

Corowa South Public School

Success for all learners



Information Booklet



Message from the Principal

Our dedicated team is committed to developing a positive and supportive learning culture that builds the capacity of all students to become successful lifelong learners and achievers.

The outstanding teaching staff welcome you to become partners in your child's educational journey at Corowa South Public School.

At Corowa South Public School, parents and school staff work together to ensure the cognitive, emotional, cultural and physical needs of our children are our priority in providing effective quality and highly motivating teaching programs.

I look forward to your active participation in all school activities involving your children's education at Corowa South Public School.

Janet Conibear
Principal



Our School

Corowa South Public School is a family oriented school located on the banks of the Murray River. The school promotes and values a culture that empowers all students to be responsible for their own learning and provides experiences which encourage them to strive towards their full potential.

Our teaching programs are engaging and promote creativity, imagination and powerful learning skills to equip our students for their future.

At Corowa South Public School we:

- Deliver a curriculum which is relevant, challenging and accessible to all.
- Promote social, civic and leadership skills, both in the classroom and in the wider community.
- Implement effective quality teaching practices which support the delivery of NSW Department of Education curriculum for all students from Early Stage One to beyond Stage Three learners.
- Encourage all students to develop a love of learning and a strong sense of belonging and self-worth.

Our Staff

Our staff are always happy to meet with parents. Please take the opportunity to regularly speak with your child's teacher or the Principal. We welcome your interest and enquiries.

Principal: Mrs Janet Conibear

Assistant Principal Curriculum & Instruction: Miss Jenna Lane

School Administration Manager: Mrs Kim Mathews & Mrs Belinda Elliott

Teaching Staff: Early Stage 1 – Mrs Kate Taylor
Stage 1 & 2 – Miss Kate Valente
Stage 2 & 3 – Mrs Janet Conibear & Miss Sam Besley

School Learning Support Officer: Mrs Leesa Argent, Miss Tess O'Donoghue & Miss Zoe Vincent

General Assistant: Mr Ian Widdison

Chaplain: Jono Wright

SCHOOL TIMES

Prior to 8.45am – Students place bags at their classroom and assemble in the seated area until supervision begins.

8:45 am – Teacher supervision of students and student playtime begins.

9:15 am – Commencement of lessons.

11:15am – 11:45 am – Recess Break.

1:15pm – 1:55 pm – Lunch Break.

3:15 pm – Conclusion of lessons.

3:30 pm – All buses have completed pick up of students.

N.B. Supervision of students is from 8:45 am – 3:30 pm.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Before and after school – all children assemble under the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) adjacent to the office. During inclement weather students will be directed to the Library or classrooms.

ROAD SAFETY FOR STUDENTS

- After school, children are supervised by a teacher in crossing Hume Street and River Street.
- Parents, carers and students are expected to use the flagged crossing in Hume Street.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to safely park kerbside in Hume or River Streets, obeying traffic rules.
- Please leave your vehicle and pick up your child safely from the school grounds, rather than calling your child across the road.
- To ensure the safety of students, the River Street car park entrance is only for staff and service vehicles.



BUS SERVICE

All K-2 children are entitled to free bus transport. Years 3-6 children living more than 1.6 kilometres from the school by the most direct route are also entitled to free bus travel. Application forms for bus passes are available online at www.transportnsw.info/school-students. Canns Bus Lines provide transport throughout Corowa to Corowa South Public School and home each afternoon. Timetables and maps of the routes can be obtained from Canns Bus Lines. As a representative of our school, students need to display exemplary behaviour and follow the school rules when travelling on bus transport.

Enrolment & Kindergarten

ENROLMENT

Online enrolment forms are available on our website or alternatively collect a paper copy from our school office. Students commencing Kindergarten must be aged five years of age on or before 31st July of the year of enrolment. A Birth Certificate and record of immunisation are legally required to be included with the Application for Enrolment.

