



Gemma Garson, Year 12 - 2004
Wakka Wakka - Gungahlin - Bundaberg

BELLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL



INFORMATION BOOKLET 2025



Gemma Garson, Year 12 - 2004
Wakka Wakka - Gungahlin - Bundaberg

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School Motto

Truth Triumphs

School Colours

Royal Blue and Gold

Sport Houses / Colours

Dunstan	Blue
Jones	Yellow
Kelsey	Red
Hocking	Green

ABOUT BELLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL



Bellingen High School is a coeducational Year 7 to 12 comprehensive school located in the beautiful Bellinger Valley.

We are a NSW Government school attracting students from the surrounding schools, valleys and seaside towns where tourism, dairy and small agricultural farming are the backbone of the local economy.

The school has a strong tradition of academic, sporting and cultural excellence and achievements.



Bellingen High School is recognised as a creative community in areas such as music, art, design, creative writing, performance and technology.

The school has a committed and experienced staff who participate in professional learning to enhance their specialist teaching capacity, lead extra curricula opportunities for students and support students to reach their potential.



Bellingen High School is a school of which we are proud. It has a dedicated teaching staff, modern buildings and equipment, a proven student record of achievement and beautiful settings. We welcome new students and their parents/carers to the school and endeavour to assist them to achieve their academic, sporting, social and cultural potential.

What students achieve in this school is largely determined by what they do. The opportunities for students to gain useful experiences and knowledge will be open to them. We encourage parent/carer participation in the wellbeing, education, and discipline of your child/children.



The school, originally erected in 1956, underwent an extensive modernisation and renovation program, which was completed in 1992. The school now has approximately 600 students, 50 teaching staff and 20 non-teaching staff; and offers a wide range of educational courses, plus the classrooms are all air conditioned.

We hope that the time spent at Bellingen High School is happy, stimulating and rewarding.

We pay respect to the Gumbaynggirr people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, learn and live, whose land it was, is and always will be.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Our learning focuses on building and creating lifelong learners.



Bellingen High School in Buddabung (Bellinger Valley) on Gumbaynggirr Country takes pride in fostering an inclusive and creative environment where every student is encouraged to thrive.

Our school has been a part of community for many years, situated at the gateway to the Bellingen township along Waterfall Way. Nestled amidst a picturesque farm and an outlook to the breathtaking views of the Buddabung (Bellinger Valley), we proudly welcome our school and the wider community to come together to nurture, grow, inspire, and challenge our young learners.

While academic excellence continues to remain our focus, Bellingen High School offers a dynamic and enriching environment that celebrates individuality and nurtures creativity.

Our students benefit from a broad selection of co-curricular activities including cultural leadership and dance, sports, performing and visual arts, intellectual pursuits, and leadership opportunities. We believe in the holistic development of our students, encouraging them to explore their passions and broaden their horizons.

Our community spirit extends beyond the classroom with a strong emphasis on community engagement. Students are encouraged to participate in initiatives that support health, education, the environment, social justice, First Nations community connection events and reflecting our commitment to be responsible and compassionate citizens.

Our school is committed to providing an environment where learning thrives. We are continually investing in our school's future to ensure our students have the best resources to support their educational journey.

We value the partnership between teachers, parents, carers and students. This collaborative approach ensures that each student receives a quality education and creates lasting memories during their time with us. We are dedicated to helping every student achieve their personal best, creating a foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Michelle Elliott



2025 STAFF



Michelle Elliott
Principal

Ms Elliott oversees all matters in the school. She is accountable for everything that goes on in the school and the policies of the school; however, much of the day-to-day responsibility is delegated to senior teachers.



Tim Lavery
Deputy Principal
Years 8/10/12

Mr Lavery oversees school organisation affecting the daily running of the school, timetables, assemblies and matters which affect student welfare and discipline. Students in Years 8, 10 and 12 may be referred to Mr Lavery for severe breaches of discipline.



Lisa Welsh
Deputy Principal
Years 7/9/11

Ms Welsh oversees school organisation affecting the daily running of the school, timetables, assemblies and matters which affect student welfare and discipline. Students in Years 7, 9 and 11 may be referred to Ms Welsh for severe breaches of discipline.

2025 STAFF

Head Teachers are the leaders of their specific faculty and are in charge of overseeing programming, curriculum and discipline.



Michelle Butcher
Head Teacher English



Rebecca Lackey
Head Teacher Mathematics (Relieving)



Lindsay Kingsley
Head Teacher HSIE
(Human Society and Its Environment)



Marijke Verschuuren
Head Teacher Science



Annie Phelan
Head Teacher CAPA
(Creative and Performing Arts)



David Mayo
Head Teacher TAS
(Technological and Applied Studies)



Paul Pomroy
Head Teacher PDHPE (Relieving)
(Personal Development, Health and Physical Education)

2025 FACULTY STAFF

ENGLISH

Ms M Butcher (Head Teacher)
Ms J Cameron
Ms H Campbell
Ms C Fisher (Senior Support Advisor)
Ms T Garemyn
Ms S Harper
Ms A Pratt

MATHEMATICS

Ms R Lackey (Head Teacher Relieving)
Mr P Barron
Mr S Borgert
Mr K Bugler
Ms S Cornale
Ms M Green
Mr D Laing
Mr J Sherwood
Mr L Webb
Ms H Wilson

SCIENCE

Ms M Verschuuren (Head Teacher)
Ms J Godden
Mr P Fox
Ms L Grant
Ms T Versluis
Mr M Williamson

