INFORMATION BOOKLET
Welcome

We warmly welcome you to Somerville Rise Primary School.

The school is proud of its achievement in creating a warm, harmonious and caring learning environment where students feel secure, happy and are highly motivated to learn. We aim to make this school a place where your child becomes strong and confident, having high self esteem and high standards of cooperation and social behaviour.

The school offers an outstanding comprehensive curriculum in the Victorian Essential Learning of Mathematics, English, Science, Technology, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, The Arts and Languages Other than English. Teachers at Somerville Rise Primary School have high expectations of students and foster in students a drive to achieve their personal best, whilst recognising the individual needs and differences. In addition the school offers numerous after school programs including a School-Aged Child Care Program, Netball, Basketball, band, singing classes and Martial Arts.

The education of your child is a partnership between school and home. We foster open and positive communications between the parents and all school staff. We aim to make parents feel comfortable and welcome at the school and encourage them to participate in school activities. We also provide many opportunities for parents to contribute to school decision making. The attitude you have about the school has a powerful impact on your child's behaviour and your child's motivation to learn. We therefore ask for your support in developing your child's positive perception about the school.
The school has a positive Student Wellbeing Policy where standards of behaviour are detailed with students being integrally involved in setting classroom rules. A whole school code of conduct has been developed and a copy of the procedures are made available to all parents. Students also participate in the school's decision making through the Student Representative Council and the school's Student Leader program. Representatives of both student groups attend School Council meetings and present a report. In addition we distribute Student of the Week awards, Support Teacher awards and Good Yard Behaviour awards to encourage students to strive for excellence and a high standard of social behaviour. These are strategies the school employs to make students aware not only of their individual rights, but of their responsibilities and consideration for the rights of others.

This booklet is designed to help you understand the operation of our school thus strengthening the link between home and school which we see as a vital characteristic of an excellent school.

We look forward to working in close cooperation with you in ensuring that the time your child spends at Somerville Rise Primary School will be a joyful and productive learning and social experience which will help develop your child into a caring and responsible Australian citizen.

Nicky Fammartino
PRINCIPAL
Introduction

At Somerville Rise Primary School we recognise and acknowledge that parents are the child's first teachers - and the most important ones.

In those few years before school begins, tremendous learning and growth occurs at home: language is acquired along with a variety of other basic skills in relating to people and in coping with the world in general.

Every child enters school on the very first day with attitudes to self and learning that will at least partly determine the success or otherwise of future classroom programs.

Parents, then, are vitally important. They provide the foundation on which teachers build, and their importance continues right through the school years at Somerville Rise and beyond.

Underlying all of this is the important fact that Somerville Rise Primary School's programs are most likely to be successful when we build on and are supported by home experiences. At Somerville Rise Primary School we firmly believe that the most effective curriculum is the one in which parents and teachers work together as partners in the education of our children.
School Ethos

Purpose:
Somerville Rise Primary School community fosters excellence in learning and positive relationships which build the foundations for life success.

Values:
The core value of RESPECT underpins the actions of the whole school community.

Our actions are guided by:
Respect for learning - valuing the acquisition of knowledge and skills
Respect for relationships - valuing and acknowledging the differences in others
Respect for self - valuing your own worth and individuality
General Information

SCHOOL HOURS

School commences at 8.58 am each school day, but all children should be at school by 8.50 am in order to be well prepared. A warning bell rings at 8.55 am and at this time the students should line up at the correct assembly point for their class. If your child is late to school it is important that your child be signed in at the office so an accurate record is maintained of all students in the school. A late pass will be issued which should be handed to the class teacher. In cases of repetitive lateness parents will be requested to discuss this matter with the Principal.

Morning recess: 11.00 am-11.30 am
Eating of Lunches: 1.30-1.40 pm (in classrooms)
Lunch recess: 1.40 pm –2.30 pm
Dismissal time for all grades is 3.30 pm.

The only exception to these times are on the last day of Terms 1, 2 and 3 when the dismissal time is 2.30 pm. Dismissal time for term 4 is determined annually in accordance with Department of Education and Training regulations.

During February, in accordance with Department of Education and Training guidelines, our prep students only attend four days a week— Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday’s teachers make appointments with prep parents to conduct the extensive prep testing program. This testing program is conducted individually with each new prep child so that teachers can develop a thorough learning profile which will guide the student’s individual learning plan. Parents are provided with further information regarding appointment times and so on during the school’s annual “Step Into Preps” program.
LEAVING SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Should you need to collect your child before the official dismissal time the following procedure should be followed:
Parents/guardians should go to Admin Office and sign the Early Leavers Book. A pass will be issued to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will present this to the class teacher before picking up their child. If a representative of the parent/guardian is to pick up a child on behalf of a parent/guardian then the representative must have a signed note from the parent or guardian.

