

A Message from the Principal

Dear Prospective Students and Families,

Thank you for considering Boisdale Consolidated School as the next step in your educational journey. We understand that choosing the right school is a big decision, and we're excited that you're exploring what BCS has to offer.

At BCS, we pride ourselves on being more than just a school, we're a community. Our school offers a warm, supportive environment where students are known by name, encouraged to explore their potential, and guided every step of the way. Our dedicated staff work hard to create a safe, respectful, and engaging learning space for all students. From strong academic programs to extracurricular opportunities and a strong focus on personal growth, we strive to help every student feel confident, capable, and connected.

This handbook is designed to give you a sense of who we are, how we work, and what you can expect as part of our school community. We would love the opportunity to meet you in person, answer your questions, and show you around our school. Please don't hesitate to reach out - whether it's a quick question, or just a chat. We're all in this together, and I look forward to working with each of you.

We hope to welcome you soon!

Kind regards,

Belinda Marshall



Welcome to Foundation at BCS: A Guide for Parents

Starting school is a major milestone for both children and their families! At BCS, we understand that this is a big step, and we're here to help make the transition to school a positive and exciting experience for every child.

What is the Foundation Year?

The Foundation year lays the essential groundwork for your child's learning journey. It's carefully designed to help children develop a strong base in key areas such as:

- A love for learning
- Independence and self-confidence
- Language and communication skills
- Early literacy and numeracy
- Problem-solving and thinking skills
- Physical development through both gross and fine motor skills

Foundation at Boisdale Consolidated School is an inclusive part of our whole P-6 school, and we see it as the starting point for future academic and social success.

Our Foundation students also participate in a wide range of Specialist subjects including:

- Art
- Physical Education
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering (includes Kitchen Garden))
- Music

Cross-age activities & Bus Buddies

To help Foundation students feel connected and supported, we run a cross-age activities where each Prep child is paired with a Year 6 buddy. These older students act as friendly faces and positive role models. They'll participate in fun activities together throughout the year, building confidence and friendships that help your child feel connected and supported. Foundation students that travel on a bus, also have a **bus buddy** to support them getting to the bus in the afternoon and classroom in the morning.

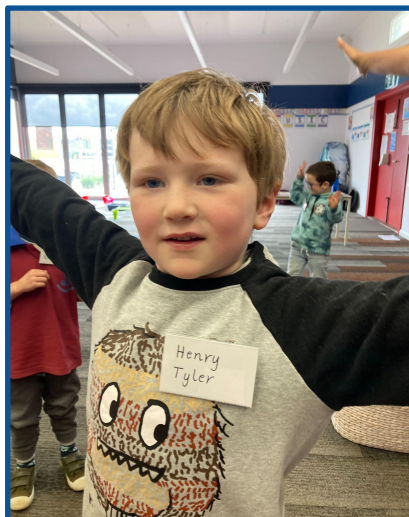
Preparing Your Child for School

It's completely natural for children to feel a little anxious about starting school. With a few simple strategies, you can help your child feel ready and confident:

- **Familiarise them with school life:** Talk about what their day might look like, visit the school, and attend Orientation Days together.
- **Involve them in getting ready:** Let them help pick up their school supplies and uniform. Practice dressing including taking off and putting on a jumper
- **Pack practice lunchboxes:** Help them get used to opening containers and eating independently. Discuss the difference between snack and lunch and try packing "nude food" options together.
- **Support independence:** Encourage your child to put on and take off their shoes, take off jumpers, put items in their school bag and use the toilet confidently on their own.
- **Talk positively:** Focus on all the fun and new things they'll be doing—meeting new friends, playing games, and learning new skills.
- **Attend transition sessions:** These sessions allow students to become familiar with the school environment, their teacher and classmates.



If your child has specific needs or concerns (e.g., toileting assistance), please reach out to their teacher before the school year begins.