HSIE (HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT)

Mr L Kingsley (Head Teacher)
Mr B Budd
Mr S Cross
Ms K Filewood
Mr T Gonski
Ms A Hill (Administration Coordinator)
Mr R Milne

CAREERS

Ms F Gorman

LIBRARIAN

Ms H Ramirez

PDHPE (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION)

Mr P Pomroy (Head Teacher Relieving/
Year 12 Advisor)
Mr N Beal
Ms L Hoy
Ms V Rezo (Year 11 Advisor)
Mr T Willett (Year 8 Advisor)
Mr J Winfer

CAPA (CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS)

Ms A Phelan (Head Teacher)
Mr S Barrow
Ms K Holding
Ms L Lane
Mrs M Newbound
Mr R Wickham

TAS (TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES)

Mr D Mayo (Head Teacher)
Mr S Boyd (Language)
Ms K Cramer (Year 9 Advisor)
Mr A Denham
Ms H Porter
Mr M Smith
Ms M Spillett
Mr C Walmsley

MULTI CATEGORICAL (MC)

Ms K Fabian
Mr J Forbes (Year 7 Advisor)
Mr T Long
Ms S McWilliam
Ms J Pinder (Year 10 Advisor)

LEARNING AND SUPPORT

Ms K Dunn
Dr C Ryan

WHAT IS A CAREERS ADVISOR?

Ms Gorman assists students in their transition from school to work, TAFE or university. She helps expose students to a variety of career-based programs to widen their view of the world and their own career possibilities after high school.

2025 NON TEACHING STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Ms S Keough (Admin Manager
Relieving)
Ms L Eichmann
Ms M Gale
Ms C Storm
Ms R Wallace

LIBRARY/FIRST AID

Ms K Cutler

PHOTOCOPYING/CLINIC

Ms C Witt

HOME ECONOMICS/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Ms J Williams

WELLBEING/SUPPORT

Mr A Baker
Ms S Coffey
Ms M Pomroy
Ms K West

MAINTENANCE

Ms W Alford
Mr P Dean
Ms A Lockman
Mr K Matthews



SCHOOL LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS (SLSO)

Ms S Cayirlyls
Ms J Chapman (MC Class)
Ms A Crampton (MC Class)
Ms R Fraser
Ms M Gale
Ms B Hawkes
Ms J Pigram
Ms I Stribley (MC Class)

SCIENCE

Ms O Gentle

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Ms N Neve (Aboriginal Education
Officer)

CANTEEN

Ms S Hearps

FARM ASSISTANT

Ms A Lockman



2025 WELLBEING TEAM

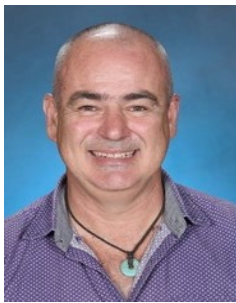


Magda Pomroy
Student Support
Officer

Student Support Officers are here to support students through targeted group work, individual support and whole school events and activities that further enhance young people's mental health, learning outcomes, relationships, connection to community, and overall wellbeing.



Kim West
Student Support
Officer



Anthony Baker
Counsellor

School Counsellors help students find answers to those things that may seem pretty hard to work out by themselves. The school counsellors are someone a student can confide in and someone who will try and help those in need.



Sarah Coffey
Counsellor



Nicola Neve
Aboriginal Education
Officer

Our Aboriginal Education Officer is here to assist in the wellbeing of students who identify as First Nations. They also encourage and enhance collaboration between all students and staff by organising speciality programs.

2025 WELLBEING TEAM



Ms Frieda Gorman

GIRLS' SUPERVISOR

Ms Gorman assists female students and helps promote their interest. This includes helping with problems, helping to develop an awareness of good social manners and attitudes.



Ms Kirsty Dunn

LEARNING SUPPORT

Ms Dunn and Dr Ryan lead programs for students who are identified with additional needs including health, learning and wellbeing.



Dr Carolyn Ryan

Through strong partnership between families, students and teachers, the learning and support team structure the development of support around a model that brings together a common understanding of a student's needs and a plan of appropriate adjustments to meet those needs.



Ms Cath Fisher

SENIOR SUPPORT ADVISOR

Ms Fisher supports our senior students as they prepare for the HSC. She assists students by developing a range of study skills and access to HSC support material, planning and organisation to help manage the pressures of senior school.



2025 YEAR ADVISORS

Year Advisors attend to the wellbeing of all students in a particular year group. They are teachers whom students initially see for advice and help about a variety of things such as progress at school, study methods and/or personal problems



Josh Forbes
Year 7



Tom Willett
Year 8



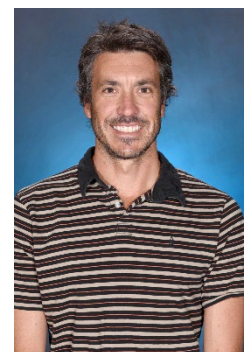
Kendl Cramer
Year 9



Jade Pinder
Year 10



Vicky Rezo
Year 11



Paul Pomroy
Year 12

2025 UNIFORM

GIRLS: YEARS 7-10

- Bellinghen High School logo shirt
- Bellinghen High School navy blue tartan skirt or navy-blue shorts
- Navy blue pants or tracksuit pants
- Navy blue jumper and/or school jacket (no hoodies)
- Black or single coloured leather upper shoes

