

Communicating with schools

Communicating with your child's school helps you to stay connected and up to date on events and school opportunities.

Understanding how schools and teachers communicate with families can help you build a strong relationship with your child's school. This relationship helps advocate for your child's learning needs.

School communication

Schools may use different forms of communication for different purposes. Some common ways include:

Email

When your child enrolls in school, you provide an email address and mobile phone number for each parent or carer. These details are used for school communications.

School may email and text:

- Absence notices;
- Important updates;
- School newsletters;
- Permission forms;
- Updates on your child's progress; and
- Community information, such as bus timetables.

Newsletters

Newsletters are a regular communication from the school. They can be sent out weekly, fortnightly or monthly to give updates on the whole school. Some schools will send this out as an email, others may use an app.

Newsletters may include:

- Information from the principal;
- Recent events;
- What students are learning or doing in class;
- Information about fundraisers or upcoming events;
- School or community announcements; and
- Reminders about parent teacher nights.

Canvas Parent

Canvas Parent allows schools to communicate with families through the Canvas learning platform. Communication is in the form of 'Announcements', which go to all families, or direct messages from the teachers.

Messages may include:

- Reminders about due dates
- Notifications of results or teacher feedback on assignments
- Information about upcoming events.

Social Media

Most Tasmanian government schools have a social media page, either Facebook, Instagram or both. Social media is a great place to check if changes have been made to a school carnival or school event. These accounts are only monitored by school staff during school hours, so it is not the

most reliable way to communicate with the school. If you need a quick response, call the school office.

Official social media pages are used by schools to:

- Celebrate achievements
- Promote events
- Share updates with the whole school community.

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) uses social media to share statewide information with all families. All official school accounts state on the profile, "This page is run by the Department for Education, Children and Young People." If you are not sure which is the official school social media, check with your child's school.

School apps

Some schools may choose to use an application (app) to communicate with families.

Schools may use apps to share:

- Newsletters;
- Announcements to all families;
- Announcements to a group of families, such as families of children in Grade 9, or families of children in a certain class; and
- Examples of students' work.

Talk with your child's teachers

Talking with your child's teachers early in the school year helps build positive relationships. These relationships make it easier to identify opportunities, as well as concerns and issues early.

Contacting schools

The best way to find the contact information for your child's school is the School Directory.

All Tasmanian government schools are listed in the [School Directory](#), and it contains:

- Street address
- Postal address
- Phone number
- Fax number
- Email account
- Principal's name
- Website.

Three common apps used by schools:

- **Canvas Parent** - Canvas Parent is the department endorsed app. You can communicate with teachers, see assignments and due dates, as well as teacher feedback and results. Canvas Parent functionality depends on the settings your child's teacher chooses.
- **SchoolZine** - SchoolZine is a communication platform often used to distribute school newsletters, updates and streamline communication with families.
- **SeeSaw** - SeeSaw is an application that some schools use to share photos and updates of children's work, and to communicate with families.

Activity: Social media

If you have a social media account on your device:

- Log in or open it up and see if you can find the Department for Education, Children and Young People's page on Facebook. HINT: It might be called DECYP.
- Find your child's official school Facebook page account and explore the page.

Resources

- [DECYP: Communicating with your child's school](#)
- [DECYP website: School directory](#)
- [DECYP website: Canvas Parent](#)
- [Be Connected: Setting up and using email](#)
- [Be Connected: Introduction to social media](#)
- [Seesaw Help Center: Families and students](#)
- [Seesaw Help Centre: Family handout](#)

For the latest
information,
scan the QR code.

