

Cheshire School
583 Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150
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www.bestchance.org.au

CHESHIRE SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

2013 - 2014

Empowering children to succeed



About Cheshire School

The Cheshire School provides a specialised twelve month intervention program to support children from prep through to grade six, who are unable to continue their education in a mainstream school due to significant social, emotional and behavioural problems.

The program is designed to support children and their families by providing them with a caring, supportive environment to identify the fundamental causes for a child's behaviour and to 'un-learn' these disruptive behaviours that may have become part of the child's coping mechanism. Most importantly Cheshire gives children opportunities to learn skills and learn to identify and normalise their feelings of sadness, anger and frustration and express their emotions in a socially acceptable manner. Some of the issues the children have presented include Asperger's Syndrome, Depression, Anxiety, ADHD and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



Teaching standards and qualifications

All teachers employed at the Cheshire School are registered with the VIT

In 2013, 3 full time teachers, .5 psychologist, .2 speech pathologist, .2 administration assistant and 1 full time team manager were employed. There were no indigenous employees

Student attendance:

The rates of attendance for the 2013 year as reported in the annual student attendance data for DEEWR is 75%

The Cheshire School complies with the Australian Education Act (2013) that requires children of school age to be in full-time attendance at school. Please see the information below for detail on the attendance policy.

- All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent.
- Illness is reasonable grounds for absence.
- Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and are only absent if unwell or if absolutely necessary.
- Parents have a responsibility to provide a written note or telephone call to the school explaining why an absence has occurred.
- All student absences are recorded in both the morning and the afternoon by teachers.
- Government departments and enrolment auditors may seek student attendance records.
- Staff will contact parents with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, with the view to developing and implementing strategies to minimise absences

Standardised Assessments

All parents/guardians of eligible students opted out of NAPLAN testing in 2013.

School Satisfaction

Student Satisfaction


Each student writes of their experience at different times during their program. Below are examples from students who were students in 2013

About our Parent Dinner:

*"I had fun. We got to cook for a couple of days before it and then serve it to our parents. It made me feel happy." Jack**

*"I had fun helping Lisa with the lasagne. I learnt how to grate an egg. It tasted good in the lasagne. It was fun serving my sister and my mum." Nick**

*"When we first heard that there was going to be a dinner, I was scared but on the night, I got over it pretty quick. Knowing what was going to happen helped me. I felt very happy on the night and I'm glad I did it." John **



*“I’m very glad that my mum was happy. At first I was a bit nervous and then I became confident. I’d like to thank the teachers for making it so special.” Ned**

Things we are grateful for:

James*; *“I am grateful for being at this school, especially for the teachers”*

John*; *“I am grateful for all of the excursions and all of the friends I have at Cheshire”*

Ben*; *“I am grateful for cooking tacos with meat, lettuce, salsa sauce and sour cream”*

Oscar*; *“I am grateful for going on the bus to the playground with the big kids”*

Ethan*; *“I am grateful for being taken to the junk factory and getting a pretend phone and an ice cream”*

Jack*; *“I am grateful for Amanda teaching us”*

***Names changed to protect privacy**



Parent Feedback:

The parent body is surveyed at the end of each school year. 80% of parents indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program.

The following are direct quotes taken from responses to that survey.

"The school is so very caring and concerned for all family members"

"The school helps to turn negatives into positives"

"(My son) is now doing so well in his first year of mainstream school. We were extremely lucky to have such an excellent team looking after (our son)"

"We never feel judged in any way. We are really grateful for the support we received for (our son)"

"Cheshire is a great program that I have highly recommended to other with children in similar situations"



Financial Activities

Financial reports are contained in the bestchance Annual Report 2013-2014, which is available on the bestchance website

Contact Information

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