BOYS: YEARS 7-10

- Bellinghen High School logo shirt
- Grey or navy shorts or long pants (single colour) **OR** grey or navy tracksuit pants
- Dark blue jumper and/or school jacket (no hoodies)
- Black or single coloured leather upper shoes

GIRLS & BOYS: SPORT/PE

- Gold polo shirt
- Bellinghen High School logo shorts or royal blue sports shorts
- Acceptable sport shoes
- Hat (advisable)

SENIOR GIRLS: YEARS 11-12

- Bellinghen High School logo shirt - white Polo
- Bellinghen High School royal blue skirt
- Navy blue pants or tracksuit pants
- Dark blue jumper and/or school jacket (no hoodies)
- Black or single coloured leather upper shoes,

SENIOR BOYS: YEARS 11-12

- Bellinghen High School logo shirt - white Polo
- Grey or navy shorts or long pants (single colour) **OR** grey or navy tracksuit pants
- Dark blue jumper and/or school jacket (no hoodies)
- Black or single coloured leather upper shoes,

*Shorts and skirts are to be not more than 10 centimetres from the knee.
NO jeans or jean shorts of **ANY** description or colour.*



2025 UNIFORM

Bellingen High School asks all parents/carers to send their children to school neatly dressed in correct uniform. Every student should take pride in their appearance and the wearing of school uniform is an important step in developing a good school spirit.

The Bellingen High School uniform has been agreed on following extensive community consultation and is supported by the P&C, Student Representative Council and staff. It is expected that students will be always in full school uniform unless they participate in an approved activity that does not require the uniform to be worn.

Students who have approval to be out of uniform are required to comply with the dress code that includes being neat and tidy with shirts that have a collar and sleeves. Fully enclosed shoes are to be worn at all times. The following items are unacceptable – ripped clothing, singlets, string shoulder tops as shirts, sleeveless shirts, low cut necklines or armholes, midriff tops, jumpers with hoods and slogan pictures.

The wearing of uniform is school policy at Bellingen High School. School uniform provides students with a sense of connection to the school. In a school like Bellingen, it also gives identity to the student body in a school which has students from varying levels of socio-economic backgrounds.

Students are not permitted to participate in extracurricular (non-compulsory) activities such as sporting representation or excursions if they have not made a genuine effort to wear school uniform. Parents/carers can approach the school for assistance in this area if required. Please ring the admin office to find out more.

To encourage uniform wearing we have:

1. A commitment from the staff - both encouraging students and acting in a supervisory role.
2. P&C support.
3. A support network with parents/carers.
4. A supporting statement from the SRC in relation to uniforms.

Where can you purchase a Bellingen High School uniform?

Our uniform can be purchased at LOWES Toormina. For more information see <https://www.lowes.com.au/schools-online/bellingen-high-school>

Parents/carers can purchase and have embroidered cotton shirts for students who have an adverse reaction to the fabrics used in the uniform. Our admin office has a limited number of hemp shirts available for \$35 each, together with our winter v neck jumper for \$25 or zip front jacket for \$30. A cultural shirt has been ordered and will soon be available for purchase.

For more information on what is available please contact the admin office.

UNIFORM FOR PRACTICAL LESSONS

SCIENCE

- For safety, shoes with non-porous uppers such as leather must be worn in the laboratory. No thongs, shoes with cloth or mesh uppers or sandals are allowed.
- Long hair must be tied back for safety.
- Safety glasses are required to be worn for experiments and may be purchased from the admin office for \$9.00.

TECHNOLOGY – Kitchen / Textiles Rooms

- A cover-up apron of any colour must be worn during all food technology practical lessons (available at the admin office for \$10.00).
- Slip resistant shoes with enclosed leather uppers (or a suitable safe alternative) must be worn.

TECHNOLOGY – Metal / Timber / Engineering Rooms

- No loose clothing or jewellery is to be worn within the workshop
- Slip resistant shoes with enclosed leather uppers (or a suitable safe alternative) must be worn.
- Long hair must be tied back for safety.

ART

- Shoes with leather uppers are to be worn.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Suitable clothing and footwear are required for personal hygiene reasons and to allow for full participation, which includes freedom of movement.



ATTENDANCE

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents/carers to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier, and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents/carers ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling. Attendance is particularly important in relation to the award of the RoSA (Record of School Achievement) in Year 10 and 11, and the HSC (Higher School Certificate).

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open.

BELL TIMES

Period 1	9:07 – 10:07
Period 2	10:10 – 11:10
BREAK 1	11:10 – 11:40
Period 3	11:40 – 12:40
Period 4	12:43 – 1:43
BREAK 2	1:43 – 2:13
Period 5	2:13 – 3:13

Timetable / Year Meetings / Assembly

Students will receive a timetable at the commencement of the school year. The timetable will operate over two weeks – Week A and Week B.

Important information:

- Term 1 2025 will commence with four school development days from Friday 31st January to Wednesday 5th February (staff only).
- All students from Year 7 to Year 12 will commence on Thursday 6th February (Week 2B).
- Terms 2, 3 and 4 will commence with Week A.
- Year meetings will occur during every second cycle of the Tuesday period timetable in allocated areas.
- Assemblies will occur on Tuesday Period 3 during Week B signified by the sounding of the assembly bell.
 - Assemblies are held in Stockton Hall.
 - An assembly gives staff and students the opportunity to pass on important messages to the student body, allow visitors to address the whole school and are used to congratulate students on their achievements.

