

# Lismore South Public School Preschool – Ngulliboo Jarjums

## Social Distancing Procedure

### Social Distancing at Preschool



Developed: April 2020

Reviewed: October 2021

Next Review: February 2022

NSW Education and Care services regulation/s	NSW Department of Education policy, procedure or guidelines	<a href="#">DoE preschool guidelines</a>	School policy or procedure, where applicable
<p>NSW Education and Care Services Regulations</p> <p><a href="#">Regulation 85</a> <a href="#">Regulation 86</a> <a href="#">Regulation 87</a> <a href="#">Regulation 88</a></p>	<p>The following department policies and relevant documents can be accessed from the <a href="#">Early Learning</a> section of the department's intranet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW Department of Education <a href="#">Learning from home</a></li></ul> <p>Social distancing resource: <a href="https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/early-learning/social-distancing-in-preschool.docx.docx">https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/early-learning/social-distancing-in-preschool.docx.docx</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belonging, Being &amp; Becoming: <a href="#">The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia</a></li></ul>	<p>Pages 46-47</p>	<p>Lismore South PS -</p> <p>Social distancing guidelines</p>

At Lismore South Public School (LSPS) Preschool educators have sought advice and information from the [Australian Department of Health website](#) and use updated information from the NSW Department of Education response to COVID-19, on the [department's website](#) to guide decision making.

Preschool staff work with the Educational leader/School Principal, to ensure social distancing procedures are in place and adhered to in the preschool and school setting for the safety of all children and staff.

#### Covid safe school operations

Lismore South Public School Preschool - Ngulliboo Jarjums will enact safe working procedures in accordance with current Department of Education (DoE) guidelines for COVID-safe school operations. Where parents are unable to enter the school grounds, children will be collected by teachers at the front gate for arrival and departures. For early departures or late arrivals where parents are required to come on site, parents/carers will be directed to sanitise on arrival, sign in using the QR code and wear a mask.

# COVID-safe school operations



	Overview	Guidance on mask wearing
<p><b>Level 1</b></p> <p>School operating in a COVID-safe way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students and staff to not attend school if they have symptoms; negative COVID-19 test required prior to returning to school</li> <li>Parents, carers and visitors are allowed on site</li> <li>QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors</li> <li>COVID-19 Safety Plans required in line with NSW Health advice (such as large gatherings or events)</li> <li>Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in line with broader Health settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inter-school sport in line with community sport guidelines</li> <li>Community use in line with broader Health settings</li> <li>SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes) operational</li> <li>Community Language Schools operational</li> <li>P&amp;C on site</li> <li>Additional cleaning measures in place</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 2</b></p> <p>COVID-safe; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Level 1, and:</li> <li>Non-essential visitors not allowed on site (including parents and carers)</li> <li>Staff identified as vulnerable supported to work from home</li> <li>Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances allowed in outdoor settings only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assemblies must have COVID-safe practices in place and no parents or carers are allowed</li> <li>Excursions within local government area (LGA) only, and strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 3</b></p> <p>COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed on site; further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Level 2, and:</li> <li>Mask wearing requirements</li> <li>Introduction of staggered breaks and reduced mingling of student cohorts whenever possible</li> <li>Activities such as singing, chanting, choirs, bands and school performances not permitted</li> <li>School canteens can operate with conditions</li> <li>Exams as per Health approved COVID-safe HSC guide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff interactions limited with physical distancing</li> <li>No assemblies</li> <li>No excursions</li> <li>No community use (except early childhood services and OOSH services)</li> <li>No uniform shops</li> <li>No SRE/SEE (externally provided religion and ethics classes)</li> <li>No Community Language School on site</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 3 plus</b></p> <p>COVID-safe; face-to-face learning allowed for certain cohorts if vaccination rates achieved; restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per Level 3, with following conditions:</li> <li>Return to school will be based on community settings such as adults fully vaccinated and levels of community transmission</li> <li>Only vaccinated staff on site</li> <li>Students in cohorts (including split classes) starting with staggered return of priority cohorts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimised interactions and contact within student cohorts</li> <li>Staggered access to school facilities and shared spaces such as libraries and canteens</li> <li>Drop-offs, pick-ups and break times staggered by cohort</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 4</b></p> <p>Learning from home encouraged; schools are open for families who need it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families are encouraged to keep their children at home, with no student to be turned away</li> <li>Schools activate plans to support continuity of education for all students learning from home</li> <li>Study bubbles for students sitting their HSC exams</li> </ul> <p>Where students and staff are at school, Level 3 guidelines apply, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No community use (except early childhood services)</li> <li>No canteens</li> </ul>	<p>Schools in identified local government areas of concern are operating under Level 4 settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements for authorised workers in an LGA of concern remain in place. Staff must not leave their LGA for work unless they:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>had at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or provide evidence of a medical exemption</li> <li>have registered their travel with Service NSW.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Staff who live outside but work in an LGA of concern will need to register their travel.</li> </ul>

Updated : October 15<sup>th</sup>

For full details of updated Level 3 settings refer to [Level 3 schools](#). Parents, carers and your school communities can view the updated settings on the [Advice for families](#) page.

Families are asked to sanitise their hands on entering the preschool grounds and children wash their hands in the bathroom on entering the preschool building or use foaming sanitiser. Children are regularly reminded to wash their hands throughout the day, in particular before and after using the bathroom, before and after playing in the sandpit and before and after eating.

Educators have taught children how to sneeze and cough into their elbow or into a tissue, this is then placed in the bin and hands are washed thoroughly. Educators have taught children how to wash their hands correctly and displayed visual prompts in the bathroom to remind children. The children sing 'happy birthday' twice while washing their hands to ensure they are washed for 20 seconds.

As per the DoE guidelines, early childhood staff are exempt from wearing face masks when they are working directly with children and when working outdoors. However, staff are recommended to wear masks or face coverings whenever indoors.

Educators communicate with children and will explain Coronavirus, in a sensitive way, in relation to what is happening and why, using children's books or videos. The Wiggles song, [Social distancing](#) is also used by educators to teach children about social distancing. Educators have explained to children what social distancing is and why we need to keep our distance from others. The video, '*Time to Come in Bear*', is about social distancing and has been shown to the children and discussed. Educators regularly discuss 'social distancing' with children and give reminders to practise safe habits.

During transition times when moving from one area to another, children refrain from lining up. Educators ensure that they allow more time for children to transition and ensure all children are supervised during this time. Educators maintain continuous communication between each other

and remind children to keep their space and 'keep their hands to themselves' and discourage close physical contact.

Educators are regularly using the outdoors where children are less likely to be in close contact with each other. Children are allowed to play in the sandpit and are explicitly taught to wash their hands before entering the sandpit and when they exit the sandpit. The sandpit sand is cleaned and raked through with detergent on a weekly basis. Educators regularly remind children of safe hygiene practices at mealtimes and talk to the children about why it is not healthy or safe to share food. Children are asked to bring their own water bottles daily. Where a water bottle is not provided, a child will be given a cup to use which is put straight into the dishwasher after use.

Regular communication about social distancing is shared with families through Class Dojo and school newsletter. All families are regularly informed of any changes to these arrangements. Signs have been displayed for families showing correct handwashing techniques and 1.5 metres distance between adults. Educators 'check in' with families when they drop their child to preschool.

Signage is displayed for families indicating symptoms associated with COVID. Students should not attend school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any student with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.