review activities. We recently completed our four-yearly whole-school review as part of the Department of Education's School and Region Reviews (SRR) process. Based on the findings, a new strategic plan for 2025-2029 will be developed in collaboration with the Executive Leadership Team. This plan will be presented to staff next year and will be made available on our school website shortly thereafter. Additionally, the full executive summary, along with the recommendations and commendations from the review, will also be published on the website for the school community to access.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Please be aware that mornings are quality learning time for students. We ask our families to ensure that their children are ready for school at the daily start time of 8:45 am. Your own involvement in all school activities, such as excursions, literacy celebration days, swimming classes, ANZAC Day, sports days and "fun" days is actively encouraged. Assistance with library and resource room needs and of course in fund raising activities is also very much appreciated.

Should you need to discuss at length your child's progress, particular issues or a general update, our teachers are very happy to arrange a time to discuss any queries you have before or after school program times.



NURSING SERVICES

The Department of Education (DoE) provides a nursing service to Queensland state schools. Education Queensland Registered Nurses work in partnership with students, parents and school staff to safely manage the health-related procedures of students with a specialised health need. Our experienced, registered nurses have the flexibility and knowledge to build the capacity of school staff to manage the health needs of students who require specialised health procedures and or interventions. If your child has a specialised health need or a complex medical condition, they may be eligible for referral to the DoE nursing service. Please discuss this further with your child's teacher, the deputy principal or principal.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

The administration of essential medications to manage students' health conditions is part of the Department of Education common law duty of care to take reasonable steps to keep students safe while they attend school and to satisfy legislative obligations under the:

- Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld) to facilitate the operation of schools as safe and supportive learning environments;
- The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld) to eliminate or minimise risks to the health, safety and welfare of persons at the school;
- Disability Standards for Education 2005 to make reasonable adjustments for people with a disability so they may access education on the same basis as a person without a disability.

Staff who administer medication must do so in accordance with Education QLD's Medication Policy

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Administration-of-Medications-in-Schools.aspx>

In order for a school staff member to assist with the administration of a prescribed medication (routine/short-term or emergency), students will require:

- A Consent to Administer Medication at School form completed and signed by the student's parent or legal guardian. These are available at the front desk in the Administration building, from class teachers or nurses. Each medication requires a separate completed form.

School staff must only administer medication that:

- has been prescribed by a qualified health practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist)
- is in its original container
- has an attached pharmacy label.

Over the counter medications:

The Department recognises that all medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications, e.g. paracetamol or alternative medicines, may be drugs or poisons and may cause side effects. As such, schools are required to receive medical authorisation from a prescribing health practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist, optometrist, but not a pharmacist) to administer any medication to students, including those bought over-the-counter. Whilst parents may administer OTC medications to their child without medical authorisation, they are aware of the child's complete medical history, and are able to provide ongoing, direct supervision for the course of the child's illness. Due to these circumstances, a parent is also more likely to recognise if their child is having adverse effects and requires immediate medical attention. The student's prescribing health practitioner also has the knowledge of the child's medical history to determine the appropriate OTC medication to administer and is therefore able to determine dosage and provide advice regarding potential side effects or interactions with other medications. For these reasons, OTC medications will only be administered to students at school if medical authorisation has been received.

SCHOOL STAFF CANNOT ADMINISTER THESE PRODUCTS UNLESS THE ABOVE GUIDELINES ARE MET.

SCHOOL PAYMENTS/ CONTRIBUTIONS

The Queensland Government supports students' education by providing funding for:

- Instruction, e.g. teachers
- Facilities, e.g. buildings, amenities, furniture
- Administration, e.g. staffing and resources to manage school operations.

Funding does not extend to individual student resources such as books, customised devices, computer and a range of other equipment for personal use and many items used and consumed by the student in the classroom. Supply of these items in most circumstances are the responsibility of parents.

Student Resource Scheme

To provide parents with a cost-effective alternative to purchasing book materials and/or resources elsewhere, Mount Ommaney Special School is seeking to continue the operation of our Student Resource Scheme (SRS) in 2026. The scheme will ensure that students have the educational resources required for them to engage with the curriculum, and saves parents time and money in sourcing the prescribed materials elsewhere. Savings are gained through the school's bulk purchasing practices and hiring arrangements. The scheme is not used to raise funds for other purposes, and revenue collected through the scheme is applied only to the resources and operation of the scheme. Details of the 2025 SRS, including how the scheme operates and the annual participation fee, has been presented to our P&C for approval. The proposed SRS fee for all students for 2025 is \$200. While participation in the SRS is optional, and no obligation is placed on a parent to participate, the department does encourage parents to participate. Please call Business Manager Sarah Hansen if you have any questions.