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A Smooth Start: Our Routine

A consistent routine helps children feel secure and settled. Here's what a typical day in Foundation may look like:

8:50 – 9:00am: Morning routine (e.g., unpacking bags, take-home folders)

9:00 – 11:00am: Literacy block – reading, writing, speaking and listening

11:00 – 11:30am: Snack time & Outdoor Play

11:30 – 1:30pm: Numeracy block – number and applied maths

1:30pm – 1:40pm: Lunch Eating

1:40 – 2:10pm: Lunch Play time

2:10 – 3:10pm: Integrated learning and specialist subjects

3:10pm: Home time



Helping Your Child Thrive

You can play a big part in your child's positive school experience by:

- **Being consistent and organised.** Pack school bags the night before to avoid rushed mornings.
- **Talking about school in a cheerful way.** Ask your child about their day, who they've played with, and what they've learned. Encourage your child to lead the conversation.
- **Saying goodbye with reassurance.** Always let them know when you're leaving and that you'll be back after school.

At BCS, we're committed to making every day a happy one for your child. With caring staff, engaging programs, and a strong sense of community, we'll ensure your child starts their school journey with confidence and joy. We can't wait to welcome you and your child to the Foundation family!



Transition Dates

Session 1 - Friday 30th of October 2026

"New friends" 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

Meeting new friends

What to bring: hat, drink bottle

Where: Multipurpose Room



Session 2 - Friday 13th November 2026

"My School" 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

Welcome to BCS

What to bring: hat, drink bottle

Where: Multipurpose Room

Session 3 - Friday 27th November 2026

"School Life" 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

Visit different areas in the school

What to bring: hat, drink bottle

Where: Multipurpose Room



Session 4 - Tuesday 8th December 2026

"My classroom" - 10:00am-12:00pm

I will meet my 2027 classroom teacher and classmates.

What to bring: hat, healthy snack, drink bottle

Where: Multipurpose Room

Folio presentation @ 12:00pm



Mission and Vision

- **Our Mission:** As a community we are committed to inspire, support, educate and foster inquisitive thinkers who value personal growth and collaboration in an ever-changing world.
- **Our Vision:** Together we strive to develop an enthusiastic culture of learners, enabling them to grow in a safe and supportive environment.

About Us

Boisdale Consolidated School, located on Boisdale-Newry Road in Boisdale, is a vibrant rural primary school with an enrolment of 192 students. Nestled in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, the school is just one kilometre from the rural township of Boisdale and eight kilometres from the closest town, Maffra. The beautiful rural setting provides a peaceful and inspiring environment, ideal for fostering a strong sense of community and supporting student learning.

With a rich history dating back to 1890, when the original Boisdale School was built, the school community has deep roots in the region. In 1951, the Consolidated School was established after the merger of seven small district schools, bringing the surrounding communities together to form one school.

BCS is known for its friendly, family-oriented atmosphere, where every student is valued and supported. The school prides itself on its close-knit community, offering a nurturing environment that provides quality education, celebrating both academic achievement and personal growth.

Most students travel to school by bus from surrounding farming districts and towns in the Macalister and Avon Valleys. With five buses servicing areas such as Maffra, Valencia Creek, Coongulla, Tinamba, Newry, Llowalong, and nearby communities, transportation to and from school is both convenient and efficient for families. For further information regarding bus stops and times, please contact the school.



General Information

Contact Details

School Address: 69 Newry Road, BOISDALE, Vic 3860

Telephone: (03) 5145 4391

Fax: (03) 5145 4323

Web Site: www.boisdalecs.vic.edu.au

Email: boisdale.cs@education.vic.gov.au

School Organisation

Principal: Belinda Marshall

Business Manager: Robyn Ryan

Administration: Melinda Barton

School Council President: Tracey Harper

Parents & Friends President: Elspeth Lukanjov

2027 Term Dates

The 2027 Victorian school term dates are:

- **Term 1:** Wednesday 27 January to Thursday 1 April 2027
- **Term 2:** Monday 19 April to Friday 25 June 2027
- **Term 3:** Monday 12 July to Friday 17 September 2027
- **Term 4:** Monday 4 October to Tuesday 21 December 2027