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day.
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- reduces classroom disruption

ATTENDANCE

Late Arrivals

Students reporting late for school MUST report to the admin office before going to class, swipe in and receive a late slip, which they hand to their teacher when they get to class. If students have not supplied a written explanation for their lateness, a note is generated for the student and recorded as a partial absence. Persistent lateness without written advice will be regarded as truancy. Parents/carers will be contacted regarding this type of lateness.

Roll marking

Roll marking will be held in class each period during the day. An absentee SMS text will be sent to parents/carers for students who are absent without explanation Period 1. A reply text can then be sent back to the school explaining the absence, or alternatively a phone call to the admin office explaining the absence.

Senior Attendance

Year 11 and 12 students have some extra rights and responsibilities. Senior students are expected to swipe in before the beginning of the first class of the day. Failure to swipe in will result in the student being marked absent all day, regardless of attendance being marked in each class. During free periods students will also need to swipe out if leaving school grounds and then back in on their return.

Absence from school

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

If no explanation is received an email is generated and sent home stating that an unexplained absence has been registered against the student's attendance record, and this will be recorded on their report. Computerised systems mean notification must be made to the school within seven (7) days of the student's first day of absence otherwise it will remain as an unjustified absence even though an explanation may be provided at some later date.

Early Leave Passes

Students seeking permission to leave school during the day are to present a note from their parent/carer to the admin office before school commences. Leave passes will only be issued for special reasons. Parents/carers and students are asked to try and keep medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.

Students will not be permitted to leave class or school grounds early unless they possess their Early Leave Pass.

Truancing

Students who choose to truant from school or individual lessons (or are persistently late to class) will face sanctions according to the school discipline

levels system. Parents/carers will be advised, and the unauthorised absence will be recorded on their report. Centrelink also requests an absence report regarding students receiving Centrelink payments. These absences are recorded.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, contact the admin office for more information. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

For more information regarding school attendance please see the Every Day Matters on the Department website: [School attendance - information for parents/carers](#)

TERM DATES

TERM 1	Friday 31 January to Friday 11 April
School Development Days	Friday 31 January to Wednesday 5 February
Students start Term 1	Thursday 6 February
TERM 2	Monday 28 April to Friday 4 July
School Development Days	Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April
Students start Term 2	Wednesday 30 April
TERM 3	Monday 21 July to Friday 26 September
School Development Day	Monday 21 July
Students start Term 3	Tuesday 22 July
TERM 4	Monday 13 October to Friday 19 December
School Development Day	Monday 13 October
Students start Term 4	Tuesday 14 October

Sport

To be able to offer the widest range of sports possible the school uses both school and community facilities. School sport is compulsory unless you are physically unable to participate. The school aims to teach students the basic skills and techniques of as many sports as possible. Rolls are kept recording student attendance.

Attendance at sport counts in the student's overall school record.

- Students are requested to bring a hat, wear sunscreen for sun protection and bring a water bottle.
- Use of sports afternoons to attend dental appointments, hairdressing and doctor's appointments etc. is not in keeping with Departmental policy as sport is part of the school curriculum.

Year 7 sport is integrated into the curriculum and will appear on the student timetable. Sporting equipment is provided for all sporting activities.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Year 8 to 10 sport is conducted on Wednesday mornings Period 1 and 2. Sporting equipment is provided in varying quantities for different sports, some sports will require students to have their own equipment.

Students select a sport from the lists offered and are allocated to a sports group. Some sports require a payment to cover the costs of transport or facility hire. If students elect to take these sports, they must pay the cost prior to sport commencing. Some sport venues also require an entrance cost which will need to be paid.



Canteen

Our canteen is open every school day during recess and lunch breaks.

Students can order lunch over the counter before school or alternatively use the Spriggy online ordering service. Spriggy makes ordering more convenient for families and the canteen.

For more information about Spriggy - how it works, creating an account etc. please go to [Spriggy Schools](#)

Spriggy Schools

Introducing Spriggy Schools for online ordering

How to get started

1. Download the Spriggy Schools app
2. Create a profile for your child
3. Conveniently place orders online

Download the app now!

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Check the T&C's and TMD for further information

Samantha
Lunch - Friday 09/03

Sandwiches

- Chicken Schnitzel Friday Special \$6.50
- Salad sandwich \$5.50
- 1x Chicken Wrap Friday Special \$6.50
- Chicken Wrap

Bellingen High School Canteen Menu 2025

ROLLS & WRAPS		WEEKLY SPECIALS	
Cheese	\$4.00	CHECK OUT OUR BLACKBOARD OR OUR SPRIGGY APP. FOR GREAT WEEKLY SPECIALS	
Cheese & Tomato	\$4.50		
Chicken	\$5.00		
Ham	\$5.00		
Chicken Lettuce & Mayo	\$5.50		
Ham Cheese & Tomato	\$5.50	CANTEEN MADE PIZZAS	
Salad	\$5.00	Cheese	\$4.00
Chicken & Salad	\$6.00	Ham & Cheese	\$4.00
Ham & Salad	\$6.00	Ham Cheese & Pineapple	\$4.00
Chicken & Avocado Sushi	\$5.00	BBQ Chicken	\$4.00
Tuna Sushi	\$5.00	DRINKS	
HOT FOOD		Norco Milks - Assorted	\$5.00
Cheeseburger	\$5.00	Norco Juices – Assorted	\$5.00
Beefburger	\$6.00	Nippy's Milk – Assorted	\$3.00
Chicken Burger + full salad	\$6.00	Nippy's Juices – Assorted	\$2.00
Sweet Chilli Chicken Burger	\$6.00	Iced Tea – Assorted	\$4.50
Vegie Burger	\$5.00	Aloe Drinks – Assorted	\$3.50
Meatball Sub	\$5.00	Juice Bombs – Assorted	\$3.00
Nachos	\$5.00	Water – Small	\$2.00
Beef Pie	\$5.00	Pump Water	\$4.00
Sausage Roll	\$4.50	Up & Go – Assorted	\$3.00
Cheese & Spinach Roll	\$4.00	FROM THE FREEZER	
Ham Cheese & Egg Muffin	\$4.00	Quelch Sticks	.80c
Mexi Wraps	\$5.00	Ice Monys	\$1.50
Potato Wedges	\$3.00	Moosies	\$2.00
SNACKS		Paddle Pops	\$2.50
Garlic Bread	\$2.00	SAUCES	
Cheese & Spinach Triangles	\$1.00	Tomato or BBQ	.40c
Savoury Scrolls	\$2.00	Sweet Chilli, Tamari or Sour Cream	.50c
Fruit Cups	\$2.00		
Fruit Jelly Custard Cups	\$2.00		
Muffins	\$2.00		
Anzac Biscuits	.50c		

