



**WESTERN RIVERINA
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**



Information Booklet

WRCS is a secondary school, set within an adult learning environment. The school provides an affordable, engaging learning opportunity for young people who are unable to find success in a traditional educational setting. WRCS provides students with the opportunity to learn, grow and achieve success through a smaller, more supportive environment.

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Our Mission

To provide young people who are unlikely to find success in a traditional school setting with **new educational opportunities**, in a framework that understands the individual's learning and personal needs.



School Information

Western Riverina Community School (WRCS)

is a registered and accredited non-government school specifically designed for the inclusion of those young people who have been unable to complete their studies in mainstream schools.

The School model adopted by WRCS began in 2002 and is aligned with the ALESCO model developed in Newcastle, NSW. ALESCO is Latin for growth and maturity. Since the model's inception it has proven to be a successful model for many young people across the State who are ready and willing to take control of their own learning and their future.

It is an education option designed for students aged 15-18 years who have not thrived in a traditional school and who may not be ready for TAFE. We are not politically or religiously affiliated.

WRCS offers students in Years 9 and 10 the opportunity to gain their Record of School Achievement. We deliver the 5 mandatory subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography, and Personal Health, Development and Physical Education.

We offer students in Years 11 and 12 access to a curriculum leading to a Stage 6 Certificate. We do not offer a Higher School Certificate Credential.

The greatest difference between us and many other alternative education settings is that our foundations lay in Adult Education philosophies. **Choice, independence, mutual respect, accountability all have a significant role to play. WRCS is based on the values of respect, responsibility and positivity.**

Smaller class sizes (approximately 15 per class) allow students greater opportunity to identify their strengths and work to improve the areas in which they lack confidence.

Students have access to additional student support through the wellbeing officer and youth support worker. They are available to work with students providing additional support, which is important to achieve intended social and learning outcomes.

WRCS provides students with the opportunity to learn in an environment that is based on adult learning philosophies. In return for higher levels of self-responsibility, the students can enjoy some greater freedoms. Sometimes the difficulties the students have with the traditional school is the level of constraints they experience.

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The significant key is

EMPOWERMENT

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Some vital differences

- EVERY student attends because they have a desire to make a difference to generating positive visions of their future.
- We don't take students who think they are being 'forced' to attend.
- EVERY student has the opportunity to make choices about their role as a student.
- Stronger support is available for those students who need it.
- Students and teachers are on a first name basis.
- Smaller class/ school size means we get to know you as an individual.
- The more you put in, the more you get out of the course.
- It is not a TIME OUT program.

Curriculum

At WRCS we have the ability to tailor a student's program to their capabilities. We are registered and accredited to offer students either General Curriculum Subjects, Generic Life Skills or a combination of both programs, depending on their needs.

We offer students the opportunity to gain accreditation in a NSW Education Standards Authority Record of School Achievement, just as they would in any other traditional school, at the completion of Year 10. Year 11 and 12 students also complete curriculum subjects that give an alternate credential to the Higher School Certificate. The subjects we currently offer are:

GRADE	Year 9 and 10	Year 11 and 12
Content:	English Math Science PDHPE Geography History	English Studies Mathematics Standard 1 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Visual Design VET Subjects

Hours of operation + Fees

Program Hours

Hours of operation are
Monday to Friday,
9:15am – 2:30pm

Structure of School Day

Students attend four hour-long periods from
Monday-Thursday.

They have 2 periods in the morning (9:30-11:30),
a 45 minute lunch break at 11:30am-12:15pm, and
then two periods in the afternoon, finishing at 2:30pm.
On Fridays, the structure of the day is different and
students complete a more flexible program.

School Fees

There is a Resource Fee of;

- \$50 per year for Year 9 & 10
- \$50 per year for Year 11 & 12



We tailor a student's

program to their

CAPABILITIES



Term Dates for 2020

WRCS terms generally correspond to NSW school term dates. There will be some variations during the year when staff attend professional development and also around excursions, exams and graduation etc.

For specific details please contact the school directly.

TERM	Start	Finish
One	28 January 2020	9 April 2020
Two	27 April 2020	3 July 2020
Three	20 July 2020	25 September 2020
Four	12 October 2020	18 December 2020

Students will be notified of changes to these dates throughout the year as they arise.

WRCS always provides written information when the regular school hours are disrupted.

Campus information

Western Riverina Community School

Inauguration: 1st January 2018
Shared space with: Western Riverina
Community College Inc.
Maximum Enrollments: 45
Students per class: approximately 15

Staffing

- 2 full time Teachers and 5 part time Teachers
- 1 Head Teacher
- 1 Wellbeing Officer
- 1 Youth Support Worker
- 1 Administrator
- 1 Principal

We also have friends operating schools in Albury Wodonga, Bankstown, Illawarra, Tuggerah Lakes, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Bathurst – we do not directly operate these campuses.

Principal: David Martin

Administrator: Cathy Ziliotto

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Our foundations lay
in adult education
PHILOSOPHIES

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How to enrol

All enrolments require completion of an application for enrolment form and the applicant's attendance at a formal interview process. Application forms are available from WRCS.

Email **communityschool@wracs.nsw.edu.au**
or call **Western Riverina Community College Inc.**
02 6964 5334

After we receive your application, it will join the list of students waiting for intake. At certain times in the year, we will contact students on the list to check they still wish to apply. Students are then offered an opportunity to attend an interview.

Approximate dates for these intake times are:

ROUND ONE	October-December in the year prior to enrolment
ROUND TWO	December-January prior to the commencement year
MID-YEAR	Dependent on availability of places

Students will not be enrolled without attending an interview. Parents are welcome to join their student for the interview, but it is the student that we are interested most in talking to.

We will ask questions about previous schooling and why they want to attend WRCS. We will ask about any relevant health history or behavioural incidents. We may also ask about their support networks or peer networks. People who participate in the interview with an openness and willingness to embrace change have the best chance of gaining a position within the school.

We may have more young people on the list than we can place, so please note - an interview is not a guarantee of enrolment.

The WRCS selection criteria look at these key areas:

- Behavioural difficulties / disabilities
- Social disadvantage or isolation
- Financial disadvantage
- Learning difficulties / disabilities
- Age
- Academic level
- ESL / ATSI

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Success relies on
the **INDIVIDUAL'S**
desire to make
it happen

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