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Current 2026 Staff

Teaching Staff

Prep- Michelle Boyd

Year 1/2- Emma Germaine

Year 1/2- Eliza Rowley/Britt Booker

Year 2/3- Meg Marshall

Year 3/4- Emma Wojcinski & Emily Porter

Year 4/5- Harriet English & Amy Bailey

Year 5/6- Brooke Ellis

Year 5/6- Fiona Rathnow & Kate Steinmann

Art- Emily Porter & Kirsten Walkley

Music- Claire Martin

PE- Fiona Clarke

STEM- Amy Bailey & Jessica Mackay

MHiPS Leader - Jessica Mackay

Inclusion Leader - Eliza Rowley

Education Support Staff

Mollie Huts

Jess Bailey

Amber Stewart

Stacey Powell

Sam Fardon

Mark Churchill

Demi Scriven

Melinda Bentvelzen

Olly Manly

Alex Gallatly

Bonnie Reeves

Katelyn Pedder



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2025 - Bell Times

SESSIONS	BELL TIMES
Morning Session	9:00am – 11:00am Warning bell 8.55am
RECESS	11:00am – 11.30am Warning bell 11.25am
Middle Session	11:30am – 1:30pm
Supervised eating	1:30pm – 1:40pm
LUNCH	1:40pm – 2:10pm Warning bell 2:05pm
Afternoon Session	2:10pm – 3.10pm
End of Day	3.10pm

Supervision

The school grounds are **not** supervised before **8:45 am** or after **3:20 pm**. For your child's safety, we kindly ask that students do not arrive at school prior to 8:45 am and leave before 3:20 pm. If you are unexpectedly delayed and unable to collect your child by 3:20 pm, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can ensure appropriate arrangements are made.

During the school day, staff provide active supervision in the playground during both **recess** and **lunch** breaks to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Administration

Office Times

Our office staff are available to answer the phone from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Parents who wish to speak with staff are welcome to contact the school during office hours to arrange a meeting or phone call.

Compass

BCS uses Compass School Manager as our primary platform for communication and school management. Compass allows students and parents to stay informed and engaged with school life by providing access to timetables, attendance records, school news, and important notifications. Through Compass, parents can also report absences, book parent-teacher interviews, and receive updates on student progress. Parents can also consent and pay for camps, incursions and excursions through Compass.

This easy-to-use platform helps ensure that everyone stays connected and up to date with what's happening at school. Compass is available as a mobile app for convenience on the go, or it can be accessed on a computer via <https://boisdalecs-vic.compass.education/>. Parents are provided with login information at the beginning of the school year.

Assembly

Whole-school assemblies are held each Friday afternoon from 2:40pm and are run by our Grade 6 leaders. Parents are welcome to attend.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is published fortnightly to keep everybody up-to-date on school news, including student learning. It is published on a Friday via email through Compass and available on the BCS website. This is our key means of communication for dates and upcoming events, so please read it very carefully.



Absence Notes

Children will be permitted to leave school only with parents/guardians during school time. It is a DET requirement that notes/phone calls be provided if:

- Children are absent from school
- Children are required to leave early

Parents can log absences on Compass or can phone or email the office if their children are going to be away from school.

Reporting on Student Progress

Student progress is assessed by continuous evaluation. Progress is reported to parents through written semester reports and Parent-Teacher interviews. These interviews are conducted with the child present, to enable the school to keep communication open between the teacher and families. Parents are welcome to make an appointment to discuss progress at any time during the school year.

Progress reports are completed twice a term by classroom and specialist teachers. These reports provide parents and students with information on how their children are demonstrating the school values of Respect, Teamwork and Resilience. These reports are available on Compass.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development arranges formal tests, called the 'NAPLAN', at Years 3 and 5, in English and Mathematics each year. The results of NAPLAN tests are provided for parents and the school.



Teaching and Learning at Boisdale Consolidated School

At BCS, our teaching and learning programs are aligned to the **Victorian Curriculum**, the four priorities set by the Department of Education (FISO 2.0). We are committed to providing a high-quality education that builds strong foundations in **Literacy** and **Numeracy**. These essential skills are taught explicitly and purposefully to equip students with the knowledge and confidence they need for lifelong learning and success across all subject areas.

Literacy

Literacy at BCS begins with a strong focus on **oral language development**, progressing through the essential building blocks of reading, writing, speaking and listening, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. We implement a **whole-school Literacy approach**, grounded in the use of **explicit teaching** to ensure all students clearly understand what they are learning, why it matters, and how to achieve success.

In Prep-2, we implement the **Little Learners Love Literacy (LLLL)** program—a structured, evidence-based **Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP)** approach. This method explicitly teaches phonemic awareness and decoding skills in a clear, sequential way, setting students up for reading and spelling success.

