



CHELTENHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to Cheltenham East Primary School

On behalf of our students, staff and families, welcome to Cheltenham East Primary School. We provide a safe, respectful, inclusive, and stimulating learning environment where academic achievement and student wellbeing are equally prioritised. Our teachers build strong connections with every student, valuing their unique strengths, interests and needs.

We draw on the Science of Learning and cognitive science research to guide our teaching. This means we use carefully designed lessons to build on what students already know, present new content in clear, manageable steps, and avoid unnecessary distractions that can overload working memory. Our classrooms are organised with consistent layouts and clear visual cues to support learning, and we use predictable routines and smooth transitions between activities so students can focus their thinking on the learning rather than on what to do next. By reducing extraneous cognitive load in this way, alongside providing clear models, worked examples and regular opportunities to practise and revisit key concepts, we help students move knowledge from short-term to long-term memory and build deep understanding over time.

Our passionate teachers use evidence-based instructional approaches in Literacy and Numeracy, aligned with VTLM 2.0, ensuring every student is engaged, challenged and supported.

In the early years, we have a strong focus on **systematic synthetic phonics**. Children are explicitly taught how sounds (phonemes) link to letters (graphemes) in a carefully sequenced way. These foundational skills build accurate and fluent reading, which leads to strong reading comprehension as they progress through school.

In Mathematics, we use a **scaffolded approach through the OCHRE Maths framework**, breaking concepts into clear, manageable steps that gradually increase in complexity. Students build deep understanding, confidence and problem-solving skills by learning why concepts work, applying them in different contexts, and explaining their thinking.

Alongside Literacy and Numeracy, we offer a broad curriculum, including Humanities (Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics/Business) and specialist programs in Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Instrumental Music, Science, Physical Education, and Italian.

Beyond the classroom, our students have access to a rich range of extracurricular opportunities that enhance and extend their learning. These include school camps that build independence and teamwork, excursions and incursions that bring classroom concepts to life, and whole-school events such as concerts and performances that celebrate the arts. Students also enjoy participating in interschool sport and school sporting carnivals, which promote physical activity, school spirit, and healthy competition. These experiences support the development of well-rounded, confident and connected learners.

Student wellbeing is supported through a whole-school approach aligned with the Positive Climate for Learning dimension of the Positive Classroom Management Strategies, fostering a caring, respectful and inclusive environment where students feel safe, connected and ready to learn.

We promote strong values education, with staff and students upholding our values of Respect, Responsibility, Courtesy and Co-operation. Our wellbeing program also includes the Zones of Regulation in the junior school, helping students become independent regulators of their emotions, as well as the Respectful Relationships curriculum.

CHELTENHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 4754 ABN 74 562 082 313

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Partnerships with Families

We value strong partnerships with families and encourage participation in school events and activities. Assisting in classrooms, volunteering for excursions, attending parent/carer and teacher interviews, joining the school council, and taking part in working bees are just some of the ways families can be involved. Our dedicated Parents' Committee coordinates fun social and fundraising events and is always seeking new enthusiastic members.

We offer an 'open door' communications policy and welcome a shared learning partnership with families. By working together, we can offer your child the best educational experience possible.

I warmly invite prospective parents and students to visit our school, and I look forward to working closely with you.

Kind regards,

Robert Ridgway

Principal