BEGINNING BUDDIES - KINDER TRANSITION PROGRAM

Students enrolling in Kindergarten at Corowa South Public School are invited to attend our Kindergarten transition program, Beginning Buddies, during Term Three and Four. Over the course of six weeks, your child will be involved in creative and imaginative learning activities, establish new friendships, become familiar with their teacher and learn about what it will be like at school next year. It is also a valuable time for their teacher to get to know your child before day one next year. This is a wonderful opportunity to start our partnership in your child's learning journey at our school. Prior to the commencement of the Program we will hold an Open Day, where parents, carers and students are invited to see student learning in action and meet our school staff. You will be able to discuss the Beginning Buddies program and tour our school, followed by morning tea in the library.

We also operate a Buddy Program for the commencement of kinder transition and throughout their first year. Your child will be buddied with a senior student who will support your child during transition. Buddies will provide friendship, assistance and encouragement to ensure your child fully enjoys their Beginning Buddies experience.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

All Kindergarten students will have an individual Best Start Assessment in Literacy and Numeracy conducted with their classroom teacher at the commencement of the school year.

Kindergarten students will require:

- Lunch box and drink bottle clearly labelled with the student's name.
- Library bag to carry and protect books.
- An art smock: Long sleeves, elastic at wrists and made from a heavy enough fabric to be paint resistant, not vinyl or plastic, available at Brunella School Wear.

Clearly label all your child's possessions using a laundry marker with their name, this includes; school bag, hat, library bag, lunch box, drink and all clothing.



Key Learning Areas

ENGLISH

In English, students develop their communication skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing. Students respond to and compose a wide range of texts in imaginative, creative, critical and powerful ways.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, students learn to add, subtract, divide and multiply whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Students learn to measure time and calculate with money. They also learn geometry, algebra and how to interpret data and graphs. The students are explicitly taught mathematical strategies to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science and Technology develops students' skills in thinking, investigating and problem solving. It gives them knowledge and skills in scientific investigation, design and applied technology. The subject builds on the curiosity children have about the natural and built environments.

Cutting edge technology plays a major role in our school curriculum. All classrooms are fitted with an interactive whiteboard for teachers and students to use in their classroom activities. Desktop computers, tablets and iPads are also available in each classroom for students to use throughout the day.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Students learn about history, geography, civics and citizenship. They investigate their personal and community identities, and gain an understanding of their nation and its place in their world. Students learn how they can contribute to our society and improve our environment.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Creative Arts give students experiences in the visual arts, music, drama and dance. They have opportunities to explore their creativity in each of these areas. Students learn to appreciate the means and values that each art form offers, with opportunities to perform and express themselves in each area.

We have an impressive, dedicated art room for our students to use for their art lessons. This room has seen some masterpieces created by all of our students, including murals used to decorate the school.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) develops the knowledge, skills and attitudes students need to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives. Students learn about the importance of good food and regular exercise. They learn how bodies grow and change over time. Students also learn skills to play individual and team sports, and the values of sportsmanship and teamwork.

Our school participates annually in the Healthy Harold Life Education Program. Life Education empowers our students to make safer and healthier lifestyle choices.

HOME LEARNING

Home learning is a purposeful activity designed to consolidate, extend and enrich your child's learning. It further develops partnerships between school and home.

Home learning:

- Develops regular and meaningful study habits
- Consolidates class activities and concepts
- Develops effective presentation skills.

Students are encouraged to read regularly and daily. This assists in increasing their word knowledge, fluency and understanding across a wide area of interests.



LIBRARY

All children utilise the library each week and are encouraged to become regular and responsible borrowers. It would be appreciated if you could supply your child with their own personal library bag.

Our library is a wonderful resource and a stimulating learning environment. The OLIVER library management system provides an integrated and extensive range of online resources for 21st century interactive learners.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

All students participate in the maintenance of our school and class gardens. Students are encouraged to participate in the care of our school grounds and community environmental programs, with the guidance of organisations such as Landcare.

Students are encouraged to recycle to reduce waste in their environment.

As part of our ongoing Environmental Education program, we promote recycling of food scraps and general reduction of plastic rubbish in bins. Parents are encouraged to look at lunch containers which do not require plastic wrap for sandwiches etc. Containers and paper bags are preferable to plastic.

SPORT

Our students have the opportunity to participate in school sports, skill based workshops with regional sports development coaches and PSSA sporting carnivals throughout the year in a variety of sports. Students aged 8 years and over are eligible to compete at Zone, Regional and State level sport carnivals and events.