Key features of our Literacy program include:

- A **dedicated two-hour daily literacy block**
- **Explicit instruction** in phonics, reading, writing, and language skills
- Use of **LLLL** to support structured phonics learning in the early years
- **Small group guided reading, book clubs**, and targeted teaching
- **Frequent progress monitoring** and tailored learning tasks
- **Independent reading and writing time** to develop fluency and confidence
- A focus on creating engaging, meaningful literacy experiences that foster a love of language



Mathematics

Our Mathematics program is designed to build deep conceptual understanding and real-world application. We begin by developing core numeracy skills such as **number sense** and **place value**, then guide students toward fluency in mathematical thinking and problem-solving.



Using the **Launch - Explore - Summarise** instructional model, teachers deliver lessons that are student-centred, hands-on, and connected to everyday experiences. As in Literacy, **explicit teaching** plays a key role in Mathematics—concepts and strategies are clearly introduced, modelled, and practised before students apply their learning independently or in collaborative tasks.

Our Mathematics curriculum includes:

- Number
- Algebra
- Measurement
- Space
- Statistics
- Probability

What students experience in Mathematics:

- **Explicit teaching** of mathematical concepts and strategies
- **Scaffolded lessons** that build understanding step-by-step
- Open-ended and challenging tasks to promote critical thinking
- Use of concrete materials and visual models to support learning
- Focus on **learner dispositions** such as persistence, resilience, and collaboration
- A fun, supportive environment where students develop a **genuine enjoyment of maths**



Unit Learning



We take an integrated approach to learning through our unit-based curriculum. Each term, students engage in a carefully planned unit of study that incorporates a variety of subjects, including Health, Science, History, and Geography, allowing them to make meaningful connections across different areas of knowledge. These units are designed to build on students' prior learning while encouraging them to explore new concepts in depth. Through unit learning, students are encouraged to ask questions, explore topics, and discover answers through hands-on activities, research, and problem-solving. The units often culminate in projects or

presentations, where students can showcase what they've learned and demonstrate their understanding. This approach not only supports academic achievement but also fosters critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills, which are essential for success in the 21st century.

By engaging with a wide range of unit topics, students at Boisdale Consolidated School develop a well-rounded understanding of the world around them, preparing them for future learning and life beyond the classroom.

Specialist Programs

Physical Education

Physical Education (PE) lessons across all sports occur on a weekly basis. PE is designed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and healthy lifestyle choices for all students from Prep to Grade 6. Our PE curriculum focuses on developing fundamental motor skills, coordination, and teamwork in the early years, and gradually progresses to more complex movement patterns, sports skills, and strategies as students grow.

For students in Prep to Grade 2, the emphasis is on Fundamental Motor Skills through fun and engaging activities such as running, jumping, throwing, and catching. These activities help foster physical confidence and coordination, setting the foundation for more structured sports in the later years. From Grades 3 to 6, students begin to refine their skills in a variety of team and individual sports, including athletics, soccer, basketball, and netball.



STEM – Kitchen Garden and Science

The STEM curriculum for Prep to Grade 6 students places a strong emphasis on science and technology, with a particular focus on food and fibre production. Students explore the natural world through hands-on investigations, developing skills in observation, experimentation, and problem-solving. Through integrated projects, they learn how science and technology are used in growing food, managing natural resources, and designing sustainable systems. The curriculum encourages curiosity about where our food comes from and how innovations in agriculture support healthy communities and environments. Technology is



used as both a tool and a subject, helping students design solutions and

communicate their ideas. Our approach nurtures critical thinking and fosters a deeper understanding of real-world applications of STEM. Students are also encouraged to collaborate, ask questions, and apply their learning in meaningful ways. This foundation prepares them to be informed, innovative, and environmentally responsible citizens.



The Kitchen Garden Program, which combines both technology and sustainability to teach students about food production, healthy eating, and the environment. Through hands-on gardening and cooking activities, students learn how to grow their own food, prepare healthy meals, and appreciate the importance of sustainability. The program not only enhances their understanding

of science and nature but also integrates technology, as students use digital tools to track their garden's progress, plan meals, and even share recipes. The Kitchen Garden Program is a wonderful example of how technology, creativity, and sustainability come together to provide a rich, hands-on learning experience.



