

Enrolment information for Niddrie Autistic School

Our school provides specialised education for autistic students from Foundation to Year 3. As a government specialist school we have **specific enrolment eligibility criteria** (see page 4) set by the Department of Education (DE).

At Niddrie Autistic School, individual students are at the centre of curriculum planning and delivery. Student learning priorities are identified and addressed in Individual Education Plans (IEP).

Our purpose is to build on individual strengths and interests to promote engagement with learning and to address individual learning needs.

Our intensive early years program aims to optimise each student's skills and support them to move on to a non-autism specific school setting. We provide intensive, personalised teaching in the areas of communication, social development and emotional literacy. We provide a wholistic curriculum based on student strengths, interests and learning preferences.

Teachers incorporate Individual Education Plans and Victorian Curriculum priorities into a range of lessons (cooking, music, community excursions and play) aimed at learning and applying communication, literacy, numeracy and social skills.

Application process for prospective 2026 Foundation/Prep students

- Complete the [Application to Enrol at Niddrie Autistic School](#)
- **Book a school tour - [Enrolment - Niddrie Autistic School](#)**
- **Gather any supporting documentation about your child that may address our enrolment eligibility criteria (refer to page 4)**
These may be copies of reports or letters:
 - that were provided when your child was **diagnosed with Autism**
 - from assessment or intervention with a **Speech Pathologist**
 - from assessment or intervention with a **Psychologist**
 - from appointments with a **Paediatrician** or Psychiatrist
- Submit **Application to Enrol at Niddrie Autistic School** with supporting documentation to the **Niddrie Autistic School** office or email to niddrie.autistic.sch@education.vic.gov.au with the subject line: [Application to Enrol 2026 – YOUR CHILD'S NAME](#).

Wait to hear from a Niddrie Autistic School (NAS) representative by phone or email

They will either:

Confirm that the documentation that has been provided addresses each checklist item.

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A Niddrie Autistic School representative will lodge a Disability Category Verification Request on your behalf

With your consent, this form and all relevant supporting documentation will be emailed to the Department’s Specialist School Enrolment Verification Service who will check that your child meets the enrolment criteria for our school.

Notification of Outcome
A NAS representative will share the outcome of the Specialist School Disability Verification Request with you when they are notified by the Department, usually within 7 business days.

Verified = can enrol at NAS
Not verified = cannot enrol at NAS

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Advise that further documentation is required to explore eligibility for enrolment at Niddrie Autistic School.

Please connect with your local government school
State that you are seeking their assistance with exploring your child’s eligibility to attend NAS in 2026.

The school will **connect you with a staff member** who will help you navigate this process.

Share a copy of the completed **Application to Enrol at NAS** and copies of the required supporting documents (see page 4) with this person.

They will **outline what further information is required** and discuss options for obtaining this with you.

Where required, a referral may be made to a Speech Pathologist and/or a Psychologist from the **Department’s Student Support Services** to obtain information about your child’s adaptive behaviour and/or language skills.
Your child will be provisionally enrolled at this school to facilitate this request.
The school contact will obtain your written consent prior to any referral being made.

Your local government school representative will lodge a Disability Category Verification Request on your behalf

With your consent, this form and all relevant supporting documentation will be emailed to the Department’s Specialist School Enrolment Verification Service who will check that your child meets the enrolment criteria for our school.

Notification of Outcome
Your local government school will share the outcome of the Specialist School Disability Verification Request with you when they are notified by the Department, usually within 7 business days.

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Once verification has been received, the school will contact you to confirm whether you would like to accept a place for your child.

If you accept the offer, an enrolment pack will be mailed out. This pack will include the enrolment form, Information on orientation and details about the start of the 2026 school year.

Students who do not meet eligibility criteria for enrolment at Niddrie Autistic School

Many Autistic students will not meet the eligibility criteria for enrolment at NAS.

In Victoria, all students with disability can enrol in their local government school or any other government mainstream school provided there is sufficient accommodation.

There are also a range of government specialist settings that provide specialised education for students with Intellectual Disability and high support needs.

