

School Jargon Busters

Learning the language of school is another way to connect with our children's learning.

AP – Assistant Principal

Algorithm – A step by step method for solving problems in maths.

BOS – Board of Studies NSW - The body responsible for the development of core syllabuses for Kindergarten to Year 12. It also manages external examinations such as the Higher School Certificate.

CAPA – Creative and performing arts - a key learning area covering visual arts, dance, drama and music

CCSP – Council of Catholic School Parents. Parent association made up of parent representatives from each of the 11 diocese in NSW and The ACT.

Cluster – The Broken Bay Diocese is made up of three geographical clusters – Central Coast, North Shore and Peninsula.

CSO – Catholic Schools Office

Curriculum – The Australian curriculum in NSW is the planned program of teaching and learning constructed by educators, in partnership with learners and others, to achieve agreed educational outcomes.

DEC – Department of Education and Communities (NSW)

DPC – Diocesan Parent Council. Parent body with representatives from schools in each of the 3 clusters in the Broken Bay Diocese.

English – students learn about and learn to use English language and literature. Students respond to and compose texts of many kinds, e.g. film, plays, novels

Exposition – A type of text. Give reasons for a point of view to try and convince others of it.

Grammar – Grammar is a way of describing how language works.

HSIE – In Human society and its environment students study history, geography, civics and citizenship.

ICT – Information and communication technologies.

IEP – Individual education plan

Information Report – A type of text. Classifies, describes and gives factual information about people, animals, things or phenomena.

Information literacy – The ability to find, collect, organise, evaluate and use information.

IWB – Interactive whiteboards, also referred to as electronic whiteboards, are technology tools for

KLAs – Key learning areas: In primary school they are English, mathematics, science and technology, human society and its environment (HSIE), personal development, health and physical education (PDHPE), and creative arts

Learning Stages – Schooling in NSW follows a curriculum based on stages of learning. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years.

Typical age	Year of school	Stage of learning
4-6	Kindergarten	Early Stage 1
6-8	Years 1 - 2	Stage 1
9-10	Years 3 - 4	Stage 2
11-12	Years 5 - 6	Stage 3
13-14	Years 7 - 8	Stage 4
15-16	Years 9 - 10	Stage 5
17-18	Years 11 - 12	Stage 6

Learning support team – school staff who meet regularly and work together to further support students with additional learning needs.

Literacy – The ability to read, write and use information appropriately. It includes speaking, listening and critical thinking.

Mathematics – It's often shortened to 'maths' and includes the study of number, patterns and algebra, measurement, data, space and geometry.

School Jargon Busters

Learning the language of school is another way to connect with our children's learning.

Mufti Day – Casual dress day. Schools sometimes allow students to wear something other than their uniform on a special day. It may be themed (for example on Harmony Day the school may decide everyone can wear orange clothing as part of the school celebrations). Sometimes it's a fundraising opportunity to raise money for charity. The school will always notify parents in advance of a mufti day.

NAPLAN – The National Assessment Program consists of national tests held in literacy and numeracy for all students in Australia at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Narrative - A type of text. Tells a story using a series of events.

Numeracy – Basic skills in mathematics.

OOSH – Centres that offer care for kids out of school hours. Many schools have an OOSH centre located on site, or close by.

Outcomes – The knowledge, skills, values and attitudes expected to be developed by the end of a programme of learning

P and F – Parents and Friends Association give busy parents the opportunity to play an active role in their child's school life. Most schools have a P & F which meets each term to discuss and plan ways they can support the school through parental engagement, community activities and fundraising.

PDHPE – Personal development, health and physical education.

Pedagogy – The art and science of teaching.

Procedure – A type of text. Gives instructions on how to make or do something.

REC - Religious Education Co-Ordinator. Teacher whose role it is to plan, direct or co-ordinate programmes designed to promote religious education or activities within the school and is the 3rd most senior member of the school executive team.

Recount – A type of text. Retells events which have already happened in time order. Eg. A journal or historical report, a science experiment.

Reports – All schools are required to report to parents about student academic and non-academic learning in plain English. Twice yearly reports from your child's teacher give information about how your child is achieving and progressing.

Science –in primary school science students learn about natural and built environments.

Staff Development Day – Pupil free day. Staff engage in professional learning.

Syllabus – The description of what students are expected to learn in a course of study or key learning

Text Type – A variety of spoken, written and visual texts for different purposes and audiences. Different types of writing, eg. Narrative, exposition, recount, procedure, information report.

A more comprehensive listing of school terms is available on the NSW's Government's [School AtoZ](#) website. You can also find tips, help sheets and more in depth definitions and explanations.