Guubuny Aboriginal Community Resource Centre

Guubuny was opened in 2009 by Uncle Tom Kelly. It is named after the totem of our past Elder Aunty Margie Witt (the owl). Guubuny provides a place where students receive academic and cultural support, where Aboriginal community people can come to the school to share their knowledge and where everyone can learn about Gumbaynggirr and other Aboriginal cultures.

The Centre is located at the end of F Block and includes the main tutoring and resource room, the outdoor learning area, and the yarning circle.

In 2019 we opened *Ngiyambandi* (meaning 'Belonging to All of Us') an outdoor learning area and garden based on the seasonal calendar. This is an area, built by students where a variety of classes can be held, students can try some bush tucker, learn about the seasonal calendar, Aboriginal history, and where people can sit in a peaceful environment.



While at school, students are invited to use the extensive facilities available to them.

- **Basketball Courts** - available during recess and lunch for games or basketball or handball. No soccer allowed.
- **Oval** - available for training during recess and lunch. No contact sports can take place without teacher supervision.
- **Stockton Hall (MPC)** - the hall is equipped with an indoor basketball court, stage, sound system and lighting. The hall is often a focus for assemblies, performances, sporting activities and PE. Students may have access with permission (and supervision) from teaching staff.
- **Music** - Belling High School is considered the leader in music education with award winning concert band, jazz band, string orchestra and vocal ensembles as well as exceptional HSC results. The Music Department is also the 'home' of the Belling Youth Orchestra.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Excellent facilities are available including five separate practice rooms and a large rehearsal space. Bellinghen High School has a number of instrumental teachers who come to the school to teach a variety of instruments during school time. Instrumental lessons are available for all students and costs are paid directly to the teachers. Forms outlining the procedures can be collected from the music staffroom, and instruments are also available for hire if needed. These are available on piano, guitar, strings, woodwinds, brass, voice, and drums.

Students are also welcomed to borrow guitars during recess and lunch and can practise in rooms if required. Our music department is equipped with nine acoustic pianos and three full sized electric pianos, full orchestral percussion, and a range of professional level orchestral instruments. Two full-sized grand pianos are located in Stockton Hall and the main music classroom.

- **Visual Arts** - there are two fully equipped Visual Arts specialist rooms. A class of laptops is available for student use when involved in research work. Situated in the art block are several kilns and pottery facilities. The department owns several cameras which are used for photography as well as specialist cameras used for film and video classes.
- **Drama** - Drama is taught from Year 9 to Year 12 in a Tiered Learning Space which is equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and stage lighting.
- **Library** - our school library provides tailored and specialized services to students and staff as well as generic information services.

The library provides books and resources for all staff and students from all years and is Wi-Fi enabled. The library has a wide range of novels, picture books, non-fiction, and reference books as well as online resources that are accessed via the student DoE Portal from anywhere in the school or at home.

Students will need to comply with the conditions of the DoE Internet Usage Agreement and parental authorisation will need to be signed for students to use WIFI and laptops in the library. Students can also print their work in the library at no cost.

All students are welcome, and we promote borrowing from the library. We encourage students to use their student photo card, which is issued to each student at the start of the academic year. Books may be borrowed for three weeks and can be renewed via the DoE Portal. Overdue book notices will be emailed to students and a parent nominated email. At times we will send an SMS text to the student's parent if a book has been recalled or if the overdue book/s have not been returned after an overdue notice email has been sent out. If a book is lost or damaged, please contact the librarian.

The library has been recently refurbished and includes senior study rooms which can be accessed via the library. Senior students use the library to study in a quiet environment during their study periods.

Specialty Programs

Students at Bellingen High have the opportunity to participate in a number of extra-curricular or speciality programs to help extend their learning experiences.

Our school has a variety of award-winning teams or groups including an array of sporting teams, a highly accomplished debating team, the amazing Badabung Bari Dance troupe and an incredibly active Cattle Team.



Our High Potential and Gifted students are also able to apply for a position in SPARK. A comprehensive program that focuses on challenging, engaging, acknowledging and showing students who illustrate high potential or giftedness in any/all academic, creative, physical or social-emotional fields.

Mobile Phone Policy

If there is an emergency a student may seek permission from the principal or deputy principal to use the office phone. Mobile phones must be turned off and out of sight if required before, during and after school. Check the school's website page for the mobile phone policy together with other rules and policies in place to make sure your child remains safe and well at school. Department and Bellingen High School policies/rules can be found on the school website.

