

Northern Beaches Campus – Education Statement

1. What is the educational philosophy for the Northern Beaches campus?

A rigorous educational philosophy that is built on the principles of experiential learning. This philosophy is outlined on our website - <https://www.bdc.nsw.edu.au/student-life/our-philosophy>

2. How will staff connections be made and maintained between the campuses?

Staff selection

A balance of new and current staff will be selected for the Northern Beaches campus. Over the last two years, the past Head of Primary and the Principal have been trialling and training a number of potential staff to attract to the new campus. Some staff have also shown a willingness to relocate to the Northern Beaches campus. These decisions will be made in late Term 3 2020 so that timetabling can be organised for 2021.

Staff professional learning

All staff will have the opportunity to undertake professional learning.

Staff meetings

The Head of Primary and Principal do not expect the Northern Beaches staff to attend all BDC Coffs Harbour staff meetings physically. However, they would be expected to attend remotely through the Google Apps suite or Zoom.

Staff integration opportunities

Staff from the Northern Beaches campus will be invited to attend all staff functions and activities that would normally involve the primary school staff. It is expected that a number of functions will also be hosted at the Northern Beaches campus once stage two has been completed.

Line management

A classroom teacher at the Northern Beaches campus will be nominated as the Head of Campus. This staff member will be at the same administrative level as a stage coordinator and report to the Assistant Principal (Head of Primary).

Support services

IT will have a key focus in supporting teaching and learning as well as administrative support. The campus will have telephone access in each classroom linked directly with the BDC Coffs Harbour telephone system. The campus will have access to TASS as the database system for roll marking, student records and general communication. Photocopiers will also be placed at the campus with remote printing capabilities, as at the Coffs Harbour campus. The teacher aide will support both teachers with administrative duties, playground duties and to support teaching and learning.

3. How will student connections be nurtured at the Northern Beaches campus so they feel connected to the Coffs Harbour campus?

Students will have the opportunity to attend key events with their peers across both campuses. These would include school camps, performing arts concerts, sporting carnivals and events, as well as year level gatherings for pastoral care and other educational opportunities.

4. How will the Northern Beaches campus culture be aligned and developed with the BDC Coffs Harbour campus?

The intention of this question is to develop the notion that the BDC experience can be supported regardless of the physical location of the student. BDC will be implementing Schoolbox as the learning management system from 2021 and this will support online learning regardless of the location.

A combined Parents and Friends Association with some campus subcommittees will give a local voice to each campus. This local voice is particularly important. The Northern Beaches campus will have their own flavour to meet the needs of this new community.

Seeding key staff from BDC Coffs Harbour campus to the Northern Beaches campus will allow for cultural translocation to be facilitated.

Classes within year groups can have shared physical and online experiences (Schoolbox). These strategies will break down geographical barriers and build a shared culture.

Key points for clarification from a parental perspective

1. Why was this campus created?

We recognised that, while older students were happy to spend time on the buses from the Woolgoolga region, parents did not want their younger children on the buses for that length of time on a daily basis in order to access the BDC educational experience. The college completed a demographic study of the region and decided to establish a Kindy to Year 4 campus to support this region.

2. Why did BDC settle on this chosen site?

We looked at a variety of locations in the local area; however, our innovative design and focus on community relationships required a central Woolgoolga location.

3. When will the new Northern Beaches campus be open and what years will be available?

The school will be open for the start of the 2021 school year for K-2 and the following year for students in years K-4. When complete, the campus will be a Kindy to Year 4 school.

4. What will the campus look like and what facilities will it have?

The classrooms will have the same feel as a K-4 class at the BDC Coffs Harbour campus. It will be a highly-resourced campus that supports the Walker Learning approach. As the campus develops it will include a variety of specialist teaching and learning resources.

The site will be two stories to maximise playground and outdoor learning possibilities. The Northern Beaches campus will also have strong sustainability dimensions in the design, construction and the teaching and learning processes.

5. Will the school extend from K-4 to the higher years or a secondary school?

The College Council has discussed this opportunity; however, no decision has been made at this time. Should the need arise, the Northern Beaches campus would be looking for opportunities to expand elsewhere in the region.

6. Do you have to be zoned ‘north’ to attend the school?

Bishop Drutt College Coffs Harbour and the Northern Beaches campus are not zoned schools. Parents have the choice of enrolling their children in either campus for their world-prepared educational journey.

7. Is there a free bus for students? How do you sign up for that?

Yes - there are a variety of transportation options. The local school and public buses will have access to the new campus. The BDC buses will also support the new Northern Beaches campus. There will be a bus taking students from the Northern Beaches campus to the Coffs Harbour campus in the mornings and vice versa in the afternoons, which will be helpful if parents have students attending both campuses.

