

Strong positional statement

Peregrine School

Caring for the whole child

Statement of intent

Our children learn in the real world as much as in the classroom. We offer a robust framework in which children steer their own learning. We judge our success by each child's progress, not through testing.

Call-to-action modules x 3

1. **Module text** Playgroup (inc learning environment)

Sub-page text

2. **Module text** Tours

Sup-page text

3. **Module text** Admissions

Sub-page text

Who are we

Who are we?

Our school looks a lot like a family home. It works that way too. We are a small clan. We all know each other's names, and we know each other as people. We aim to understand how each one of our children learns, and how best we can teach each one.

Link button: Get to know us

Second-level page:

Who are we?

Peregrine was founded in 2000 by a small group of parents. They had thought about what they wanted for their own children. They pictured a school where children learn through play, creativity and nature. Literacy and numeracy would pop up in the veggie patch, the bush or the kitchen just as often as in the classroom.

Our school looks a lot like a family home. It works that way too. We are a small clan. We all know each other's names, and we know each other as people. We aim to understand how each one of our children learns, and how best we can teach each one.

Our school sits on the edge of seven acres of our own bushland. A rivulet runs through, and so does the wildlife. (Helper Suzy might even have an orphaned joey in her jumper.) Our children get muddy and get challenged. We are down to earth – in our thinking and in our work and play.

We are now coming of age as a school. Our community has grown from 14 children to 70. We think that's enough for one family, so we won't be getting any bigger. But we haven't stopped working out the best way to teach our children. We'll change that as often as we need to.

Modules

Where are we?

Nicholls Rivulet lies in a bushy valley in Southern Tasmania.

Link button Explore

What are we?

We are an independent but accessible, non-government school.

Link button Learn more

What you'll find

A homely setting, with a range of beautiful facilities.

Link button Explore

The above modules link to the following **third-level pages**:

Where are we?

Peregrine lies in a bushy valley in Southern Tasmania. We are halfway between the famously creative township of Cygnet, and Oyster Cove, on the beautiful D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Find us at

1118 Nicholls Rivulet Road
Nicholls Rivulet Tasmania 7112

03 6295 1300

admin@peregrine.tas.edu.au

What are we?

We are an independent, non-government, non-denominational school. We try to be accessible to everyone. We keep our fees as low as possible, while teaching in very small groups. We offer several financial plans to help families have the choice to send their children to Peregrine. Please take a look at our [fees section](#) to find out more.

We are around two-thirds government-funded. The remainder comes from fees and fundraising, through programs like our [sail bags](#) and [wooden boat raffle](#).

What you'll find

Our snug timber buildings and stone walls feel like home. Even our larger hall space is cosy. But many a chef would be jealous of our children – they help with meals in our smart, airy kitchen, which is fitted and kitted out to a T.

Our seven acres of bushland are the school's most eye-catching feature. But this year we are adding beautiful new features to our grounds.

There'll be a rock-garden sandpit, water play features, a fairy garden, a slide and swings. A new outdoor teaching area (complete with fire pit and pizza oven) will smooth the flow between indoor and outdoor learning even more. We'll have a new playing field and horse-riding and games arena.

Our young gardeners can look forward to trying permaculture and organic methods in our new greenhouses and bigger garden, and to looking after the chooks.

Of course, there'll still be lots of natural outdoor space for creative play.

Why Peregrine

Why Peregrine?

[Summary paragraph \(linking to second-level page\):](#)

From kindie onwards, our children get all the teacher commitment they need. Our small groups and intimate school community free us to tailor each child's experience. Our students learn in the real world as well as in the classroom, and leave Peregrine as more creative, resilient, social people.

[Action button](#) – What we offer

Why Peregrine?

Happiness

Happiness leads to success, not the other way round. From kindergarten through to year 6, we strive to help our children grow socially and emotionally. This is the basis that makes healthy learning possible. If you're sad because you're not making friends, how do you concentrate on learning to spell?

Time

We lavish attention, time and care on each child from the moment they arrive aged four until they leave us. In our little school of around 70 children, all the teachers know every child's name. Each group has only 12 to 16 students.

This frees our teachers to help children work through any learning or emotional problem, however long it takes. It frees us to build individual learning programs to fit each child. It frees our children to be who they need to be.

Freedom

Our size and independence mean that, when something's not working, we just change it. We can design the curriculum that works best for our children and adapt it as we go. During the school day, we can focus on teaching whatever is right in the moment. When Phoebe's group had a sudden urge to practise their times tables, she was happy to drop everything!

Learning in context

What does a child remember best? The maths taught from the whiteboard or down by the rivulet? The literacy learnt at a desk or in the veggie patch? The science learned by rote or while building a robot? We teach through activity and play, mixing healthy life skills with academic learning. But we always reinforce our learning with classroom sessions.