Type of resources provided at MOSS

- Owned – these items are retained by the student and used as required (e.g. stationery, exercise books, student diary).
- Used – these items are used/consumed in class by the student (e.g. technology/cooking/art supplies).

Work/items produced from these resources will remain the property of the student.

School Excursions and Camps

School excursions and camps enhance a student's learning by providing opportunities for them to experience and participate in extended 'community based' activities, both curriculum-related and recreational, outside the normal school routine. All school excursions are carefully planned, approved by the principal, endorsed by the Parents and Citizens Association and are risk managed and well supervised. Parents will be fully informed of camp details in advance and invoiced for costs.

State schools are able to charge a fee for:

- An educational service including materials and consumables not defined as instruction, administration and facilities for the education of the student
- An education service purchased from a provider other than the school where the provider charges the school; and
- A specialised educational program.

A school fee is directed to the purpose for which it is charged. School fees for excursions and camps are calculated on a cost recovery only basis (cost neutral), according to the number of students who have indicated their attendance. Participation of students in an excursion or camp is indicated through provision of a permission form completed by the parent/carer and payment of the excursion or camp fee. As the school budget cannot meet any shortfalls in funding for an excursion or camp due to the non-participation of a student who had previously indicated attendance to the activity, fees already paid for an excursion or school camp may be refunded in full, in part or not at all, having regard to the associated expenses incurred and the circumstances of the non-participation.

Cost neutral school activities may at times result in a surplus for an activity, i.e. total revenues exceed total expenses for the activity. Any surplus funds in cost neutral cost centres must be accounted for appropriately. If the surplus is significant, a credit will be issued to students involved and applied against outstanding amounts or future invoices. If a parent/carer wishes to apply for a refund due to their child's non-participation in an excursion or camp activity, they may do so by completing a Request for Refund form available from the school office. Where possible, the request should include the original receipt relating to the payment for which a refund is being sought. A Request for Refund must be made within 20 working days of date of activity.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Mount Ommaney Special School prepares and keeps digital information around planning for individual students, including ICPs, reports, manual handling and risk assessments, communication assessments etc. This information is used for reporting and assessment purposes.

This campus, like all other state schools, is part of the Department of Education's OneSchool network. Here, school information is maintained and accessed to meet departmental requirements, allow for contact with parents and carers, prepare 'end of semester' and other student reports, etc.

Access to school-based computer systems and iPads is strictly controlled by Queensland Government regulations and administered by our administration staff. Only users with authorisation privileges have password access.

Student permission for participation in ICT related activities is sought on enrolment and covers all the aforementioned activities. Permission lasts either until the student leaves school or until parents/guardians seek to change the permissions given.

The Mount Ommaney Special School website found at: <https://mtommaneyspecs.eq.edu.au> provides general school information, regular newsletters, special features on classes and class news, a photo gallery and other school documents.

We also have a school Facebook page and encourage families to visit the page for student news and to celebrate school events.

SWIMMING



MOSS has its own indoor heated pool. Our HPE teacher, trained staff and/or Physiotherapist support all swimming programs. All staff who take students into the water or who act as "spotters" are familiar with our pool policy document.

CHAPLAINCY

We are very lucky to have Chappy Deb as part of our team!

Chaplains provide support to all members of the school community, regardless of religious beliefs, offering spiritual, social, and emotional assistance. They are an active presence on campus, visiting classes, engaging in school activities, and supporting parents, staff, and students. The chaplain provides a confidential, non-judgmental space for anyone who needs to talk through significant issues or simply requires a listening ear.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Legislation allows for religious leaders or accredited representatives of a faith group to provide on-site religious instruction to school students older than prep age, to develop and support particular beliefs, values and attitudes. Upon enrolment, or at any subsequent time, you may indicate your permission or not, for your child's attendance at these sessions. Students at Mount Ommaney Special School are not currently offered any religious instruction during school hours. If you have any questions or are interested to know more about religious instruction in state schools, please ask at the front desk.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Mt Ommaney Special School does not offer an outside of school hours care (OSHC) program.



The campus offers regular opportunities for parents and carers to meet together and provide mutual support through the MyTime program. The fortnightly sessions cover a wide variety of topics of interest to and chosen by families, often with a visiting speaker. Baby-sitting is provided at no charge. Contact details and details of meetings are provided in the fortnightly Keeping in Touch, as well as being emailed directly to members.