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Art

The Arts program plays a vital role in fostering creativity, self-expression, and critical thinking across all year levels, from Prep to Grade 6. Through a diverse range of artistic experiences, students are encouraged to explore different mediums, techniques, and styles, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital art. The program aims to nurture each student's imagination, build their confidence, and allow them to communicate ideas visually.



Students engage in both individual and collaborative art projects, where they have the opportunity to experiment with various materials and tools, developing their skills while expressing their unique perspectives. The art curriculum also integrates cross-curricular learning, allowing students to connect their artistic endeavours to other subjects such as history, science, and literature.

Throughout the year, students are given opportunities to showcase their artwork in school exhibitions, contributing to the vibrant school culture and celebrating their creativity. The Arts program at Boisdale Consolidated School helps students appreciate the value of art in society, while also fostering a lifelong love of artistic expression.

Music

Music is an integral part of the curriculum, providing students from Prep to Grade 6 with the opportunity to explore, create, and appreciate the world of sound. The music program focuses on developing students' musical skills through singing, playing instruments, rhythm exercises, and listening activities. Students learn to understand the basics of music theory, including pitch, rhythm, and dynamics, while developing their ability to work together as a group. The music curriculum also emphasises the joy of performing, with students regularly participating in school concerts, assemblies, and special events. Through music, students not only develop technical musical skills but also gain confidence, improve their creativity, and build teamwork skills.

School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support

At BCS, we are proud to be implementing **School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)** – a proven, evidence-based framework that helps us create a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment for all students.

SWPBS is all about teaching and encouraging positive behaviours across the school. It ensures that every student is supported to do their best, while also providing extra help to those who may need it. The ultimate goal is to support student wellbeing, improve behaviour, and help every child succeed academically and socially.

Here's what SWPBS means for your child and our school community:

- **Positive Environment:** We focus on building a friendly, respectful, and inclusive school culture where students feel safe, valued, and ready to learn.
- **Clear Expectations:** We teach and reinforce clear, consistent expectations for behaviour in all areas of the school.
- **Support for Everyone:** All students benefit from the approach, and those who need extra support receive it through targeted strategies.
- **Team Approach:** Our staff work closely together, and with families, to ensure our practices are fair, consistent, and inclusive of students and their specific needs.
- **Data-Driven Decisions:** We use data to identify areas for improvement and make informed decisions that help our school grow.
- **Staff Development:** Teachers and support staff receive ongoing training and coaching in behaviour support strategies, allowing them to focus more on teaching and learning.

By working together with families and the wider community, SWPBS helps us create a learning environment where every child at Boisdale Consolidated School has the opportunity to thrive.



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Underpinning our work with SWPBS are our core BCS Values:



Respect

We believe that respect is the foundation of a positive learning environment. We value treating others with kindness, understanding, and fairness, fostering an atmosphere where everyone feels valued and heard. Respect for ourselves, others, and the environment is key to building a strong, supportive school community.

Resilience

Resilience is about bouncing back from challenges with a positive attitude and a determination to keep moving forward. We encourage our students to embrace setbacks as opportunities for growth, teaching them to be adaptable, persistent, and confident in their ability to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

Teamwork

Teamwork is at the heart of everything we do at BCS. We believe in the power of collaboration, where students work together, support each other, and share ideas to achieve common goals. Through teamwork, we build strong relationships, develop communication skills, and create a positive school culture that celebrates collective success.

BCS Behaviour Expectations Matrix



	All Settings	Playground	Bus	Toilets
RESILIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We take on feedback We always have a go We believe in ourselves & others We ask for help when needed We learn from our mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We bounce back We compromise when needed We seek support from an adult when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We accept the seating arrangements 	
RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are kind We are honest We are safe We listen to others We look after equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We put our rubbish in the bin We take care of our equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We listen to the bus driver & bus captains We follow the bus rules to be safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We respect each other's privacy We use the water, soap, toilets & toilet paper properly We clean up after ourselves
TEAMWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support each other We have a shared responsibility for our learning We speak up for others We look out for each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We play fairly We have shared responsibility for our environment We include everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We encourage each other to be quiet on the bus 	

Respectful Relationships

We are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students. As part of this commitment, we deliver the **Respectful Relationships** program, which is a key part of the Victorian Curriculum.

What is Respectful Relationships?