Success

We measure our success through the progress each individual child makes. For some of the children who join us, the emphasis is on helping them address serious emotional challenges. Some of our earlier leavers are now making their mark as adults – in marine biology or national television. Our former students frequently win their high-school citizenship awards, which probably says most of all about our definition of success.

Peregrineness

Can you spot a Peregrine child? Our care in growing our children's whole personalities gives them strong self-esteem, and healthy awareness of their strengths and weaknesses. They are resilient, adaptable and unfazed by challenge and change. That's because our approach to teaching is fluid and we give our children real responsibility.

Statement of learning

[Our mixed age groups make children self-assured. You might see a year 6 child playing in the sandpit, or a year 1 child confidently joining in soccer with year 6 children.](#)

Our philosophy

The name Peregrine comes from the Latin for 'traveller'. Latin isn't really our thing (unless perhaps the children choose ancient Rome for their next group topic) but we like the ideas of soaring and freedom.

That's why we aren't tied to any one educational system. We relish the freedom to cherry-pick the ideas we feel work best. That goes for our children too: they have an important say in choosing what to learn and at what pace. (This definitely isn't the same as doing what they like.)

Community

Community living is the fabric of our school life: it's how we learn, how we eat, and how we function.

We learn in mixed-age groups, which foster natural bonds between the students, and with teachers and helpers. It helps our children help each other to learn as a team.

The children eat in mixed-age groups of ten, chosen at the start of the year, for morning tea and lunch. They help with growing and preparing the food, and cleaning up.

Parents are an important part of our community – in daily learning, on excursions, at working bees, at parent meetings and on parent teams.

Responsibility

Part of living in a community is sharing the jobs that need to be done to keep it functioning well. Children at Peregrine take on tasks such as rubbish removal, library tidying, and collecting kindling.

We expect our children to be self-reliant. They venture into the bush without supervision, so long as they go in pairs and return on time.

Our children contribute. They helped plan our new veggie garden and are helping with suitable jobs on the construction of our new buildings.

Statement of learning

Peregrine children are social creatures, thanks to the community ethos that shines through our way of life.

Our program

There's no such thing as a typical day at Peregrine. But we do have a daily structure for years 1 to 6. This will feel different for each child, depending on the learning program we have built for them, or the choices they have made.

We might tweak this structure if we think we can make it better for our children.

And it will definitely be subject to interruption for all sorts of things – like snow camp, bike camp, a photography workshop, a day of origami instruction, wooden boatbuilding, a UTAS science day or a trip to Fat Pig Farm...

Our daily program

Fitness Our children enjoy 15-minute group session activities each morning.

Project-based learning Core skills are taught in the context of a theme, often chosen by our children, such as Uzbekistan, Marco Polo, or Shackleton's Antarctic expedition.

Spelling lessons Our children are grouped by ability, not age.

Core learning Literacy, numeracy, sport, Spanish, and individual independent learning.

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) Children choose an option from our afternoon STEAM program, which they will follow for one term. Our children's independent projects have included making a wind turbine, building a working model plane, and creating a cannon and the gunpowder to go with it.

Sport Our afternoon sessions range from soccer to bushwalking and orienteering, from team sports to exploring nature.

News Rocket

News Rocket

See how our children's projects are taking off!

This is the launchpad for upcoming events and trips. It's also the mission control centre for dates, announcements and meetings.

Admissions

Think ahead. Our small school is very popular and we mostly only take kindergarten admissions. Occasionally there are openings for older children. Please think carefully about whether Peregrine is the right choice for you and your child.

Modules

1

Playgroup

Come along to our playgroup for children aged four and under

Button: Come and play

2

Take a tour

Look around and check out the
Peregrine way of life

Button: Take a look

3

Come for an interview

Come and chat, so we can find
out if we're right for each other

Button: Come and talk

Second-level pages:

Playgroup

Come along to our playgroup for children aged four and under. This is open to all with no need to book. This is a great way for you and your child to get to know us, and work out if Peregrine is right for you.

Fees

We keep our fees as low as possible, while teaching in very small groups. We offer several financial plans to help families have the choice to send their children to Peregrine.

To keep our fees low, we ask parents to help with fundraising. We make sure this commitment is super flexible because we understand everyone's circumstances are different.

We offer low-income tuition fee. There are no fees for third and subsequent children in a family. We also offer a further discount when parents take part in our fundraising Sails On program.

Around one fifth of our income comes from fees, with the rest made up through government funding and fundraising.

Link Find out more

Essentials

Essentials

Welcome to our online office. This is where you can find important dates, practical information and paperwork.

Extra statement of learning missions if required – I think these could sit happily wherever they works in the design

Our students are confident talking to adults – we have no barriers between teachers and children.

Peregrine children are creative problem-solvers, formed by real-life experiences