If the child is then returned to the school on the same day, the child must be re-signed into the Early Leavers Book so that the school is aware of the child's return.

PICKING UP CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

Many parents like to pick up their children after school and this is a practice encouraged by the school. It is, however, requested that parents or older brothers or sisters picking up children do not come into the rooms or corridors. Parents should arrange a suitable meeting place to collect their child, for example, where children line up each morning. This will avoid any unnecessary disruption to the teacher’s program and will develop independence in your child.
School Uniform

There are a number of uniform options. All uniform items are available from our supplier Beleza.
**Dress Code**

In designing our Student Dress Code the School Council has been mindful to ensure that the style of clothing is reasonable by contemporary standards, is suitable to the role of being a student and to the tasks performed as a student; that health and safety issues have been considered; and allows for some provision for individual expression through the offering of a range of alternatives. All uniform items can be purchased from the Beleza Uniform shop in Somerville.

**Out of Uniform Days:**
During the year students have the opportunity to participate in a number of Out of Uniform days to support the fundraising endeavours of the Student Representative Council. As the name implies, on these days students may come out of uniform (and make a gold coin donation) but all other aspects of the school’s Dress Code apply. Students are not permitted to wear makeup or thongs. Items students wear must be Sunsmart, and must comply to the school’s Sunsmart requirements.
Parents are most welcome to attend.
Whole school assembly:
Friday afternoon 3.00pm in the gym
ASSEMBLIES

Whole School Assemblies are held every Friday commencing at 2.45pm in the Gym. This is when we acknowledge our responsibilities as Australian citizens and recognise the achievements of our students and school community. It is also an opportunity for grades or students to display their learning to the rest of the school community. Parents are always welcome to come along. Our Student Leaders assist in the running of the assembly.

Sub schools also organise their own assemblies at an alternate time, these are less formal but again provide an opportunity for children to showcase their learning. Please check with your child’s teacher for dates and times.
Student visit the library on a weekly basis. The library is also open at lunch times, providing students with opportunities to browse books or use the computers.
LIBRARY

The school has a modern, well resourced library from which the students of the school are encouraged to borrow on a regular basis. To cater for the wide range of interests and reading ability of students the library has a wide range of books on a variety of topics and at a range of difficulty levels. To ensure that the book selected is appropriate to the child’s reading level, interest and maturity level, parents are encouraged to actively monitor the book that their child brings home to read. If the book is found to be inappropriate it is suggested that the child is encouraged to return the book and make another selection. Parents are able to assist their child with the selection of appropriate reading matter either before or after school.

The school library also has an extensive parent library covering a range of parenting issues. Parents are able to borrow these resources under their child’s name. Ask your child’s teacher to assist with this borrowing.
Camps

Grade 4 students attend Briars Camp – The Briars. Grade 6 students attend Phillip Island Adventure Resort – Phillip Island.
EXCURSIONS AND CAMPS

Our school follows a philosophy of providing children with direct learning experiences in the world beyond the school. These educational excursions and camps are designed to:

- stimulate and motivate learning
- provide experiences not readily available
- assist children in understanding the relevance of the curriculum to the outside world
- develop social skills in practical situations

Excursions and camps are planned as an integral part of the curriculum with a great deal of preparatory and follow up activities being conducted. A permission note/payment envelope is sent home to be signed for all excursions and camps. These notes must be signed by the child’s parent or guardian and returned to the school prior to the due date if your child is to attend.

INCURSION ACTIVITIES

Incursions are educational experiences provided by groups or individuals visiting the school. These experiences are an important part of the curriculum programs that we offer at Somerville Rise Primary School. Much school work is based on these experiences which are planned to provide your child with a wide range of cultural and other programs which are stimulating and educationally interesting.

As with excursions, payment cannot be accepted after the stated payment due date to the organisational problems this causes.
The canteen offers healthy food options and is open every day except Tuesday.
NUTRITION

It is essential to supply your child with a nourishing lunch as children become surprisingly hungry at school. It is better to have too much lunch rather than not enough. Children are able to bring along a healthy fruit snack to be eaten during class time in the morning session. Because of the structuring of our recesses it is important to also provide your child with a healthy play lunch. If your child forgets their lunch they should tell their class teacher and their class teacher will make arrangements for them. One strategy will have the class teacher ask the children in the class to help out the child who has forgotten their lunch. All children need a water bottle which remains on their work table and they can drink as often as they need to during class time. Rehydration assists greatly with maintaining their concentration level throughout the day.

