

# Our Place Partnership at Westall



**ourplace**  
education is the key to the door



# Our Place Westall

**Our Place and our partners are working together to support the education, health and development of children and families in the Westall community. We connect people and services through the local school and Early Years Provider to improve outcomes for children. Our Place has a 10-year commitment to the Westall community.**

**Our Place is based in the joined-up Westall Community Hub, and Westall Primary School. The community has access to many services and programs at the Westall Community Hub which includes a library. Westall Secondary College is also on site, meaning that children have access to services and education from birth to secondary education.**

## OUR PLACE WESTALL VISION

A welcoming and safe place for children, family, and community to learn, belong, and thrive together to achieve great life outcomes.

## WE ACHIEVE THIS BY FOCUSING ON:

- Convening local organisations to work together with a shared vision.
- Collating and building the evidence for what support is needed in the Westall community. Providing information and support to local families
- Supporting children and families to access health and wellbeing support services they need.
- Creating ways for children and families to be involved in the local community and join in activities.
- Understanding the barriers that prevent children's attendance at school.
- Forming a connection between families and the community and exploring family-based activities.

## WHO WE ARE WORKING WITH:

Our Place works with our partners to support children and families in the Westall community. We also work with many other local organisations to provide help or services onsite or nearby.

Our Site Partnership Group includes:

- Westall Primary School
- Westall Secondary College
- Westall Kindergarten
- City of Kingston
- Kingston Libraries
- Department of Education
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

## TALKING TO THE WESTALL COMMUNITY

We know it is important to understand the local community and people's goals. So, we have listened to parents and carers, consulted with local services, and considered information about children, families, and the community from various sources to prepare our plans.

Based on this information the site partners have chosen four priorities where we will work together.



## Priority 1

# Connecting children to services to support their health and development.

**A child's greatest learning and development period is between the ages of 0 to 6. This is when children need the greatest support. Identifying any health or development issues early can have life-long benefits.**

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Some families need assistance accessing early years services including early learning, health, and allied health services to ensure children are developing well, and getting the help they need earlier.

There is a need for more information for parents about the purpose and availability of educational and health and wellbeing services. The community at Westall is highly diverse and language is often a barrier for families to seek out support and services.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Support families to gain understanding of the health and education services for their children.
- Find solutions where there are gaps in services.
- Improve coordination between services onsite so children can get access to the support they need early.

## Priority 2

# Children are engaged and supported in their learning.

**Learning and social opportunities throughout childhood help children achieve as learners. Early learning and development, high-quality schooling and enrichment activities help ensure that children are on the right path to success in all areas of life.**

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

Some parents need support to engage with and confidence to support their child's learning. Some families may not be aware that there is information for them that can support their children's learning and development, because they have recently arrived in Australia.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Increase in parent involvement in on-site programs and activities that support engagement in their child's learning.
- Find improved ways to communicate with parents about their child's learning, and how they can support it.
- Provide activities to support positive home learning environment and encourage parents' engagement in children's learning, such as reading at home.







## Priority 3

# Improve attendance for learning.

**Regular attendance in early learning and school settings is important for children's social and emotional development as well as their learning. A welcoming learning environment, positive attendance habits and tailored support for attendance can make a difference.**

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

There was a decline in attendance at school, early learning and other settings since the COVID pandemic. For some children attendance at school has remained low.

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Work closely with families to understand barriers to attendance and support them to access help if needed.
- Build on the positive school and early years culture and grow the supports for children's wellbeing available at Westall.



## Priority 4

# Families in Westall feel connected to the community.

**Participating in activities of interest builds connectedness amongst parents and fosters a sense of belonging in the community and helps address social isolation.**

### THIS IS WHAT WE HEARD

We heard that after the pandemic families seeking greater connection with other families and opportunities to engage in community and recreational activities. We also heard that people in the community are interested in getting to know other people. After the pandemic we heard from the community that people were seeking greater connection

### THIS IS WHAT WE WILL DO

- Explore opportunities for social connection for new families arriving at the school and kindergarten and make the most of the community spaces available.
- Continuing to connect families to the range of activities available at the Westall Hub and Library
- Increase the use of school facilities for community activities.







### How to get involved?

Our Place believes that community collaboration is vital to developing a shared approach for improving outcomes for children and families. We will continue to listen to the community to help us know what is working and where further effort is needed.



Our Place Westall is located at Westall Primary School and Westall Community Hub.



If you have any questions, or want to know more, you can visit us in person or contact [westall@ourplace.org.au](mailto:westall@ourplace.org.au)



You can find out more information at <https://ourplace.org.au/our-sites/westall/>



Our Place welcomes all families and children. We acknowledge the First Nations people of Australia and Traditional Custodians of the lands that we live and work on. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

