

Support Class Establishment at Lambton PS 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some exciting news with you for our school community. The Department of Education has identified a need in our community for a specialist support class at our school and hopes to establish one at Lambton Public School in 2022.

Specialist support classes are attended by students with moderate to high learning and support needs including students with:

- intellectual disability
- mental health issues
- autism
- physical disability
- sensory impairment
- behaviour disorders.



The support class that the Department hopes to establish at Lambton is to support students with autism.

Why Lambton?

There are currently children living in our local area who would benefit from attending a specialist autism support class, but there are no places available within a suitable distance.

Our school community is very compassionate, caring and inclusive. We are confident that students with disability who might attend the specialist support class would be welcomed by our students and their families.

How many children would attend the support class?

Specialist support classes for students with autism usually have no more than 6-8 students. Every specialist class has a full-time special education teacher and a school learning support officer to support the learning and needs of the children in the class. We are establishing one class.

Where would students in the new class come from?

A student is offered enrolment in a specialist support class through a placement panel process. There are students in our local area or within a short distance who a placement panel has decided are eligible to attend a support class. However, no places has been available to this point. Some of these students are currently enrolled at our school and others are enrolled at local schools nearby.

Will the children in the support class interact with other students in the school?

Yes, absolutely. Students in a support class at Lambton would be part of our school community. Where able, they would join in as many school events, activities and celebrations as they can according to their age and individual needs.

The safety, wellbeing and learning of all students is always our first priority. Students in the support class will join other students in the playground and may occasionally spend some time in other classes interacting with students in mainstream classes, always supported by school and specialist staff. Whether this happens depends on their individual learning and support needs. Support classes sometimes have an additional play space of their own, and this is something that our Asset Management Unit is currently considering.

We are actively seeking your feedback and are eager to respond to any questions that you might have about the planned support class for Lambton PS.

Should you have feedback or any other questions you wish to ask, please contact:

Principal - David Holland Lambton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

P&C President – Kirsty Stewart lambtonpspandc@gmail.com

Your questions and feedback will be discussed at School Executive and P&C meetings and inform future planning.

I hope that you will join with us in recognising what a wonderful addition this will be to our school and the identify the many benefits to our students and the wider community.

Yours Sincerely

David Holland
Principal

Kirsty Stewart
P&C President