Please ensure that all lunch boxes and drink flasks are clearly named and that these names do not wash off.

Glass containers and drink cans are not permitted at school.
Student Wellbeing

Our school rules are on display all around the school and students are very familiar with them as they are discussed often in class.

Student wellbeing underpins all programs and activities at Somerville Rise.

All grade levels are represented on the Student Representative Council.

Student leadership programs in grade 5 & 6.
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

It is imperative, in any school, that issues of student behaviour are resolved in a fair, consistent manner and in accordance with Department of Education and Early Childhood Development guidelines. The Student Wellbeing policy of Somerville Rise Primary School seeks to develop responsible behaviour and the implementation of procedures and strategies which deal with unacceptable forms of behaviour.

At Somerville Rise Primary School, we recognise the importance of establishing procedures which will enhance the process of reinforcing positive behaviour. The regular and systematic recognition of positive behaviour will encourage a framework of positive tones throughout the school. By establishing a positive approach to learning and behaviour issues, we can encourage children to believe that they can make a positive contribution to all aspects of life, both now, and in future years.

All students have an opportunity to undertake a leadership role either within their classroom or beyond through programs such as our Student Representative Council (SRC) or Grade 6 Leadership program. Students are provided with teacher support in developing their leadership skills. Some of the activities undertaken by student leaders include conducting school assemblies, social service fundraising and lunchtime activities.
Chaplaincy Program

Emotional, relational and spiritual support for the school community.
CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

Somerville Rise Primary School has a school chaplain who works at the school one day a week.

The role of the school chaplain focuses on pastoral care. The chaplain will be available for confidential pastoral counselling and care of all members of the school community. The chaplain may work individually or in small groups with students. Where this involvement is more intensive, written parent permission will be obtained. This will ensure that parents are fully aware of the assistance that the chaplain is giving to students and so that parents can be actively involved in the process.

The chaplain will also be available to assist school community members in dealing with crisis intervention and trauma debriefing. The chaplain plays an active role in the school’s Student Well-being Team, providing input where appropriate to school welfare processes and procedures.
Comprehensive Curriculum

Staff at Somerville Rise cater to individual learning needs and learning styles.
Comprehensive Curriculum
COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM

Somerville Rise Primary School will provide a broad general education with continuity, balance and coherence in the following areas of learning:

- English
- Mathematics
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Technology
- The Arts
- Science

Continuity in the educational growth of the student will be ensured through new learning being built upon prior learning and experience. Continuity will also be evident in procedures for planning, evaluation, assessment and reporting. Balance in the curriculum is regarded as vital as is the need for balance in the variety of teaching and learning styles employed.

The Education Team, a subcommittee of School Council, is responsible for the development of detailed policy and program statements in these areas of learning in accordance with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development guidelines.
Somerville Rise provides students with the opportunity to work with up to date equipment.
All grade levels attend weekly visual arts sessions during either first or second semester. The school is equipped with a large art room. Student work is displayed around the school.
Performing Arts

All grade levels attend weekly performing arts sessions during either first or second semester. The school is equipped with a performing arts room where music, movement & drama is learned.
Physical Education

All grade levels attend a weekly physical education lesson. Many additional sporting opportunities are available for students in grades 3-6.
‘Konnccted Kidz’

Providing opportunities to work in the broader community promotes responsibility.

Assisting the elderly citizens.

Planting in the school’s barn.

Propagating with support from Bunnings.
Peer Support

Our older students work with younger students on community projects.

Grade 6 students work with grade 2 students on a long-term project.

Celebrating success of a team effort.

Senior students take on a leadership role.
Environment

Our school community is committed to sustainability practices. We are proud of our 5 star Sustainable School rating.

Down at the Barn

Planting flora.

Sustainable School
Facilities

Somerville Rise takes pride in maintaining attractive surroundings.

Joint use community centre.

Warm and inviting learning environment.

Aesthetically pleasing and well maintained grounds.
Playground Facilities

Separate play areas and equipment are provided for different grade levels.
Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in School Council and its subcommittees. Parents are also welcome to be involved in children’s learning within the classrooms.
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Primary School
Somerville Rise