The weekly sports program enables students to participate in a variety of games and modified sports. This program encourages skills, participation, knowledge and understanding, values and attitudes.

Corowa South has successfully accessed the Sporting Schools Grants which enables specialist instructors and development officers to provide sequenced skills sessions for all students K-6 in a variety of sports each term.

SCRIPTURE

Scripture teachers visit the school on Fridays to deliver non-denominational scripture classes. During these weekly sessions, non-scripture students complete Values and Citizenship activities in the Library with a teaching staff member.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INTENSIVE SWIMMING PROGRAM

Each year our students have the opportunity to participate in an intensive swimming program with qualified Austswim Instructors to gain valuable water skills and confidence.



Other Information

LINKAGES PROGRAM

The Linkages Program is a transition program held each year during Term 4 for Year 6 students. It fosters a safe and comfortable transition from primary to secondary education at Corowa High School.

BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club is available approximately seven times per year. The school receives free books for the library as commission for purchases by students. Order forms and correct money should be placed in an envelope with the child's name clearly marked and returned to the school office by the due date. Purchasing from Book Club is optional.

EXCURSIONS

The school organises excursions throughout the year, to support key learning areas. A risk assessment in compliance with Department regulations is completed prior to any excursion to ensure correct organisation, optimal safety and well-being of students. Primary classes participate in annual overnight excursions which are linked to the syllabus. Stage Two Excursions have included two day overnight visits to Swan Hill Pioneer Village and sporting camps. Stage Three excursions have included three day overnight excursions to Borambola Sport and Recreation Centre, Sovereign Hill, Ballarat and Canberra.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC OPPORTUNITIES

Corowa South Public School promotes Student Leadership opportunities through the involvement in the Student Representative Council (SRC) and whole school election of captains and school leaders.

Civic and Leadership opportunities are also available through the Year Six:

- Kinder Buddy Program
- Public Speaking
- Corowa Community ANZAC Day commemoration
- Sports
- Choir performances
- Spelling Bee and various other occasions to represent the school in the wider community.

SUN SAFE POLICY

In line with our SunSafe policy during Terms 1 and 4, students wear their hat outside during play, sports and outdoor environmental education activities. The school supplies sunscreen for student use. If students do not have a hat they are able to play under the permanent shade of the COLA.



STUDENT WELLBEING

Healthy eating assists students in concentration skills and application to learning. Please discuss with your child what they like to have for lunch and recess so they are enthusiastic about eating their snacks and lunch.

Lollies, chocolates and sugar filled bars give a quick burst of energy, but leave the child feeling flat during class times. Hot lunches (supplied by Painter's Cafe) are available on Thursdays. A price list and menu are distributed to each student. Orders must be in the box in the office foyer before recess each Wednesday. Special lunch days (e.g. Sausage Sizzle and Pasta Day) organised by the P & C Association and Student Representative Council (SRC) are held on various occasions throughout the year.

ASSEMBLY AND AWARDS

School Assemblies are held each fortnight on Fridays at 2:30pm. Assemblies are student-centered, and are led by our school leaders. At these assemblies, classroom achievement awards are presented to students for both effort and aptitude in various areas. We are always keen to recognise positive behaviour and achievements.

In addition to classroom awards, the school leaders acknowledge students for their positive playground behaviour over the fortnight.

School Assemblies also include a short class presentation from each class. Your attendance and support at assembly is always welcomed and encouraged.

A celebration of learning is held annually at the end of each year. This is a formal presentation to recognise academic, civic and sporting excellence of all students attending Corowa South Public School. It is a great opportunity for students, staff and families to show their appreciation and acknowledgement of outstanding student achievements.



