

Dear Parents/Carers

In our rapidly changing world, it is becoming more and more important for our young people to develop strong skills as they progress through their education. While our curriculum-based assessments test a student's ability to recall what they have learned in a variety of subject areas, we think it's important to set students up in the secondary years for the bigger challenges of tertiary study and their future careers.

Therefore, KINGSFORD SMITH SCHOOL will be implementing ICAS, a comprehensive skills-based assessment program that assesses the higher order thinking and problem-solving skills of students. We believe ICAS will give us deep insight into our students' true capabilities and help us plan more effectively for their futures.

HOW ICAS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ASSESSMENTS YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE:

1. ICAS can tell us whether students really understand what they are being taught, or whether they have just been rote-learning curriculum content.
2. ICAS can help us discover student talents and student weaknesses that don't always get picked up by the curriculum testing framework.
3. ICAS will not add extra workload to any student's study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can't study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory.
4. ICAS's diagnostic reports will give all of us (teachers and parents) far more insight into your child's strengths and weaknesses. At school, we can act on that by tailoring our teaching and learning programs; at home, you will know where to direct more encouragement.
5. ICAS will also give us an external benchmark we can rely on to ensure our school is keeping pace with national and international standards—ICAS is the most comprehensive international assessment program, with schools in over 20 countries participating in ICAS every year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the permission slip and return it, with payment to the school no later than Monday 1st May PLEASE NOTE LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards

Melissa Beattie – Executive Teacher



2017 ICAS Permission Form

Please return this form with your payment, to your school no later than Monday 1st May

I give permission for my child, _____ of _____
Child's name *Class*

to participate in the following 2017 ICAS assessments.

Please select the subjects you would like your child to participate in:

Subject/Paper	School Year	Official Sitting Date	Participation Fee	Fee Enclosed
Digital Technologies		23 May 2017	\$10.00	
Science		30 May 2017	\$10.00	
Writing		12–16 June 2017	\$20.00	
Spelling		14 June 2017	\$13.50 (year 6 and 7 only)	
English		1 August 2017	\$10.00	
Mathematics		15 August 2017	\$10.00	
TOTAL				

Students must sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals.

Please _____ find enclosed for payment of the total fee.
Amount

 Name of Parent/Guardian

 Date

 Signature of Parent/Guardian