


Cobden

Primary School



Cobden Primary School
Silvester Street Cobden 3266

 5595 1087

 cobden.ps@education.vic.gov.au

 www.cobdenps.vic.edu.au

Information Booklet

Care - Respect - Excellence



Welcome to Our School

Vision

All students are empowered to learn and achieve, experiencing high quality teaching practice and the best conditions for learning which equip them with the knowledge, skills and dispositions for lifelong learning and shaping the world around them.

As a new or prospective family to the school we welcome you. Our school is a busy place for learning. We offer a supportive family atmosphere where students participate eagerly in our many learning and social activities. The school environment is safe and caring, and this enables learning to flourish. We promote a healthy, safe and respectful school community through our statement of values.

Our school's values are:

Care We expect our students to be caring in all they do.

Respect We expect our students to show respect in all they do.

Excellence We expect our students to achieve according to their many abilities.

The school offers a comprehensive curriculum program in all the key learning areas. Our key curriculum focus is aimed at developing competence and confidence in Literacy and Numeracy. We are also committed to a learning approach that values and recognises excellence and high standards and which is responsive and accountable to parents and the local community.

The Victorian Curriculum is our base curriculum for teaching academic, personal and social skills. We pride ourselves on using a wide variety of modern teaching equipment and facilities. There is a commitment to using learning technologies at all levels. Specialist programs are offered in Science, ART, LOTE – Indonesian and Physical Education/Health. Cobden Primary School is part of the Great South West Coast Network of schools and consequently has access to student support services.

Parent participation and involvement is a feature of our school, and you are invited to be part of our team. Parents can be involved in sporting and other special events. Parents are also encouraged to become members of our Parents & Friends and School Council. We believe we have a shared role with you in assisting your child to learn effectively and to develop a positive self-esteem. We invite you to be our partners in meeting the needs of your child, so together we can help them to acquire skills for living within a happy, friendly and caring school environment.

School Strategic Plan

Like all Victorian State Schools, we work to a Strategic Plan which details our priorities and goals over a 4-year period. A current copy of this can be found on our website.

Curriculum

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We have designated teachers for the teaching of:

- LOTE – Indonesian
- Physical Education & Health
- ART
- Science



Children are given the opportunity to compete in a range of sporting activities at school and inter-school levels. Excursions, school concert, camps and a swimming program are all used to enhance the core curriculum.

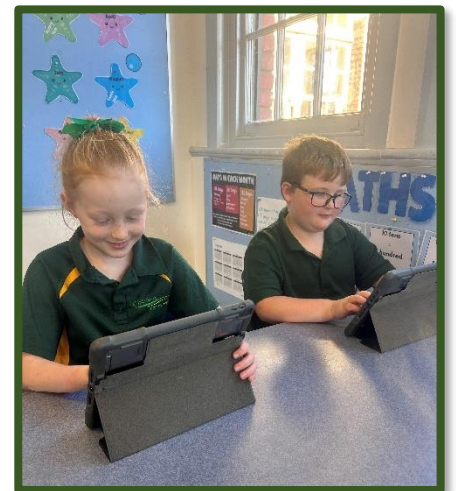
Accurate communication of student progress occurs through detailed written reports based on records of student performance and student led conferences.

Learning Technology

Cobden Primary School is committed to using Learning Technologies to enhance the learning potential of all students.

All classrooms have access to either desktops, laptops or iPads and students are given regular opportunities to increase their knowledge and skills.

Students use these devices for applications such as maths, reading, research, word processing, publishing and multimedia presentations.



SunSmart

Cobden Primary School recommends that from mid-August to end of April, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, students come to school wearing sun-protective clothing such as:

- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts
- rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming activities.

Students are also required to wear a school hat – green bucket hat or broad brimmed hat that protects the face, neck and ears for all outdoor activities. Hats may also be worn for outdoor activities outside of the August to April time period, by parent or student choice.

Students are reminded and encouraged to bring their own SPF50 or SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to use at school.

Where practical, students engaged in outdoor activities can wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat may be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

School Crossing & Bikes

Students and adults are to use the school crossings at all times. The Victoria Street School crossing is supervised in the morning from 8.15 am to 9.00 am and in the afternoon from 3.15 pm to 3.30 pm. The Silvester Street crossing is supervised at 3.25pm.