STUDENT REPORTS AND PORTFOLIOS

The school's Student Reporting system is based on the following format:

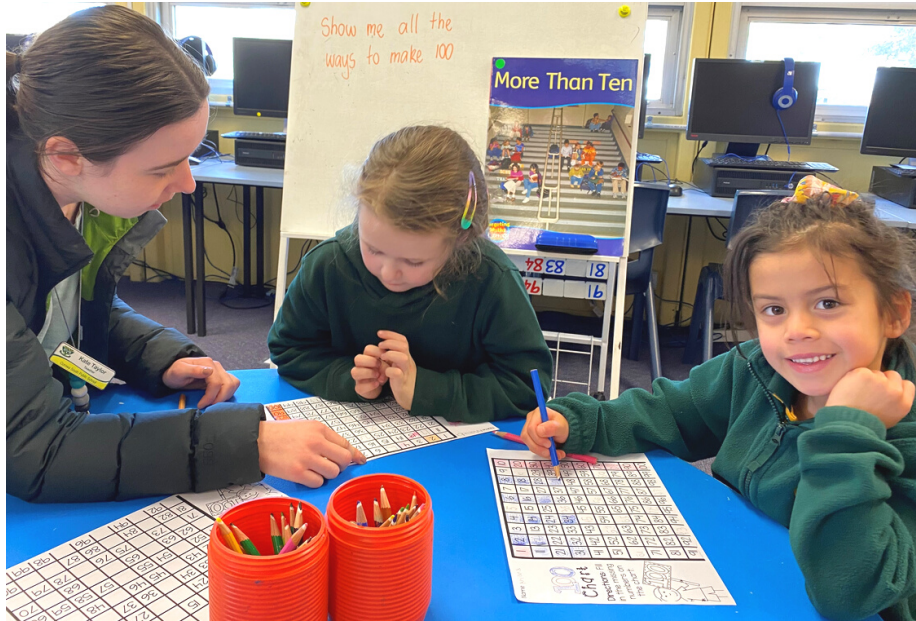
Term 1	Parent / Teacher Interviews
Term 2	Mid Year Report
Term 3	Parent / Teacher Interviews
Term 4	End of Year Report

Parents may arrange an interview, by appointment, at any time if they are concerned about any aspect of their child's progress or education.

PARENT HELPERS

We encourage parents to become involved by helping with reading, mathematical, sporting and creative activities. Helpers are always welcome to listen to children read and to change readers.

If you would like to become involved, or would like to help in some other way, please speak to your child's classroom teacher.



P & C ASSOCIATION

The P & C Association meets on Tuesdays of Week 3 and 8 each term at 5:30 pm in the school library. Meetings are advertised in the school newsletter. The Parents' and Citizens' Association is an enthusiastic group of parents who willingly work to provide additional resources for our school. They are always happy to welcome new and interested members. The P&C regularly posts events and information for our families on the Corowa South P & C Facebook page. There are regular functions and fund raisers to which all parents, family and friends are most welcome to attend. Please visit to keep yourself up to date with current events.

COMMUNICATION WITH OUR SCHOOL

A school newsletter is sent home each alternate Friday with the eldest child in the family, notifying you of current 'happenings' at the school. Additional permission information notes may be distributed as needed. Our newsletter is also available on our school website: www.corowasth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. To also keep families informed, our school also uses Facebook and School Bytes to distribute regular reminders, updates and messages.

Parents may need to seek assistance and advice about an aspect of their child's schooling. Procedures are in place to assist with the resolution of any concerns. For classroom or playground concerns, initial contact should be made with the child's class teacher through the front office.

If further assistance is required, an appointment should be made with the Principal. Parents are important partners in the schooling process of their child. Corowa South Public School is committed to encouraging the interchange of ideas and developing mutual expectations between the school and the community. It is through the cooperation of parents, students and staff that quality education for all students will be achieved. It is important that concerns and issues are resolved in order to provide the best learning environment for all students.



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The Bpangerang Small Schools Group includes Corowa South, Lowesdale and Mulwala Public Schools. At various times throughout the year these schools combine for educational activities which include experiences such as visiting performers, literature/ cultural days, debating workshops, athletics, swimming and cross country. The teachers from these schools combine for professional development sessions regularly to discuss various educational and management issues, as well as to plan visits and share resources. The Bpangerang Learning Community comprises of – Corowa South, Lowesdale, Mulwala, Corowa Public and Corowa High Schools. They meet regularly to discuss transition programs to high school, relevant community projects, student learning and leadership opportunities.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

To guarantee our students receive a high standard of education and have access to quality resources, we encourage parents to support the school through the voluntary contribution system. Contributions are currently set at \$30 for the eldest child of the family and \$15 each additional child per annum.