<https://bellingen-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/rules-and-policies.html>

Visit the NSW Department of Education's "Policy Library" for all current operational policies: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies>

P&C Association

This group of interested parents/carers meets on the second Monday of each month at 6pm in the Staff Common Room. All interested adults are welcome to join the P&C to discuss the school's many activities and to help provide the school with a variety of equipment not supplied by the Department of Education.

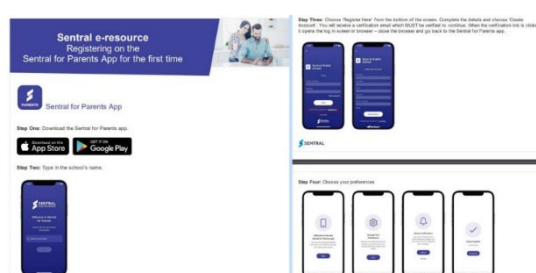


Communication

- Newsletter - published every fortnight on the school's website with the link emailed to parents/carers. The newsletter is a valuable part of our home/school communication and includes important dates and information about activities and events at school.
- Facebook - our school Facebook page has a large amount of information, photos, and videos of what has been happening in and around the school.
- School Bytes portal – this provides flexibility for parents/carers to conveniently:
 - make school payments online - excursion and sport costs, school contributions etc.
 - download a receipt for payments made.
 - view all historical payments in one place.
 - complete and submit digital permission notes.
 - view the status of all permission notes and check event details.

This can be done at any time convenient to you. Online payments are processed in real-time and can be viewed by the school staff immediately.

- Sentral for Parents app – this allows you to monitor your child's school journey simply and efficiently. You will find numerous smart features that help streamline your day. Receive messages and notifications from teachers, report absences, view your child's timetable, names of teachers, and more. The Sentral for Parents app helps you stay connected and informed about your child's education.



Contributions

The payment of the voluntary school contribution is a matter for decision by parents/carers. Our school would welcome this contribution as this will significantly enhance the resources made available to students. All practical subjects require additional materials and contributions are sought to pay for these.

Elective contributions for students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 vary depending on the course studied. The provided resources comprise high quality materials and consumables.



Our Values and Expectations

Respect	Inclusivity	Excellence
Follow staff instructions promptly and safely	Accept differences and value everyone's contributions	Contribute positively to our school and community
Take responsibility for shared spaces and resources	Every voice is heard, encouraging participation and expression.	Aspire and strive for higher personal achievement.
Right place, right time	Celebrate efforts and achievements	Come prepared with equipment and readiness to learn
Use equipment and technology responsibly	Follow the correct dress code	Take pride in our learning, work and effort.
Speak calmly using positive and polite language	Be kind, show empathy during challenges	Actively participate, stay focused in productive learning

Strategic Improvement Plan

Planning and reporting help us meet the needs of our community, improve the quality of teaching and enhance outcomes for all of our students.

We have developed a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) in consultation with our community, identifying student outcomes and connected to a budget.

The School Excellence Framework (SEF) underpins our school planning and reporting approach. The framework provides a clear description of the key elements of high-quality practice across learning, teaching and leading.

The SIP is a working document that details the steps our school will take to improve learning outcomes, and the achievement and growth of all students. To ensure continuous improvement, the SIP reflects where our school is at and how it will further improve learning, teaching and leading.

It demonstrates our alignment and our commitment to excellence as part of public education in NSW to ensure a profound difference to the ongoing growth and development of our students.

Download our current school plan:

[2024-2027 Strategic Improvement Plan \(PDF 296.5 KB\)](#)



Bellingen High School The Rewards System

Creating a safe and supportive environment for the entire school community is greatly influenced by recognising the efforts students make to improve both themselves and others at Bellingen High School.

To celebrate these contributions, a school wide Rewards System has been introduced in 2025. This system is designed to acknowledge and reward students who make meaningful contributions to their education and the broader school community.

There are four main Merit Levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Students earn Awards by accumulating positive points or positive merits across various categories.

Students placed on a behaviour monitoring card will not be eligible to receive Merits during this period.

Level Criteria Recognition

Bronze Award 	You have accumulated 100 positive points	You will be given a Certificate presented by your Year Advisor at a formal assembly. You will be eligible to attend all rewards excursions
Silver Award 	You have accumulated 200 positive points	You will be given a Certificate presented by your Year Advisor at a formal assembly. You will be eligible to attend all grade excursions and receive a discount on the rewards excursions
Gold Award 	You have accumulated 300 positive points	You will receive special recognition at formal assembly presented by the principal. You will be eligible to attend all grade excursions and receive a further discount on the rewards excursions
Platinum Award 	You have accumulated 400 positive points	You will receive special recognition at formal assembly presented by the principal. You will be eligible to attend all grade excursions and receive a greater discount on the rewards excursion.

All points are accumulated from the beginning of Term 1 of each calendar year, to the end of Term 4.

Rewards Excursion subsidies are based on the level of achievement on the last day of Term 3

Students nominated for any award or reward, could be denied, based on discipline records and suspensions. Exceptions to this must be approved by Year Advisor with discussions through the Executive Team.

Merit Criteria

Merit Awards at Belling High School may be gained in the following categories:

Positive Points (1 Positive Point)

- Positive behaviour or results in any area of school life.

