

# Comet Bay Statement of Play

At Comet Bay Primary School, we believe that play is the heartbeat of early learning. Our educators are deeply attuned to each child's unique strengths, capabilities, and curiosity, responding in ways that place the development of oral language at the core of our philosophy. We see language as a vital foundation for learning, self-expression, and connection, woven through every playful interaction, story, and shared experience.

We honour play as a fundamental right and a powerful pathway for growth, fostering agency, autonomy, hands-on exploration, inquiry, and inclusivity within responsive learning relationships. Our approach celebrates diversity and embraces culturally responsive practices, respecting different ways of knowing, doing, and being. In our multi-age classes, children learn from and alongside each other, nurturing collaboration, empathy, and an appreciation of different perspectives.

Play at Comet Bay is both a context for learning and a process of discovery. Through carefully designed, intentional learning environments, guided by the belief that all environments act as the 'third teacher', children are encouraged to ask questions, solve problems, and think critically. Every space and experience is deliberately crafted to spark curiosity, invite exploration, and provide opportunities for extending thinking in authentic, meaningful ways.

Recognising that each child is unique, we design learning experiences that foster creativity, problem-solving, and a sense of wonder. Through thoughtful planning and responsive interactions, educators scaffold learning so children can explore concepts and develop skills that form the foundations of lifelong learning. Oral language development is embedded across all experiences, whether in storytelling, dramatic play, collaborative projects, or moments of spontaneous conversation, empowering children to share ideas, express themselves, and connect with others.

We value and support risky play within safe boundaries, understanding its role in building resilience, confidence, and risk assessment skills. Our children are given opportunities to test their limits, challenge themselves, and grow within a supportive environment that champions both safety and courage.

Guided by the evolving needs of our students and informed by the latest research, Comet Bay remains committed to continuous improvement and innovation in our play-based practices. We strive to keep our approach relevant, effective, and inspiring, ensuring it reflects the best of what we know about how children learn.

Ultimately, our play philosophy reflects our commitment to nurturing the whole child, socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively. We aim to instil a lifelong love of learning, encouraging every child to grow into a curious, confident, and self-directed learner who feels a deep sense of belonging and joy in their school community.