Uniform

Uniform colours – Bottle Green and Gold
All uniform supplies are available from
Brunella School Wear, Sanger Street, Corowa.
PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING CLEARLY.

SUMMER UNIFORM

GIRLS: Green/white check dress or bottle green shorts/skort with logoed school polo shirt.

BOYS: Grey/green shorts with logoed school polo shirt.

WINTER UNIFORM

BOYS & GIRLS: Green pants, logoed school polo shirt, green or gold skivvy, green logoed polo fleece 1/4 zip jumper/full zip jacket.

SPORT UNIFORM

GIRLS: Green skirt/skort/shorts and logoed polo shirt.

BOYS: Green shorts and logoed polo shirt.

FOOTWEAR

Black leather shoes or runners and plain white/grey/black socks with no logos.

FORMAL OCCASIONS

On formal occasions such as Annual School Presentation, Public Speaking or School Photographs, students are expected to wear black shoes. Parents will be advised of a request for black shoes as appropriate to the occasion. Formal events provide an excellent opportunity for students to publicly display pride in themselves and their school.



JEWELLERY

For your child's safety and taking pride in our school uniform, students are not to wear rings, bangles, necklaces, etc. If your child has pierced ears, studs or small sleepers should be worn for safety reasons.

MOBILE PHONES, ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TOYS

If these are brought to school, they must be handed into the office on arrival and collected at the end of the day. They are not necessary as part of your child's learning resources.

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property basket is kept in the office area. Parents and students are encouraged to check at the office regularly to claim uniform and personal items. By ensuring that your child's name is on their clothing and possessions, the amount of lost property is greatly reduced.

Health, Illness & Attendance

HEALTH

Good health is vital to school progress. At certain times there are outbreaks of common childhood diseases. To prevent the spread of infection, exclusion is necessary. Following the Department of Health Guidelines, the number of days the child is to be absent from school for these diseases, is stated below.

Please contact the school if your child is suffering from one of these diseases. This information may help us to diagnose other children who may contract the disease at the same time.

Chicken Pox	7 days after spots appear or until all sores are cleared.
German Measles	7 days from appearance of rash.
Measles	5 days from appearance of rash.
Mumps	10 days from onset of swelling.

OTHER COMMON CHILDHOOD DISEASES INCLUDE:

Impetigo (School Sores) – Exclude from school if on exposed surfaces (face, arms, legs).

Ringworm – Exclude until all evidence of disease has disappeared.

Conjunctivitis (Sore Eyes) – Exclude until all evidence of discharge from the eyes has ceased.

ILLNESS OR ACCIDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL

Parents of children who are sick or injured whilst at school will be contacted as soon as possible. If parents cannot be reached, the school will call nominated emergency contacts. If urgent medical treatment is necessary an ambulance will be called. Please ensure that information regarding your child is updated when addresses or telephone numbers are changed. Parents need to advise if there are changes in family custody or separation issues. School will be guided by the official documents and relevant court orders for your child's well-being. Occasionally your child will be sick or injured at school. Your child needs to tell their teacher during class time or the teacher on duty during playtime. When children report to sick bay, Administration Staff who hold current certificates in First Aid CPR, Anaphylaxis, Asthma treatment and Administration of Prescribed Medications will assess your child's symptoms.

Usually a short stay in sick bay will remedy the condition. If there are any further concerns, parents will be contacted.

IMMUNISATION

Your child's immunisation documentation should be presented at the time of your child's enrolment. Children who are not immunised may be advised to stay at home for the duration of an outbreak of contagious disease, e.g. chickenpox.

MEDICATION

If your child needs to take medication, your assistance in administering this medication is appreciated. If this is not possible, the medication must be handed in to the school office.

A form is available for parents to fill out and sign, outlining the amount and times the medication should be taken. Any changes to medication administration must be advised to the school in writing.

All medication, including personal asthma puffers are to be handed in to the school office for safe keeping.

HEAD LICE

At certain times of the year, all schools are subject to outbreaks of head lice. It is common for a number of children to become infected, as lice are very "friendly". You will be notified if your child is suspected of having head lice.