Respectful Relationships education supports students to develop the skills they need to build healthy, positive relationships. It teaches students about respect, resilience, inclusion, and gender equality, both in the classroom and across all areas of school life.

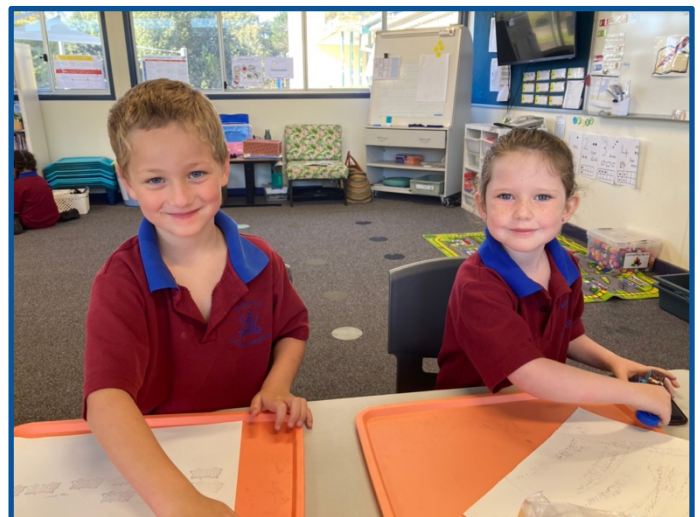
Why is it important?

When children learn about respect and equality from a young age, it helps shape their values, attitudes, and behaviours. Embedding these messages throughout our school – in the classroom, playground, sports teams, events, and beyond – helps improve students' mental health, behaviour, learning outcomes, and relationships with others.

Our commitment

At BCS, we believe that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness, fairness, and dignity. Through the Respectful Relationships program, we are helping to build a community where every child feels safe, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

By working together—families, teachers, and students—we can lead the way in building a more respectful and inclusive future for everyone.



Extra-Curricular Activities & Other Information

Farm

The Boisdale School Farm is a unique and valuable part of our school community, providing hands-on learning experiences that support student engagement and growth from Prep to Grade 6. Through caring for animals, growing produce, and participating in farm-related projects, students develop a deeper understanding of agriculture, sustainability, and the environment. The farm encourages responsibility, teamwork, and problem-solving skills while connecting classroom learning to real-world experiences. It also fosters a strong sense of community and pride in our rural setting, helping students appreciate the importance of agriculture in their lives and the wider world.



Intra-School Sports

BCS offers an intraschool sports program that encourages participation, teamwork, and school spirit. Throughout the year, students compete in a variety of events, including the Swimming Carnival, Athletics Carnival, and Cross Country. All students are placed into houses, which they represent during these events, promoting a healthy sense of competition and belonging. These carnivals not only support physical fitness and skill development but also help build confidence, resilience, and strong connections among students across all year levels.



Inter-School Sports

BCS is proud to offer a range of interschool sports opportunities that allow students to represent our school while building teamwork and sporting skills. Students in Grades 5 and 6 can participate in Winter Sports, competing in sports such as football, netball, and soccer against other local schools. Hoop Time is available for students in Grades 3 to 6, providing an exciting basketball competition that supports skill development and fair play. Additionally, students have the opportunity to take part in Equestrian events, showcasing their talents and sportsmanship in horse riding. Students in Grades 3 - 6 are able to progress through district, regional



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and state levels in swimming, athletics and cross country. These programs help foster confidence, cooperation, and a sense of pride in representing Boisdale at a broader level.

As a school affiliated with the Victorian School Sports Association (VSSSA), Boisdale students also gain access to a wider range of competitive sporting opportunities at district, regional, and state levels. This affiliation enhances our sports program by offering structured

pathways for talented athletes and promoting high standards of participation, inclusion, and excellence in school sport.



Swimming Program

All BCS students participate in annual swimming and water safety programs (up to 10 lessons). This provides students with the knowledge and confidence to participate in aquatic activities. The program is supported

by the annual swimming sports, and successful students may go on to compete at an inter-school and regional level. The BCS school pool is used for students in Grades 1 to 6, while our Foundations undertake swimming at Kemp Aquatics in Maffra.