Parking restrictions around the crossing must be observed. In line with advice from the Road Traffic Authority, the School Council recommends that children under 10 years do not ride bikes to school unless under the close supervision of a parent or other adult.

Children cannot bring their bikes into the school ground unless they are wearing a helmet.

Bike riders are discouraged from doing a right-hand turn at the Victoria - Silvester Streets intersection. They should plan a route to and from school accordingly.

To minimise the risk of accidents after school, bike riders heading north along Victoria Street are required to walk their bike across the Victoria Street crossing and start riding from in front of the Civic Hall. Children heading west are required to walk their bike across the Silvester Street crossing before heading home.

Swimming

Swimming lessons are conducted during Term 1 at the Cobden Outdoor Swimming Pool.

Parents are welcome to attend lessons, especially for the infant classes. Our swimming programs are provided by accredited swimming instructors.

School Library

The school library is well equipped, with enough books to allow for borrowing. Books may be borrowed overnight but should be returned the next morning, so they are available for use during the day.

It is important that books be returned promptly. If books are overdue, lost or damaged, no more borrowing can take place until the book is returned, found or replaced.

Pupil Free Days

A number of days are set aside each year for staff professional development, curriculum development and report writing. Students do not attend school on these days. Pupil Free days are decided by School Council.

House System

All students are divided into 4 houses. The houses are named after local pioneers.

Barrett -	Green
Curdie -	Blue
George -	Yellow
Silvester -	Red

Students are encouraged to wear an appropriately coloured shirt at sporting carnivals. Inter-house sports are conducted in swimming (Years 1-6), athletics (Years 1-6) and cross country (Years Foundation-6).

Parent Bodies

School Council

This is an elected representative committee of parents and teachers. It consists of 12 members.

In consultation with the Principal and Staff, Council supervises the spending of all grant monies, is responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the school and the school's continuing development.

Parents & Friends

This group conducts various fundraising activities during the year.

Our Parents & Friends meet regularly, and parents are advised of meeting dates and times through the newsletter. All parents, who have children attending the school, are able to join our Parents & Friends.

It is our desire that meetings be forums for educational planning and discussion, as well as to organise fundraising. Parents and friends are always invited to stay behind afterwards for a cup of tea.

School Times

First Session:	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Recess:	11:00 am - 11:20 am
Eating time:	11.20 am – 11.30 am
Second Session:	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Eating time:	1.30 pm – 1.40 pm
Lunch:	1:40 pm - 2:20 pm
Third Session:	2.20 pm - 3:20 pm
Dismissal:	3:20 pm

We prefer that children not arrive before 8:45am as school buildings are not open to children before this time. Students should leave school immediately at 3:20 pm.



School assemblies are generally held at 3pm on Fridays. Parents are most welcome to attend these assemblies.

Attendance

Regular attendance is vital for any child to progress at an acceptable rate. Please try to keep absences to a minimum. If your child has been absent from school, please ensure notification is made via Compass or please phone the office explaining the absence.

Late arrival – students arriving after 9am should report to the office first, their teacher will then mark them on the roll as a late arrival. Parents will be contacted by the principal if lateness is becoming a problem.

Early departure – if you wish to collect your child from school before dismissal time, they must be signed out at the office. This ensures all students can be accounted for in the case of an emergency.

Reporting to Parents

Parents are free to visit the school at any time to discuss problems that may arise. Please ring the school to organise a time. Electronic copies of Semester Reports are available via Compass mid-year and at the end of the year. Progress Reports are also completed twice per term and assess students on three areas, **effort**, **behaviour** and **organisation**.

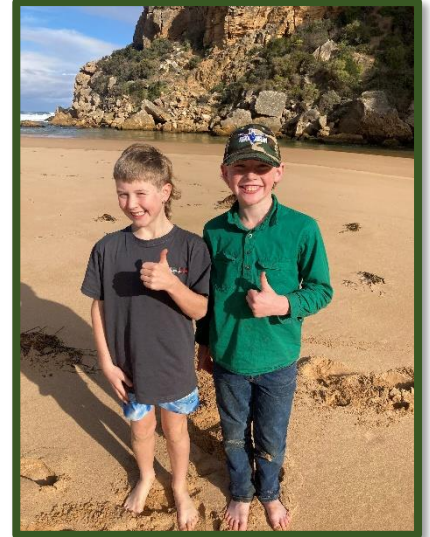
More formal Student Led Conferences are arranged for parents and students in Term 1 and Term 3. These are opportunities to discuss your child's academic and social progress.