The campus bus stop is located directly adjacent to the campus. Local bus services connect to this location from both north and south. These services are managed through the Administration Hub in the BDC Coffs Harbour campus and can be addressed via telephone or email from October 2020.

8. How will the school mitigate any potential traffic congestion in the area?

The safety of our school families is of paramount consideration in the development of the school and therefore the following strategies have been put in place:

- a. Offsite parking for school staff.
- b. All onsite parking is allocated for parents.
- c. Students will be walked to the bus stop, which is conveniently located at the front of the school and supervised each afternoon.
- d. As a part of our culture of safety, all students will participate in regular educational programs around road safety, how to stay safe and how to keep each other safe.
- e. A north-bound turning lane has been established in preparation for the campus.

9. What is the Northern Beaches educational philosophy?

Learning at the Bishop Drutt College Northern Beaches campus will focus on the immersive and innovative Walker Learning practices, together with BDC’s proven practices in literacy and numeracy. We pride ourselves on being experiential, adaptive, collaborative and resourceful.

10. What is the Walker Learning approach and how will it be practised in this new campus?

This approach is based upon decades of research about play-based and personalised learning, together with the practices of social constructivism. It is not a program. It is a total approach to teaching and learning which combines the need for children to be active participants in their own

learning through hands-on, creative exploration and investigation, which sits alongside formal or explicit instruction. All staff are Walker Learning approach trained. Walker Learning views the child holistically and values emotional and social life to be as important as the academic side of learning.

[Walker Learning Approach Video - as explained by classroom teachers](#)

11. Do you have all the staff employed for the campus and do any of them come from BDC's Coffs Harbour campus?

Staff for the Northern Beaches campus will be employed in the coming months to ensure that transition processes are in place for our new students. When these positions are decided an announcement will be made to the public.

The staffing strategies include seeding the new Northern Beaches campus with some of our teaching stars to ensure the culture of the BDC way is translated into this new environment. All teachers employed will be trained in key components of the educational philosophy and be leaders in their respective field.

12. What transition program do you have and how will the students get used to the school?

During Term 4 2020 new students will be invited onto the campus to meet and greet their 2021 teachers and participate in an orientation program. In future years the Year 4 students will have an intensive integration program with the Coffs Harbour campus. Their regular visits to the campus over their schooling years will also assist them to feel part of the wider BDC community.

13. How will children be settled if they are struggling or unhappy?

The teaching staff will work closely with parents to ensure every child's needs are addressed. We pride ourselves on building positive schooling relationships. The BDC Coffs Harbour campus Student Wellbeing and Learning Resource Centre teams will also support the families of the Northern Beaches campus.

14. What is the child to staff ratio? Any teacher aides?

The staff-student ratio in the early years will be capped at 20:1 with teacher aide support available from the first day.

15. Is there a canteen facility? Is there a packed lunch policy?

The canteen at BDC Coffs Harbour will deliver morning tea and lunch daily to the classrooms. Orders will be organised online through Flexischools. When the campus reaches its K-4 size a servery will be established for some over-the-counter purchases as well.

16. Are there any clubs or groups students can get involved in on this campus?

Yes - the students will have clubs and groups they can join. Staff will work with their new community to identify the student interests specific to their groups.

17. Is there an open-door policy for parents to visit their children while at school?

Yes - parents and grandparents are welcome to become partners in their child's learning. This may include support for literacy or numeracy groups, or supporting positive questioning in Walker Learning environments.

18. What is the policy on visitors?

Visitors will be encouraged to contact the campus prior to the visit so that preparations can be made to support their experience. Similar to BDC Coffs Harbour, we do expect the campus will be visited by other education and support service providers as well as researchers from universities.

19. How do you deal with bullying?

We treat bullying seriously; however, we also endeavour to take any incident as an opportunity to learn and redirect to more positive social interactions. The campus will use restorative justice measures and our behaviour management protocols will be displayed in classrooms and available online. BDC schools are safe and caring communities.

20. What are the class sizes?

The campus will hold 100 students in total. Stage 1 class size will be a maximum of 20 students, with Stage 2 being a maximum of 25 students per class.

21. How much homework do students get?

The students will receive some homework even from Kindy. This homework centres on developing a love of reading in the home and reinforces what occurred during that particular day. It is not an exhaustive process and is designed to be fun, engaging and interactive.

22. Are there library resources on campus?

Yes. There will be a satellite library with a rotational collection where books will be swapped out to and from the Northern Beaches and Coffs Harbour campuses. This will allow the Northern Beaches campus micro-school a rich variety of accessible learning resources. Fortnightly visits to the Coffs Harbour campus will see students accessing resources such as library, sport, drama, music, dance and language.

23. How is technology used to support teaching and learning?

The campus will utilise devices that are supplied by the school. Each class will have an interactive Promethean board and iPads. As the students move into Year 3 and 4, we move to Chromebooks (Google's version of a laptop). While technology is important, we do focus on social interaction in the teaching and learning experience.

