



**Pittwater House**

# Kindergarten to Year 2 Discovery Hub





**The Pittwater House Discovery Hub** is a dedicated Kindergarten to Year 2 precinct which utilises the latest learning philosophies and tailored physical spaces to provide an optimum learning experience for our youngest students.

Opened in February 2020, the Discovery Hub was developed in direct response to meeting the adapting needs of our students, supported by research including that of world-renowned Finnish educator, Pasi Sahlberg, who introduced his research and learnings to our School community in 2019.

**Our teaching strategies are as wide and varied as the requirements of our students.** Our comprehensive and challenging programs are underpinned by research to ensure that each lesson is approached in the most effective way to maximise learning.

Children are naturally motivated to play. One of the key new philosophies that our Discovery Hub has adopted is a focus on play-based learning, both inside and outside of the traditional classroom settings. This is associated with significantly enhanced cognitive, social, emotional and physical outcomes for students.

Play-based learning involves both student-initiated and teacher-guided learning. Our teachers have undergone specialised Harvard Graduate School of Education professional development in this area to enable them to develop opportunities to encourage children to explore, experiment and problem-solve as part of their play, whilst stretching their thinking to higher levels.

The Discovery Hub has been designed to allow flexibility in teaching methods. It provides creative and engaging learning spaces to suit individual, small group or whole class activities to create an optimum learning experience for our students. Their day has also been restructured to allow for more breaks without compromising opportunities for learning.



The Discovery Hub supports ability-based group work across the Kindergarten to Year 2 classes, which fosters broader friendship groups and provides access to more teachers. This, in turn, supports social and emotional development and enhances confidence and resilience in the classroom and playground.





**At Pittwater House, our high teacher-to-student ratio and capped class sizes** enable Kindergarten – Year 2 class teachers, specialist teachers and learning enrichment staff to understand what each child needs to thrive at school.

Our teachers use a variety of strategies and tools to assess the developmental and learning stage of each child, then tailor their classroom activities to cater for the individual learning needs of children across different curriculum areas. This approach ensures each child achieves their personal learning goals before moving on to the next.

Within the Discovery Hub, children are grouped according to their needs and their progression through the curriculum. Teachers use research-based gender-specific strategies in all areas, adapting to the individual interests of the students.







## Pittwater House

### A broad offering

As the primary building blocks of education, our numeracy and literacy programs engage children in a range of ways. To complement our students' learning of the foundations: English, Mathematics, HSIE (History and Geography) and Science and Technology, we also offer age-appropriate introductions to subjects such as languages (French), Creative Arts (Music, Drama and Art) and PDHPE (sport, including tennis and swimming, and dance), all taught by specialist teachers in purpose-built facilities.

Our Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator regularly liaises with classroom teachers to provide additional extension and enrichment opportunities to identified students. This program is comprised of challenging weekly group sessions classes, internal/external competitions and termly incursions.

Our Learning Enrichment Team specialises in in-class support and collaborative planning for students with additional needs. We create a learning environment where all students can progress at their own rate and optimise growth. Our team is staffed by specialised teachers including the Learning Enrichment Co-ordinator, a Learning Enrichment Teacher and three teacher aides.

As an extension to classroom learning, our comprehensive list of co-curricular opportunities gives children the chance to try many different activities across sport, creative arts and critical thinking to further develop their social connections across year groups.

Our Campus provides everything our students need in one place: multiple open play spaces and dedicated learning areas; an 8-lane 25 metre swimming pool; a multi-purpose gymnasium; tennis courts; a performing arts centre; a music cottage; a library; a health centre run by qualified nurses; counsellors and so much more.

### Contact us

Please contact our Registrar on +61 2 9972 5789 or [enrolments@tphs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@tphs.nsw.edu.au) to learn more about our Discovery Hub and the opportunities it can provide for your child.