School Representation Merit (10 Positive Points)

- Community Event
- Leadership Position
- Sporting Event
- Other

Major Academic Success (10 Positive Points)

- Assessment Excellence
- Representation in Academic Event

Above and Beyond Merit (10 Positive Points)

- Consistent Effort and Behaviour
- Long Term Positive Involvement
- Consistent Positive Attitude to develop School Spirit

Year Advisor/DP Merit (10 Positive Points)

- Recognition from Year Advisor or Deputy Principal

Attendance Merit (10 Positive Points)

- Over 95% overall school attendance – these merits will be allocated to appropriate students at the end of each school term.



Behaviour code for students

Information for students and parents and carers.

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected, to the best of their ability, to:

- show respect to other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- strive for the highest standards in learning
- act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included and supported
- resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code
- attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- respect all property
- be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools
- not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Schools take action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning

All students have a right to:

- safety at school
- access and fully participate in their learning
- be treated with respect by other students, teachers and school staff
- express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these expectations. The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

Behaviour code for students: Student actions

Promoting the inclusion, learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students in NSW public schools is a high priority for the NSW Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches across a range of settings to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

To meet the expectations set out, students in NSW public schools, to the best of their ability, should adhere to the following principles.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Communicate and behave courteously.
- Act and work cooperatively with other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Respect the learning needs of other students.
- Dress appropriately by wearing the agreed school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with school property and the property of staff and other students.

Safety

- Model and follow school and class rules and expectations around behaviour and conduct.
- Negotiate and resolve conflict.
- Be aware of and take responsibility for how their behaviour and actions impact others.
- Care for self and others.
- Be safe and help others to make safe choices that do not hurt themselves or others.

Engagement

- Arrive at school and class on time.
- Be prepared for every lesson.
- Actively participate in learning.
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.



Medication and Medical Conditions

All students requiring medication to be administered during the school day must have a parent/carer complete a Student Health Condition Support form and Consent form at the admin office. If the medication has been prescribed by a medical practitioner the medication must be in its original box with the student's name and dosage.

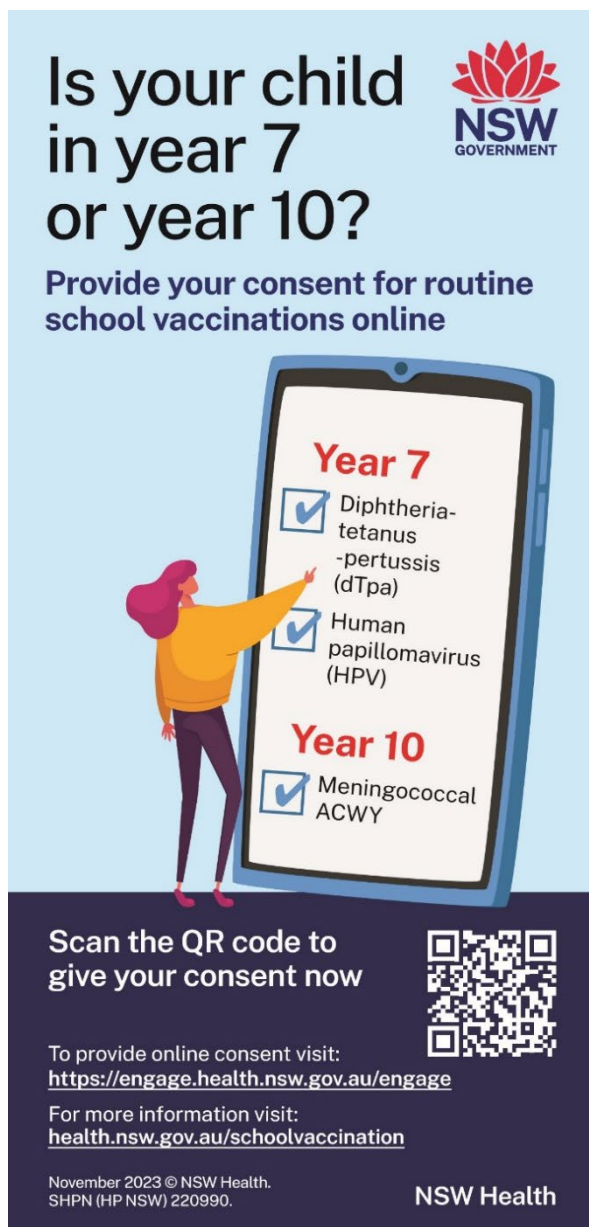
If a student suffers from a serious or chronic condition (such as anaphylaxis, asthma or epilepsy) parents/carers must inform the school of the condition as soon as possible and provide medication and an action plan formulated by the family doctor.

Please contact the school admin office if there are any questions or concerns.

NSW School Vaccination Program

NSW Health works in partnership with high schools to offer the vaccines recommended and funded for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as part of the NSW School Vaccination Program.

For more information visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination.



**Is your child
in year 7
or year 10?**

**Provide your consent for routine
school vaccinations online**

Year 7

- ☒ Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)
- ☒ Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Year 10

- ☒ Meningococcal ACWY

**Scan the QR code to
give your consent now**

To provide online consent visit:
<https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>

For more information visit:
health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

November 2023 © NSW Health.
SHPN (HP NSW) 220990.

NSW Health

Rural and regional school travel

Apply online for free school travel in rural and regional NSW. You only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one operator.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students in a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody) should submit a separate application for both addresses.

How to update your details

You need to update student details online if the student is changing their name, address, school or campus, or their Transport operator. You can update them at transportnsw.info/ssts-update

Frequently asked questions

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?

Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students **will** need to buy a ticket.