RESPIRE

The Department of Education (EQ) can approve transport to centres providing respite care for eligible students (students who are already receiving Category 2/door-door bus assistance). Please be aware that this transport approval takes time to arrange. Generally, at least two weeks' notice is required. This approval must be submitted on the appropriate form, through the deputy principal.

SPECIAL NOTE: RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMING THE SCHOOL REGARDING BOTH THE DATES OF RESPITE AND THE NAME OF THE RESPITE CENTRE RESTS WITH PARENTS/CAREGIVERS.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Parents can make an application for transport assistance to/from school for their child. If we are your closest Special School, door to door bus assistance is provided by a service contracted to the state government. Families may alternatively receive a conveyance/kilometric allowance to their closest school. Please speak to the deputy principal if your child's residential arrangements change (and for eligible students who are requiring assistance to access respite) so that a continuity of service can be arranged.

Information about the scheme can be found at the following link:

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/corp/infrastructure/facilities/Pages/School-Transport-Assistance-Programs-for-Students-with-Disabilities.aspx>

INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education (DoE) does not have student accident insurance cover for students. If your child is injured at school because of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents. Student accident insurance pays some benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is up to parents/guardians to decide what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child. Please contact your insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if you wish to take out student personal accident insurance cover for your child.

SUN PROTECTION

Our school has a sun safety policy and students are encouraged to wear a hat, protective clothing and apply sunscreen when they are outside of the classroom. They are also required to wear swim shirts during all water-based activities. Mount Ommaney Special School and the Early Childhood Development Program's Sun Smart Policy is available on the school's website. As we move into summer, it's important to remember that peak times for exposure to the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation are 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. It is vital that parents encourage their children to be sun safe every day. We will be asking for your consent to apply sunscreen at school.

SMOKING

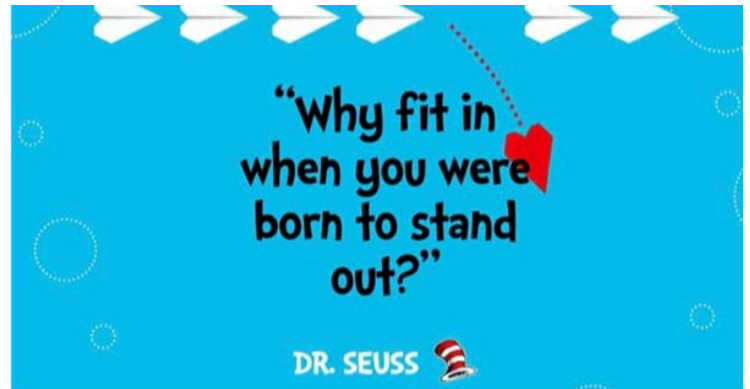
The whole school is a NON SMOKING and NON VAPING ZONE. All staff, parents and visitors are required to abide by this Government requirement whilst on the premises.

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Please remember to have a look at the campus website www.mtommaneyspecs.eq.edu.au and “like” our facebook page...



MOSS PARENTS FACEBOOK



To join our online community search for “Mount Ommaney Special School Parents” in the Facebook search bar and select join group.



Great news: Mt Ommaney Special School is providing our parent community with the opportunity to register for QParents. The QParents web and mobile application provides a more convenient, easier and secure way for parents and legal guardians of Queensland state school students to interact with their child's school. Parents will have secure, online access to their child's student information, anytime, anywhere, through a smartphone, tablet or computer.

Convenience and time savings for parents

- Parents can view or update their child's details, pay invoices and report absences without having to call the school or come into the office.
- Available 24/7 — secure access QParents on your smart phone, tablet or computer on a web browser or using the app (iPhone or Android).

Improved administration efficiencies for schools

- Allows schools to streamline their administrative processes and cut down on printing.

For more information see <https://qparents.qld.edu.au/#/about>

For help, visit <https://qparents.qld.edu.au/#/help> or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

2026

School calendar

Queensland state schools

DECEMBER 2025 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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- School holidays
- Public holidays
- Staff professional development/student free days
- Part public holiday after 6 pm

There are 195 school days in 2026.

Semester 1, 2026 commences for teachers on 22 January and for students on 27 January.

Staff professional development days

Staff professional development days for teachers are 22 and 23 January, 16 and 17 April and 4 September 2026. Schools are able to decide when they undertake the required hours for professional development for the flexible days, as long as they are on the flexible days, in the school holidays or out of school hours.

Public holidays

Queensland public holidays are set by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

Public holidays for local show days are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

Final dates for student attendance

20 November is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. 27 November is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the summer holidays on 4 December.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

www.education.qld.gov.au