Special events

Staff and students celebrate a variety of annual special events that bring our school community together and create meaningful connections beyond the classroom. These events include our participation in the **Maffra Mardi Gras Street Parade**, where students proudly represent our school with themed displays and performances. We also host a **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea and a Father's Day Breakfast**, offering special opportunities for families to share in their child's school experience. Our student leaders run **ANZAC Day** and **Remembrance Day services**, showing respect and understanding for Australia's history and values. **Grandparents and**



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Special Friends Day is a cherished tradition that invites loved ones into the school to share in classroom activities and celebrate the important role they play in our students' lives. These events are a valued part of our school culture, strengthening connections and creating lasting memories for students and families alike. Other annual events include a colour run, Book Week and school disco.

Instrumental music

At BCS, we offer an optional Instrumental Music Program for students from Prep to Grade 6, providing a wonderful opportunity to explore music and develop new skills. This opt-in program allows students to receive specialised instruction in a variety of instruments - from keyboard, clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet and vocal lessons - fostering creativity, confidence, and a love of music. Lessons are held during school hours by an experienced music teacher, and students have the chance to perform at school events, assemblies and concerts throughout the year. The program supports individual growth while adding to the vibrant cultural life of our school community.



Library

The library is a welcoming and enriching space that supports literacy, learning, and a love of reading for all students. Each class visits the library once per week, providing regular opportunities for students to explore a wide range of books and resources suited to their interests and reading levels.



During these visits, students are encouraged to borrow books to take home and enjoy, fostering independent reading habits and supporting classroom learning. The library also hosts special events such as book fair and reading programs throughout the year, making it a central and valued part of school life.

Camps and Excursions

Camps and excursions are an integral part of the educational experience at Boisdale Consolidated School, offering students the opportunity to learn outside the classroom and build important life skills. Students in Years 3-6 will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of camps. These experiences provide hands-on learning, foster teamwork, and encourage independence in a fun and supportive environment.

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Camps, which are typically offered to students in higher grades, allow for outdoor adventures and activities that enhance personal growth, resilience, and collaboration. Excursions, tailored to various year levels, connect classroom learning to real-world experiences, deepening students' understanding of different subjects. Both camps and excursions play a crucial role in building confidence, promoting social interaction, and helping students form lasting memories with their peers.

Bike Brigade

The Bike Brigade program offers students in Grade 6 a hands-on opportunity to give back to the community. Students work alongside dedicated volunteers to repair and refurbish bicycles, which are then donated to local charities or individuals in need. Through this program, students develop a wide range of practical skills, including basic mechanics, safe tool use, and problem-solving. They also learn teamwork, responsibility, and the value of community service. The supportive environment created by the volunteers helps students grow in confidence as they take pride in their work. Bike Brigade is a unique and meaningful way for students to contribute while learning valuable life skills.

Canteen

The canteen operates on Wednesdays and Fridays, offering students a variety of healthy and freshly prepared food options. As part of the Vic Kids Eat Well initiative, the canteen has transformed its menu to include items such as veggie-loaded rice paper rolls, hidden-vegetable pastries, and home-cooked weekly specials. These changes aim to promote nutritious eating habits and support students' learning and activity levels. The school community, including staff and families, has embraced this shift towards wholesome, affordable food choices. With a focus on fresh fruits, vegetables, salads, and meats, the canteen provides a welcoming environment where students can enjoy nourishing meals.



Lego Club

LEGO Club provides students with a fun and creative space to build and collaborate using LEGO bricks. Working in small groups, students are encouraged to share ideas, solve problems together, and communicate effectively. This teamwork helps them strengthen their social skills, including cooperation, listening, and respectful turn-taking. The club not only nurtures creativity and critical thinking but also supports positive peer interactions in a relaxed and inclusive environment. Students are nominated to participate in by staff or parents, and it occurs weekly during lunch time.



Student Leadership



Student leadership is an important part of our school community, allowing students to develop responsibility, confidence, and a voice in school decisions. The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of elected students from **each class** who meet regularly to discuss student ideas, organise events, and promote school spirit. School Captains are selected and act as role models, representing the school at events and assisting with leadership duties across the school. House Captains lead their houses during events such as

athletics and cross-country, encouraging participation, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. Bus Monitors are responsible for supporting safe and respectful behaviour on the school buses, helping to ensure all students travel safely. These leadership roles provide students with valuable experience in communication, teamwork, and responsibility. Students are encouraged to take on leadership opportunities and contribute positively to our school culture. At BCS, we believe every student has the potential to lead and make a difference.