24. How will performing arts opportunities be encouraged?

Performing arts (music, dance and drama) will occur in the normal teaching and learning experience on the Northern Beaches campus, with a combination of classroom teachers and specialist teachers. Some of the experiences will occur on campus and others will occur at the BDC Coffs Harbour campus. The BDC bus will link the campuses as required.

25. How do health, physical education and sports fit in on this campus?

There will be two playground spaces at the Northern Beaches campus. Students will also access the new West Woolgoolga Sporting Complex (when completed) and the BDC Coffs Harbour campus. Specialist PDHPE teachers will work with the students on a weekly basis.

26. What playground and green space will be on the site?

This innovative micro-school has various outdoor play areas such as:

- 590sqm of playground
- 360sqm of undercover outdoor area
- outdoor mud kitchen space.

These outdoor areas are designed for the interactive and play-based Walker Learning experience. The onsite playground will be a multi-use play space with climbing walls, technology play, sandpits, fort feel and slides. The playground design will be published on the Northern Beaches campus webpage via <https://www.bdc.nsw.edu.au/join-our-school/northern-beaches-campus>

The Northern Beaches campus students will access a variety of resources throughout the region for recreational and educational purposes, including the following: the redeveloped Woolgoolga foreshore, West Woolgoolga Sports Complex and other sports fields around Woolgoolga. All will be accessed via the BDC minibus.

27. What strategies are used when teaching students who are not fluent in English?

The college utilises Multisensory Structured Language (MSL) teaching strategies to support language learners. This program supports all learners, but has particular benefits for students learning English as a second language and dyslexic students. The teachers will work with the BDC Coffs Harbour Learning Resource Centre team through teacher and teacher aide support, as required.

28. Will the Northern Beaches campus have much interaction with the Coffs Harbour campus?

Yes, students will visit the Coffs Harbour campus fortnightly for regular assemblies, library visits, sports, drama, music, languages, chapel services, dance and other specialists and activities. Northern Beaches students will feel regularly connected to their friends on the Coffs Harbour campus.

29. Are college counselling and support available?

Yes - the Wellbeing Team includes chaplaincy support and counselling support. This can be organised through the Director of Student Wellbeing. The Northern Beaches campus will also connect with the local Northern Beaches Anglican Church.

30. Can students enrol into BDC Coffs Harbour? Are they guaranteed a place after Year 4?

Yes, these are already popular questions from parents. Being part of the BDC Northern Beaches campus ensures that your child has automatic enrolment into Year 5 at the BDC Coffs Harbour campus. It should be noted that extensive waiting lists do occur at key entry points. The Year 4 students will have pastoral transition activities and fun days in Term 4 that will also support this change.

31. How will the onsite relationship with Ohana Early Learning work with BDC?

Ohana Early Learning and BDC established a positive working relationship that has continued to develop since 2018. This has included Ohana making the teaching and learning transition to incorporate elements of the Walker Learning approach.

Children moving from preschool to kindy at the Northern Beaches Campus will have additional transition opportunities, but it is important to note that all families are welcome to attend. All Anglican schools in our region are open enrolment schools.

32. Will there be after school care and vacation care?

This is dependent upon the needs of the community. Families enrolling into the Northern Beaches campus can express their interest in an after-school care program. We will then use this feedback to collate and develop the program. Vacation care is available at the Coffs Harbour campus.

33. How will the school get involved in the Woolgoolga community?

The whole of Woolgoolga will be the school. There will be partnerships with local businesses, excursions to different local areas and lots of student immersion within the town. This is unique to the Northern Beaches campus and allows for many rich learning opportunities for students.

The school experience will go beyond the boundaries of the Northern Beaches campus and our students will feel connected to opportunities in the wider Northern Beaches community. We are looking for the residents of Woolgoolga to proudly embrace this new school community.

34. When and how can I enrol into the school?

If you are interested in the new campus, or know someone who is, then please contact us by one of these methods:

- visit the BDC Woopi pop-up shop from 9.00 am-12.00 pm Monday to Friday at 42 Beach Street Woolgoolga
- call (02) 6651 5644 ext 208
- email enrolments@bdc.nsw.edu.au
- enrol online via: <https://bdc.digistormenrol.com.au/applications/enrolment>
- view the steps to enrolment on our website <https://www.bdc.nsw.edu.au/join-our-school/enrolments>

35. How can guests register their interest?

Guests at the campus can go to <https://www.bdc.nsw.edu.au/forms/register-your-interest> and complete the online form. BDC staff members will be able to assist.

36. What are the fees for Stage 1 students at the Northern Beaches campus?

An introductory rate has been supported by the Bishop Drutt College Council for the first few years of the campus's growth. This rate is approximately \$100 per week.