



SCHOOL WANGGA

School

Talk

We are committed to quality teaching, high expectations and success for all students.

(08) 9153 2100

www.onslowschool.wa.edu.au

onslow.ps@education.wa.edu.au



Principals Message

We're now past the halfway point of Term 1, with our 2026 Student Leaders selected and classes well settled into their routines. Teachers are also building their fluency with the programs we're using across the school.

Our **100 Nights of Reading** is also starting again, encouraging regular reading at home—whether you read to your child, read together, or they read to you.

This week we welcomed several visitors to the school, including Jared and Jordan from **Shaping Minds** continuing their work with our teachers on quality instructional strategies. Next week, Teach, Speak, Hear (TSH) will also return, focusing on assessments for our Kindy to Year 3 students.

NAPLAN has commenced this week for our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students while On-entry assessment for our Pre-primary and Year 1 students will be completed by the end of the week.

Lisa Campbell

At Onslow School we acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which our students live and are educated. We acknowledge and understand that Elders, parents, families, and communities are the first educators of their children, and we recognise and value the cultures and strengths that our First Nations people bring to the classroom.

Excellence in Teaching & Leadership

Learning Support Team

This year brings a new teaching team, the Learning Support Team. **Mrs Tracee Drummond** is continuing as the Learning Support Coordinator, and she is joined by **Miss Chloe Hobson** in her role as Learning Support Lead Teacher.

Tracee and Chloe are supporting staff in creating effective learning environments and advising on adjustments for students with additional learning needs. They also provide targeted intervention teaching, focusing on the fundamental skills of reading through small-group instruction. Chloe is delivering UFLI or MiniLit sessions for our Year 1–3 students, while Tracee is facilitating MacqLit sessions for Years 4–6. These evidence-based programs provide structured, high-impact support for developing literacy skills.

If you have concerns about your child's learning, please speak with your child's teacher first to determine whether this is a shared concern.

100 Nights of Reading

We are excited to launch our **100 Nights of Reading** initiative to encourage students to build strong reading habits at home. Regular reading is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning. It helps develop vocabulary, comprehension, confidence and a lifelong love of books.

The challenge is simple: students record each night they read at home and work towards reaching **100 nights of reading**. Along the way, students will celebrate milestone achievements at **25, 50, 75 and 100 nights**.

Reading doesn't need to take a long time. Even **5 - 10 minutes each evening** can make a significant difference. Families can support this by listening to their child read, reading together, or discussing a story. All of these experiences help strengthen reading skills.

Classroom teachers will provide students with the **tracking sheets and materials** needed to record their reading and will support students to monitor their progress and celebrate milestones.

We look forward to partnering with families to help make **reading a regular and enjoyable part of every child's day**.



Supportive and Inclusive Learning Environment

School Attendance Update

So far this year, our whole-school attendance rate sits at 73%. While we know there are many genuine reasons students may be away from school, one of our key attendance targets this year is to reduce unexplained absences—and we need your support to help us achieve this.

At Onslow School, we approach attendance through a student wellbeing lens. A big part of this is simply knowing where our students are each day so we can ensure they are safe, supported, and connected to learning. When we know why a student is absent, it allows us to check in with families if needed and provide support.

Regular attendance matters. Being at school consistently helps students build friendships, stay engaged with their learning, and maintain a positive daily routine. Even missing one day each week can add up to a significant amount of lost learning over the course of a term.

If your child will be away from school even for just one day—whether due to illness, a family holiday, an appointment, or another reason—please notify the school as soon as possible. Families can let us know in several easy ways:

- **Phone the school office**
- **Send an email**
- **Submit the absence through the Compass app**

Providing a reason for your child's absence helps us keep accurate records and ensures absences are not recorded as unexplained.

Improving attendance is something we can achieve together as a school community. Thank you for supporting our goal of ensuring every student feels connected, safe, and ready to learn. Every day at school counts.

Connected Community

Waalitj Foundation

Onslow School continues to benefit from our partnership with the Waalitj Foundation. We recently welcomed mentors Mr Troy Cook and Mr Billy Thomson, who are working with students in our Engagement Program, led by Miss Hannah Miller and Miss Shane Tuxford.



During their latest visit, staff and students spent time at the Ashburton River, and we are looking forward to another visit later this term,

which will include additional out-of-school activities. We know that strong cultural connections and positive adult mentors make a real difference for our students, and we sincerely appreciate the Waalitj Foundation's support in helping us build a strong sense of belonging at our school.



School Council

The School Council was pleased to welcome **Bree Maher**, CEO of OCCI, as a community member at our first meeting for 2026.

A key focus of the meeting was a rich discussion about how we see our school values of **Safety, Respect, Integrity, Inclusivity, and Belonging**, being demonstrated by staff, students and parents. This important work will continue with both staff and students as we develop a shared and meaningful understanding of what each value looks like in daily school life.

Council members also took the opportunity to raise questions about current school practices. Two topics were brought forward:

1. The updated lunch order menu and its alignment with healthy food guidelines
2. Screen time in classrooms and how technology is being used to support learning

These questions are now being explored. The next steps include:

- Conversations with staff about the role of technology and the amount of screen time within their classroom programs
- Monitoring the frequency of less-healthy lunch order choices over a two-week period

A response to both questions will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

General Reminder

School Uniform

It has been wonderful to see so many students proudly wearing their school shirts and enclosed shoes each day. Thank you for supporting our uniform expectations.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in students wearing leggings, bike shorts, and other bottoms that are not part of our approved school uniform. As outlined in the Onslow School Uniform Policy, the correct uniform for bottoms is **navy shorts**.

We ask for your support in ensuring students come dressed in the appropriate uniform each day.



This is something that we will be monitoring for the next two weeks, including conversations with individual students and/or parents.

A school uniform helps create a sense of community.

Dates to Remember

- Monday 16 March – P&C Meeting**
- Thursday 19 March – Harmony Day Community Breakfast**
- Wednesday 25 March – Room 6 Assembly & Open Classroom**
- Friday 27 March – Swimming Carnival**
- Thursday 2 April – Students Last Day of Term 1**