All parents will be notified via a note sent home by the school if head lice are detected in the school community. The best advice to avoid head lice issues is to be vigilant in checking your child's hair.

ATTENDANCE

It is a legal requirement that children aged between six and seventeen years attend school regularly and punctually. The Home School Liaison Officer regularly visits the school and monitors all attendance records. Where possible, holidays should be taken to coincide with school vacation periods. Please consult the Principal if you wish to take your child/children away on vacation during school time.

ABSENCE NOTES

It is a departmental requirement that all absences from school, full day and partial, be explained via a written note from the parent or caregiver. There are various acceptable reasons for absences which may include sickness, family holiday, appointments or family reasons. In our school the teachers complete a daily electronic roll via their computer at the commencement of the day. Please remember, you must explain your child's absence to the school within 7 days of them returning from absence, otherwise we are legally bound to record it as an "unjustified absence".

You can do this on School Bytes or by calling the office. Parents and carers are to check in/check out their child at the office if your child is arriving late to school or having a partial absence from school. All absences from school require a written explanation sent to the office.

FAIR DISCIPLINE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING

OUR SCHOOL RULES

Play safely in the appropriate areas.
Be considerate of others.
Care for your environment.
Wear appropriate school uniform.
Follow the "Code of Conduct" always.

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

- Achievement Awards are given by teachers and presented at the fortnightly Assembly
- 5 Achievement awards = 1 Merit Award
- 3 Merit Awards = 1 Honour Award
- 2 Honour Awards = 1 Gold Banner Award
- 2 Banner Awards = Dual Distinction Banner
- Ongoing positive contact with parents.
- Commendations at Assembly, in the newsletter, local papers, school website and school notice board.
- Individual class rewards.

Student behaviour is reviewed by the teaching team weekly and in consultation with the principal.
Reflection times will be monitored in the classroom or playground and will be referred to the Principal if needed.

CODE OF CONDUCT

I will treat other people as they like to be treated:
By working, playing and moving as safely as possible.
By being fair and honest.
By allowing people to work and play undisturbed.
By respecting other people's privacy and property.
By taking pride in myself and my school.

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

- Verbal reprimand.
- Timeout from activities or playground to reflect on actions. This may include direction to a safe quiet place for reflection eg silver bench near the office or quiet space in the classroom for a scheduled time.
- Ongoing contact with parents, including phone calls, letters, face to face meetings.
- Buddy classes for a reflection opportunity.
- Involvement with School Counsellor.
- Behaviour monitoring cards.
- Possible withdrawal of privileges, including representing the school, participation in Student Council, participating in school activities and excursions.
- Suspension (short and long).

BULLYING

Bullying is not tolerated at Corowa South Public School. Bullying is repeated, intentional behaviour by a group or individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue-pressure. It involves the abuse of power in relationships. Bullying can involve all forms of harassment.

BULLYING BEHAVIOUR CAN BE:

- Verbal e.g. name calling, teasing, put-downs, sarcasm, insults, threats.
- Physical e.g. hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting.
- Social e.g. ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures.
- Psychological e.g. spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious use of email, SMS or other social networking media.

Students and parents need to report all incidents of bullying that occur at school. Please inform school staff or the Principal. Teachers and staff will always listen to reports, protect and support the child being bullied and act on these reports appropriately with procedural fairness.



SAFETY AND WELFARE ISSUES

- Parents are encouraged to regularly discuss their child's cognitive, social, physical and behavioural needs with their class teacher. Parents and carers are reminded if they are concerned by a child's behaviour towards another child or other school community members, please discuss the matter directly with the Principal, rather than approaching that child.
- All concerns will be treated confidentially and any further actions will be processed according to our Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policy. The well-being of our students is our highest priority.

MAKING A COMPLAINT ABOUT NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We are committed to working with parents, carers, students and families to ensure all students are happy and thrive at school. If you have a question, issue, complaint, feedback or compliment about our school, we'd like to know. Your child's teacher or principal is often the best place to start. You can ask a question or raise an issue by contacting the school directly or through the department's online complaint form. The below link will provide you with all the information you need to know. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students>

Corowa South Public School
158 Hume Street
Corowa
NSW 2646
02 6033 1535
Corowasth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au