Dr Carolyn Sandison, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Wollongong writes:

My children attend Farmborough Road Public School, and they can’t be talked in to missing a day! That tells me they feel safe and secure—and that they are enjoying themselves. When looking for a school, my husband and I wanted to send our children into a welcoming, friendly and safe environment. We found that at Farmborough Road. We also wanted to send our children to a school that was conscientious in its approach to education, keeping up-to-date with new developments, providing remedial help for those who need it, but also extension for the gifted and talented. Again, Farmborough Road ticked those boxes. And we have not been disappointed.

Farmborough Road Public School was one of the schools that piloted the L3 literacy program—a year before it was introduced across other schools. The assistant principal for Infants is currently an Illawarra consultant for the L3 program. The school has recently completed the adoption of an excellent new Numeracy program in which students are assessed individually on a continuous scale and a program is tailored to their specific needs. The staff at Farmborough Road keep abreast of modern developments in education and strive to provide the best education they can for each and every student, using programs and techniques to suit the individuals. They use creative methods in their teaching—with the aim of making as much of the learning experience “fun” for the children. My children often tell me of the games they play at school and, upon cross examination, I find the games are all educational, consolidating ideas and concepts presented by the teachers. Amongst all this, my children have learnt to read, write and do maths—which I believe to be the essential foundation elements of a child’s education.

I have found the staff at Farmborough Road Public School to be open, friendly and approachable, willing to work with parents to solve any issues that arise. They believe in positive reinforcement of good behaviour, but they also have very clear no-tolerance policies on bullying and misconduct. They actively promote and foster the core values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence—which I can also use in encouraging good behaviour and right choices in my children at home!

The school is small enough (just over 200 students) to create a warm, close-knit community amongst the students, so much so, that my children often speak and play with others from years above and below them. They know students from all years, and feel comfortable—even proud—saying “hello” to them outside school. And yet the physical resources of the school are exceptional. Farmborough Road Public School once had over 750 students. Therefore, it has many classrooms, an enormous playground area, not to mention a large assembly hall, two COLAs (Covered Outdoor Learning Areas) and an open-air quadrangle. Some classes have the luxury of two classrooms to use for different activities. Every classroom has a Smart board and the Parents and Citizens are working towards buying a collection of iPads (or equivalent) for the school.

At Farmborough Road Public School, my children are happy and feel safe. They are being exposed to many different learning experiences, whilst mastering the basics for life.