What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, you may be able to get a subsidy for driving the student to school. For details, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

How do I apply if the student needs to travel from two addresses because the parents live separately?

Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to apply separately for each address. The same minimum distances apply.

How to apply for free travel for the first time

You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online by giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2

The school then confirms to us that your details are correct.

Step 3

We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell your local bus company who may send a school travel pass (if needed) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 15 years and under. Students who are 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

What my card will look like



Want to know more?

For more information, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

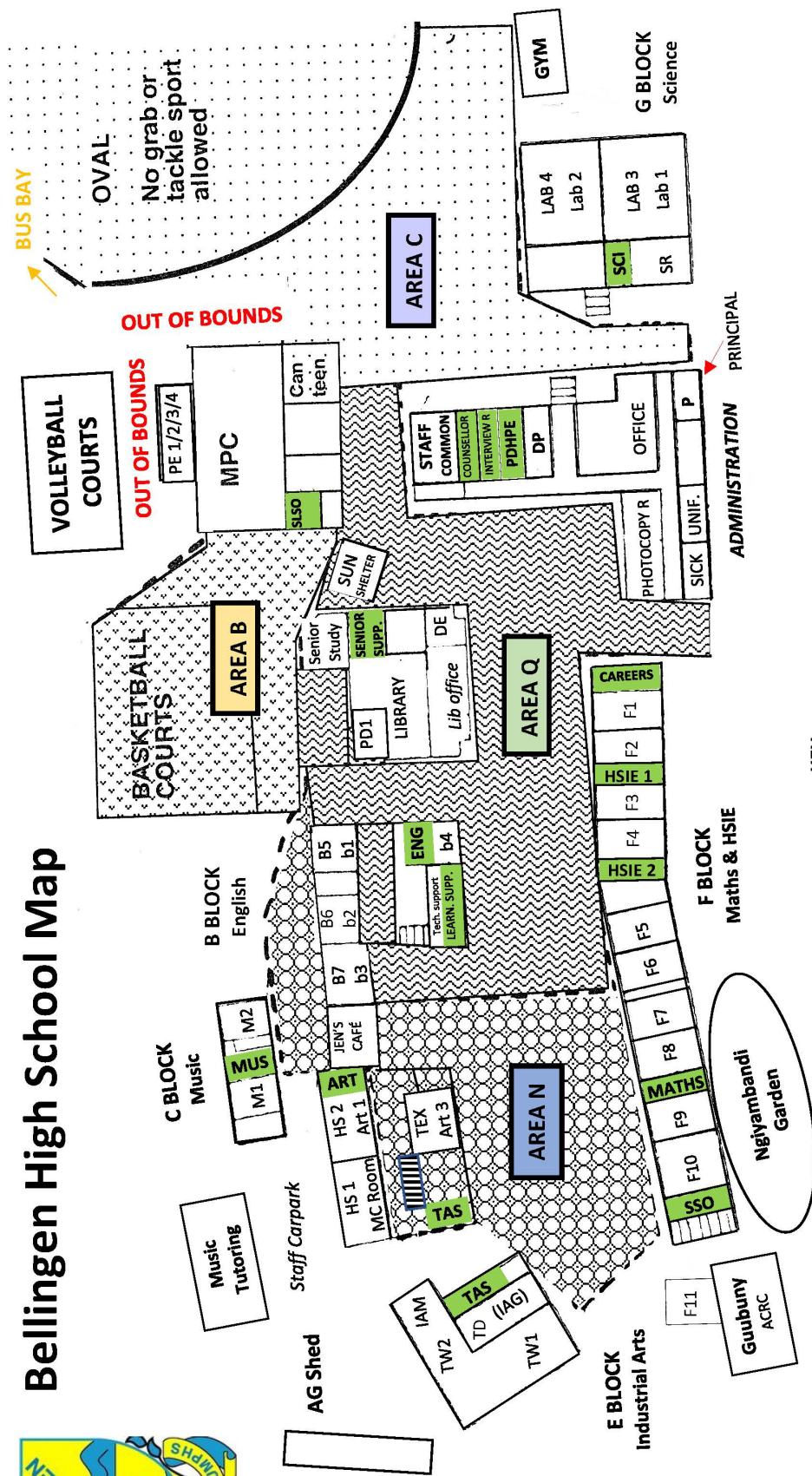
Privacy

For information on how we handle personal information please refer to the Opal Privacy Policy at transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal-opal-privacy-policy and the School Pass Terms transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms





Bellingden High School Map



KEY

AR: Art Room	F1-F5: HSIE	IA: Industrial Arts	TD: Technology Drawing
B: English	F6-10: Maths	NG: Ngiyambandi Garden	TEX: Textiles
M1 & M2: Music Rooms	F11: Ag	SR: Science Room	TLS: Tiered Learning Space
CER: Ceramics	HS: Home Science	MPC: Multi-Purpose Centre	ACRC: Aboriginal Community Resource Centre
DE: Distance Ed.			SSO: Student Support Officer

PLAYGROUND AREAS

B: Below library, including walkway, basketball court & volleyball court and path to lower corner of MPC.	C: Canteen, along out of bounds area next to MPC, bottom oval, walkway to Science block & tar area to South of Admin Block.	Q: Main grassed area bound by Admin Block veranda, lower covered walkway to F Block, covered walkway F5 to B Block, library & along MPC.	N: North of covered walkway F6 to B Block, BBQ Area, outside Music rooms and below BBBlock to trees near basketball courts.
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