

COMMUNICATION POLICY

PALMERSTON DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOL

As of May 2025

OVERVIEW

It is very important to us that we work closely in partnership with parents and carers, and communication between home and school is key. We recognise however that it can often be difficult communicating with teachers because they have a very full timetable; and we recognise that parents and carers also have very busy lives.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Communication by email to Info_PALMDPS@ed.act.edu.au is our preferred method. If you are sending a note in with the student for the teacher, the student is responsible for showing the note to the correct teacher. Emailing through our school email is the best way to request that a teacher contacts you should you require a more detailed conversation.

Teachers want to respond to parent queries at the earliest opportunity and will do their best to do so, however, the majority of teachers' time is taken up teaching and preparing for lessons. Teachers' responsibilities extend beyond the classroom, and they may be unable to respond to you on the day a query is made. We have also agreed with staff that there is no expectation to respond to queries during their personal/family time.

TELEPHONE

Please use the main reception number to leave a message for a teacher to contact you:

- Administration staff will relay messages to teachers as soon as possible.
- If a call is urgent, please inform the administration staff who will attempt to find an executive member of staff to speak with you.
- We will try to respond to you within three working days, if not sooner.
- Please note, lessons will never be interrupted for teachers to take calls.

EMAIL

Please use staff email addresses, if this has been provided to you and if you need to contact the teacher or staff member directly:

- Teachers are not in a position to check emails consistently throughout the day and the school does not expect work email to be checked during a teacher's personal time.
- We aim to respond to you as soon as possible and within three working days. Part-time staff may take longer to reply.

MEETINGS

The day-to-day care, welfare and safety of your child is managed by the person who is placed closest to them.

-In the first instance, please approach the following members of staff who are responsible for your child in the following order:

1. Classroom Teacher
2. Executive Teacher
3. Deputy Principal
4. Principal

- Meetings should always be pre-arranged with members of staff.
- If you urgently need to see someone, for instance if there is a serious family emergency or a child protection issue, please phone ahead and the administration team will do their best to find an executive staff member to see you.
- For non-urgent meetings we will aim to meet with you within five working days. The school will determine the level of urgency at its discretion, to enable it to manage multiple demands.

CONTACTING YOU

Our preferred method of contacting you is via telephone or email.

The school also provides a range of opportunities to share information about students' learning and progress throughout the year, including SEESAW, Facebook Posts, Term Overviews, Newsletters, Semester Reports, Parent-Teacher Interviews and Learning Journeys.

If our teachers identify any concerns about a student's learning or behaviour, or other matters that need to be discussed, they will contact you as soon as possible.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We use our social media channels to promote student achievements, subject information and generic educational information. (This information can also be found on the school website.) You can find these by searching Palmerston District Primary School on the Facebook Platform. You will need to contact the school to complete necessary forms so as to gain access to SEESAW.

NO RESPONSE

If you have not received a response to the school within three working days, please contact the school by emailing Info_PALMDPS@ed.act.edu.au and we will chase up your enquiry. Communication with parents and carers is important to us, and we will continue to monitor this policy and our approach to improve process further.

CONTACT INFORMATION

School Administration Office	02 61421440 Info_PALMDPS@ed.act.edu.au
School Website	https://www.palmdps.act.edu.au/
ACT Education Website	www.education.act.gov.au
Feedback and Complaints	02 6205 5429 www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/complaints-feedback-and-enquires