

FACT SHEET: Schooling Sectors in Western Australia

In Western Australia there are three schooling sectors available including Independent, Catholic and State government, with a range of supports for children with ASD.



**Association
of
Independent
Schools of
WA**



**Catholic
Education
WA**



**Department
of Education**

Understanding what each school sector offers will help you make the most informed choice for your child and family. This fact sheet aims to help you to understand the options available in the three school sectors.

Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA)

- AISWA is the main body representing Independent Schools in Western Australia.
- There are over 150 schools, including:
 - Steiner;
 - Anglican;
 - Montessori; and
 - 15 Indigenous Schools.
- A number of schools have Education Support Centres where students may receive additional support with specialist staff.
- Consultant Teachers provide support to the schools encouraging a whole school approach; providing training to staff and students to support children with disabilities to access the curriculum.
- Individual schools apply to AISWA for funding from the federal government to support children with disabilities.
- All registered non-government schools are eligible to access psychology services through the Non-Government School Psychology Service, funded by the state government.
- To find out more information about the AISWA please visit <http://www.ais.wa.edu.au>.

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Catholic Education WA

- Catholic Education is the state's second largest education sector, educating 18% of all school-aged children in WA.
- The Catholic Education Office receives funding from the Commonwealth government to support children with disabilities.
- The Catholic Education Office: Students with a Disability Team provide support by:
 - Helping parents find suitable school placements
 - Assisting catholic schools to assess their resources and skills in relation to particular student needs
 - Assisting catholic schools in accessing funding and resources for students with special needs.
 - Working with schools and parents to develop Individual Education Plans for students or to make curriculum modifications
 - Working with school staff and school boards to represent the needs of students with disabilities in school policy
- In Catholic schools consulting teachers may provide schools with information on specific disabilities and support the training of school staff in teaching/ management strategies for particular students or groups of students. Teaching assistant time may be provided for certain times or activities in education programs.
- A number of schools have Education Support Centres where students may receive additional support with specialist staff.

To find out more information about the Catholic Education schooling sector visit www.ceo.wa.edu.au



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Department of Education

There are a number of different schooling options in the state school system – as reflected below:

Kindergarten and Pre-Primary Only

- ***Accelerated Learning Centre for Autism***
The ALCA program is offered for students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. This program provides 2 years of intensive behavioural intervention based on Applied Behavioural Analysis and the Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLLS) protocol. Please contact the Autism Education Service* for more information and the eligibility criteria.
- ***Education Support Centre Early Intervention Program***
There are a number of Education Support Centres that offer early intensive behavioural intervention programs. The programs are based on Applied Behavioural Analysis for small groups of children who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Global Development Delay. Please contact the Autism Education Service* directly for more information and the eligibility criteria.

Year 7 to Year 10

- ***Autism Extension Program***
Autism Extension Programs operate in four selected secondary schools. Students eligible for this program have the potential to achieve success in mainstream schooling and beyond, but are at risk of failure or disengagement due to the complexities of the impact of autism at the secondary level. The Autism Extension Programs focus on the achievement of positive academic, social and emotional outcomes to maximise access to further education and employment success. Please contact the Autism Education Service* for more information and the eligibility criteria.

Kindergarten to Year 12

- ***Mainstream School***
Children attend their local government school in the mainstream class for their age group. Schools can receive funding and allocate this funding to spend on resources, training and teaching assistant time in the classroom. Contact your local public school for more information.
- ***Education Support Centre***
Education Support Centres are located onsite at select mainstream schools and provide specialist education programs for children with additional needs. Please contact the Education Support Centre Principal for more information and the eligibility criteria.
- ***Education Support School***
Education Support Schools are specialist schools that only cater for children with additional needs. Some Education Support Schools offer early intervention programs for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Please contact the Education Support School principal directly for more information and the eligibility criteria.
- ***Home Education***
Parents may choose to home school their child. The home educator is fully responsible for the child's education program including planning the program, obtaining materials, delivering and monitoring the program. The home schooling program is regulated by the Department of Education. Please contact the Home Education Moderator at your nearest Regional Education Office for more information.

* Autism Education Service (AES) provided by the School of Special Educational Needs Disability (SSEND)

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Specialised ASD Learning Programs

Students with autism requiring complex supports have the option to enrol in schools with new specialized learning programs that commenced in 2017. Sixteen mainstream schools will be selected to run the \$32 million specialist autism programs by 2020:

- **2018 Primary Programs:** Gosnells Primary School, Marangaroo Primary School, Heathridge Primary School, Samson Primary School, Cooina Primary School
- **2018 Secondary Programs:** Fremantle College; Ashdale Secondary School, Ocean Reef Senior High School, Southern River College
- **2019 Primary Programs:** North Mandurah Primary School, Alkimos Primary School, Coo롱gup Primary School
- **2019 Secondary Programs:** Eaton College Secondary
- **2020 Secondary Programs:** Baldivis Secondary College, Coodanup College, Butler North Secondary

The program caters for specific needs of students from Kindergarten to Year 12 with a diagnosis of ASD. Typically between 22 and 25 students in each primary program and between 12 and 18 students in each secondary program will be enrolled. Eligibility criteria apply. Please see the Department of Education website for further information www.det.wa.edu.au.

The **School of Special Educational Needs: Disability (SEND)** provides statewide support to schools to support students with disabilities and learning disabilities. This includes the provision of resources, consultant teachers and professional learning for schools. These services are available by school principal invitation only. Speak to your teacher about the possibility of your school accessing these supports. For more information visit: www.ssend.wa.edu.au.



To find out more information about the Department of Education please visit:
<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do>

For any further information relating to your child, please contact the Autism Association of WA on:

(08) 9489 8900 | autismwa@autism.org.au
www.autism.org.au