Uniform

The uniform shop is open on Monday mornings from 9:00 am, providing families with a convenient way to purchase school uniforms. The shop offers all of the approved uniform items to ensure students are dressed appropriately and comfortably for school activities. Families can also place orders online through Spriggy Schools. This allows for easy ordering and payment, with items sent home with students once processed. The uniform shop is run with the support of school staff and volunteers.

First Aid

Student safety is a priority, and we have trained staff members with relevant first aid qualifications who assess and manage any injuries that occur. In cases of serious injuries, parents or guardians are contacted promptly. For less urgent or minor injuries, an email notification is sent to families via Compass. This helps keep parents updated while minimising disruption to the parents' and students' day. The school follows clear protocols to ensure all first aid is administered safely and appropriately.



Literacy Intervention

At BCS, literacy intervention is a key focus to ensure all students develop strong reading and writing skills. Classroom teachers closely monitor student growth through regular assessment and observation during daily lessons. In addition to in-class monitoring, students complete the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment to track progress and identify areas of need. Based on these results, students who require extra support are placed in a tiered intervention program. This may include participation in evidence-based programs such as MiniLit for younger students or MacqLit for older students who need additional help with reading. These small-group sessions are designed to target specific literacy skills and build confidence. The intervention process is regularly reviewed to ensure each student is making progress. Through this approach, BCS aims to provide every student with the support they need to succeed in literacy.



Choir

All students have the opportunity to join the school choir, which meets during lunchtime. Participation is voluntary, and students from various year levels come together to share their passion for singing. The choir practices a range of songs and works towards performances at school events such as assemblies, celebrations, and community gatherings. It's a fun and supportive environment where students can build confidence, teamwork, and musical skills. Choir is a valued part of the school's arts program and is enjoyed by both participants and audiences alike.



Buses

At BCS, we are pleased to offer convenient bus services to accommodate students from a variety of neighbouring towns. Three buses run from Maffra, and additional services are available from Tinamba, Llowalong, and Coongulla. These routes ensure that students from areas such as Riverslea, Stratford, Coongulla, Bundalaguah, Briagolong, Maffra, Newry, and Tinamba can easily access the school. The best part is that these bus services are provided at no cost to families, ensuring all students have safe and reliable transportation. We are committed to making it easier for students to attend school, no matter where they live.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is highly valued at BCS, and we recognise the important role families play in supporting student learning and wellbeing. There are many opportunities for parents and carers to get involved in school life, from helping in classrooms and attending **excursions** to **volunteering at events** or in the **canteen**. Parents can also participate in **school committees**, such as **School Council** or **Parents and Friends**, contributing to decisions that shape the school's direction. Regular communication through Compass, newsletters, and parent-





teacher meetings helps keep families informed and engaged. We also encourage parents to **attend** assemblies, special events, and student performances to celebrate their child's achievements. Parent input is always welcome, and we strive to create a school community where everyone feels valued and included. Whether through small acts of help or ongoing involvement, every contribution makes a difference. Together, we build a supportive and connected school environment for all.

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Provided by TheirCare

BCS is proud to partner with **TheirCare** to provide high-quality **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)** for our students. This service supports families by offering safe, engaging, and convenient care both before and after the school day. TheirCare delivers a program that focuses on fun, inclusion, creativity, and wellbeing.

OSHC Operating Hours:

- **Before School Care:** 6:30am – 8:45am
- **After School Care:** 3:10pm – 6:00pm
- **Holiday Programs and Curriculum Days**

Key Features of TheirCare at BCS:

- A warm and caring environment led by experienced educators
- A wide range of **indoor and outdoor activities**, including arts and crafts, games, sports, and quiet time
- **Healthy snacks** provided during sessions
- Easy and flexible **online booking system**
- **Child Care Subsidy (CCS)** available for eligible families

TheirCare works closely with the school to ensure consistency, safety, and a smooth transition between the classroom and care settings. It's a great option for working families or those looking for additional enrichment opportunities for their children.

For more information, to register, or to book a session, visit:

👉 www.theircare.com.au

or contact TheirCare Customer Support on **1300 072 410**.