These schools will have their enrolment eligibility criteria published on their website. To identify specialist schools near you, select the 'specialist' tab at [Find A School](#). Enquire directly with each school about their process for exploring your child's eligibility for enrolment.

Nearby specialist schools include:

[Ascot Vale Heights School](#)

[Broadmeadows Special Developmental School](#)

[Coburg Special Developmental School](#)

[Croxton School](#)

[Glenroy Specialist School](#)

[Rosamond School](#)

[Yaraville Special Developmental School](#)

Your local mainstream school can provide information relating to options if your child does not meet eligibility for enrolment at NAS.

Disability Inclusion Funding and Support

Disability Inclusion is a new funding model that rolled out to schools across the Western Melbourne Area in 2023. The model allows schools to make the adjustments students need to help with their participation, engagement and learning at school. It provides additional investment that schools can use to support groups of students like those with autism, ADHD and other learning difficulties.

Within this model, **Tier 3 funding** now supports individual students who have high and complex needs which are identified through a **Disability Inclusion Profile**. The **Disability Inclusion Profile** is a new tool and process to help schools and families identify the strengths, needs and educational adjustments schools can make for an individual student. Schools will need to prepare for, co-ordinate, and participate in the profile process, with parent/carer(s), to receive Disability Inclusion Tier 3 student-level funding.

To support a smooth and positive transition to school, work with your child's new school to establish a Student Support Group (SSG). This is a partnership between schools, parents/carers, the student (where appropriate) and supporting agencies/professionals which works together to plan and support the educational, health, social, cultural and emotional wellbeing of students with diverse learning needs. Schools will identify students to undertake a **Disability Inclusion Profile** through this process. Contact

If you have questions about enrolment, please contact our school on 03 9112 8112 or niddrie.autistic.sch@education.vic.gov.au

Eligibility Criteria for Foundation/Prep enrolment at Niddrie Autistic School

1.	<p>Age at enrolment Have a date of birth between 1st May 2020 and 30th April 2021</p>
2.	<p>Autism diagnosis Have been diagnosed with Autism by multiple professionals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a paediatrician OR child psychiatrist, AND • a psychologist, AND • a speech pathologist <p>Documentation required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A letter/report in which a paediatrician or psychiatrist has diagnosed your child with Autism <input type="checkbox"/> A report in which a psychologist has diagnosed your child with Autism <input type="checkbox"/> A report in which a speech pathologist has diagnosed your child with Autism
3.	<p>Students who attend our school have a <u>low overall level of adaptive functioning</u> compared to their neurotypical peers.</p> <p>Adaptive behaviour/functioning includes the ability to cope with environmental change, to learn new everyday skills and to demonstrate independence.</p> <p>In order to describe your child’s adaptive functioning, a Psychologist will request that an educator who knows your child well completes a questionnaire (Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales Third Edition (Vineland-3)).</p> <p>A low overall level of adaptive functioning means that the result (Adaptive Behaviour Composite) from the Vineland-3 assessment tool must be 70 or below (two standard deviations or more below the mean).</p> <p>Documentation required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A report from a psychologist describing the results of this assessment, completed within the last 12 months
4.	<p>Language skills – Your child’s understanding of what others say and their ability to share thoughts, ideas and feelings by communicating.</p> <p>Students who attend our school have significant difficulties with these skills.</p> <p>In order to describe your child’s language skills, a Speech Language Pathologist will do a series of structured talking and listening activities with them using one of the tools below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Preschool – Third Edition, Australian Standardised Edition (CELF-P3 Australian) for children aged from 3 years to 6 years 11 months • Preschool Language Scale – Australia and New Zealand Language Adaptation – Fifth Edition (PLS-5) for children aged from 0 years to 7 years 11 months • Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Fifth Edition, Australian and New Zealand (CELF-5^{A&NZ}) for students aged from 5 years to 21 years <p>Significant difficulties with language skills means that the result from the language assessment tool, called the Core/Total Language Score must be 70 or below (two standard deviations or more below the mean).</p> <p>Documentation required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A report from a speech language pathologist describing your child’s participation and the results of this assessment, completed within the last 12 months