School Excursions and Camps

Excursions play an important part in the learning process. Parent permission is required for all excursions and camps. For local excursions around Cobden (where no transport is required) we also require an annual “blanket” permission form.

We arrange school camps for children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Currently, Year 2 have a sleepover at School, Year 3/4 alternate between Kangarooie (Princetown) and Cave Hill Creek (Raglan), Year 5/6 alternate between a Sovereign Hill School Camp and an Urban Camp in Melbourne.

We appreciate your support in encouraging your children to participate fully in camping and any other trips or excursions the school may organise. Selected Year 5/6 students also attend Somers Camp on alternate years.



School Incursions

During the school year we have high quality special performers in music, acting and dance attend the school. The costs of these performances are included in the voluntary curriculum contributions, and we encourage all students to attend.

Specialist Programs

Students in all Year levels take part in Physical Education & Health, ART, Science and Indonesian lessons each week. Instruction is provided by teachers who specialise in these areas of the curriculum. Students also have weekly access to the library and computer space.

School Lunches

Children have the opportunity to order a school lunch through the Cobden Bakery.

Price lists are available via the Compass platform. Lunches are delivered to the school.

From 1:30 pm to 1:40 pm all children remain in a supervised eating area to eat their lunch. This is to ensure your child’s lunch is eaten at the appropriate time and to ensure litter is disposed of responsibly.

School Voluntary Curriculum Contributions

This contribution has been set at \$220.00 – which comprises all essential education items required for the year.

This charge does not cover additional items such as camps, non-cultural excursions & sporting activities.

Parent Participation

We seek to forge and strengthen the association between home, school and the wider community.

Our school values this alliance, as we believe the best educational outcomes are achieved when teachers, parents and members of the wider community work together in partnership. Parents are strongly encouraged to be part of the school and play a significant, ongoing role in the implementation of many programs.

This school is an integral part of the local community and has a proud and valued tradition and history of connecting and engaging with the wider community. School Council designates a position on School Council for a representative from the community. We strongly encourage parent participation in our school.

Many parents help in the various programs throughout the school, and this is appreciated by all staff members and students. Areas that parents are involved in include School Council, Parents & Friends, assistance with athletics, cross country and special events.

Our school is always open to parents as we see the need to keep in close contact with you and let you be aware of the exciting programs in existence.

Buses

The Department of Education provides free bus travel for country students to attend their nearest state school. If you live out of town, we can arrange for your child to be included on the buses. All organisation of school buses is handled by the Cobden Technical School. A shuttle bus service between our school and the Tech operates for most bus travellers. Supervision is provided after school to ensure all children catch the bus safely. A buddy system operates to help younger children.

When children, who will be travelling by bus, are first enrolled we need to know the exact location of their home. This will be done by completing the Request to Travel on a School Bus form that is available from the office.

Emergency Contact

Please keep the school informed of any changes to your home situation - job, address or phone changes, emergency contacts, medical needs, etc.

Newsletters

School newsletters are sent out once a fortnight via Compass. You can also locate it on the school's website. It contains all sorts of information pertaining to the children and school in general.

Asthma/Allergy/Anaphylaxis Register

We are required to have a list of all children who are asthmatics. The list indicates the type of medication, the dosage and the frequency of dosage. We also require the appropriate medication to be kept at school.

Inter-School Sport

Students are encouraged and given ample opportunity to participate in inter-school sports. The Corangamite Schools' Sports Association conducts carnivals in athletics, cross country, netball, football, basketball and soccer.

Other opportunities for inter-school competition include swimming, chess and other sports as they arise.

Medication

Some students need to take prescribed medication during school hours. We require parents to complete a form outlining dosage, frequency, etc. Medications are kept in the sick bay. We provide supervised administration, and a log is kept.

Photo Approval

The school likes to promote the school and the achievements of its students. It, therefore, seeks the written permission of parents to do this. The special permission form is sent out via the Compass platform.



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