



Gili • Here to Shine

Redfern Jarjum College is a Jesuit Primary School for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The motto of the College is 'Gili' meaning 'to shine'.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation,
the Traditional Owners of the Land on which our school stands.

Redfern Jarjum College

IMPACT REPORT



2025

COMPANIONS IN MISSION

Walking alongside every Jarjum

St Ignatius once wrote to a fellow Jesuit, Fr Simon Rodriguez (one of his first companions), a Provincial in Portugal. It was the year 1542. I am not sure what prompted Ignatius’ reflection, but he shared his thoughts on what he thought was the worst sin. He wrote:

It seems to me in the light of Divine Goodness, although others may think differently, that ingratitude is the most abominable of sins and that it should be detested in the sight of our Creator and Lord by all of His creatures who are capable of enjoying His divine and everlasting glory. For it is a forgetting of the graces, benefits and blessings received.

Such an extraordinary statement. In an era where sins like murder, torture, assassinations, exploitation of the poor, the evils of warfare, and many more, were a commonplace, Ignatius is saying that “ingratitude is the most abominable of sins.”

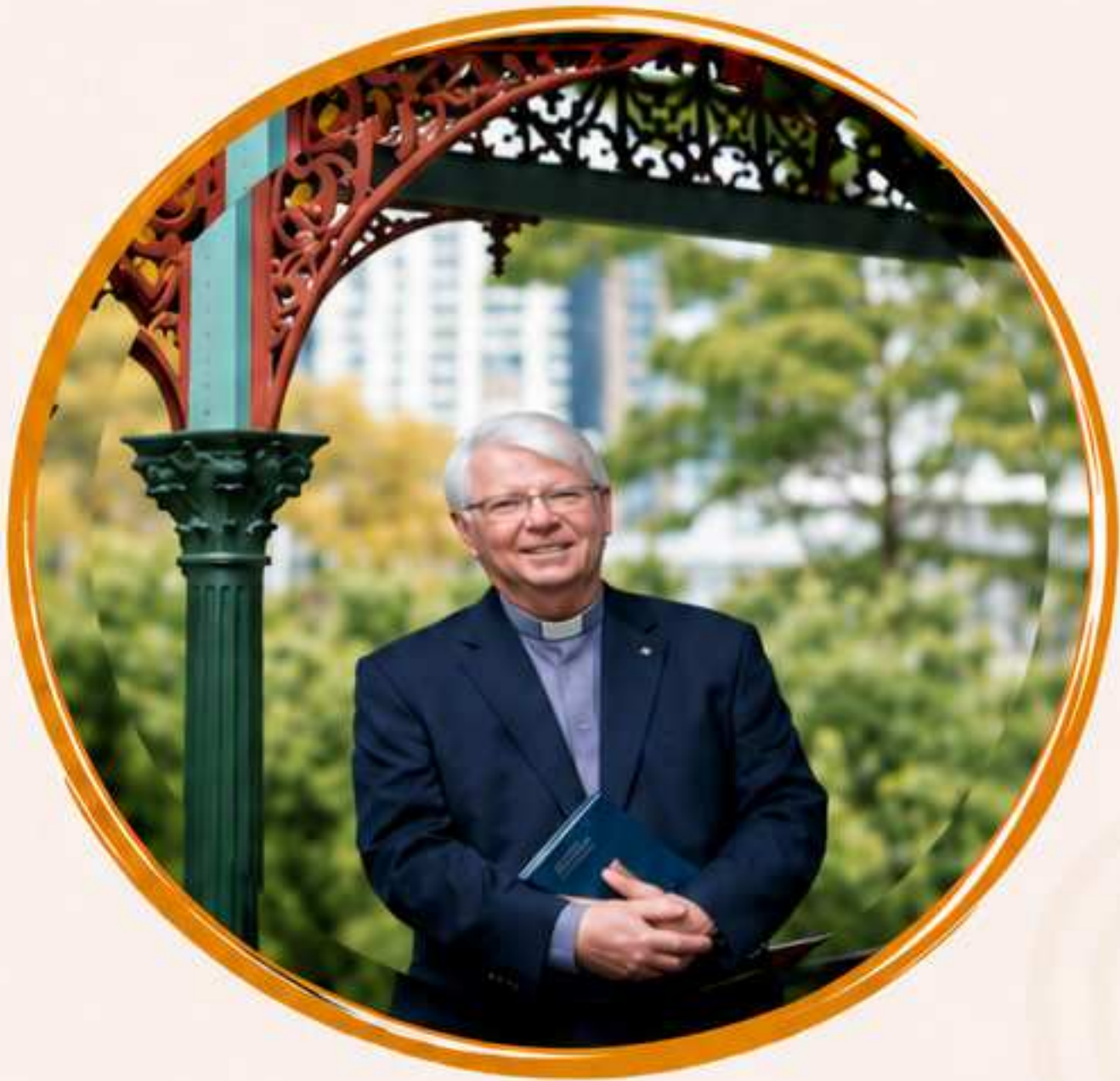
Why? To be ungrateful is to set oneself apart. To be the self-made man or woman. Beholden to no one. To say that no one has a claim on me or my gifts. Cocooned from the world. But this was not Ignatius’ understanding of his relationship to God and to others. We know Ignatius’ own character was one constantly marked by a practical gratitude.

In many letters of Ignatius to the Society’s benefactors, we read a recurring line or sentiment. When he refers to the Society or its ministries, Ignatius says to the donor something like, “this work is more yours than ours.” A powerful underscoring of both an indebtedness and a shared mission.

Later on, in the Constitutions, Ignatius prescribed how the Colleges are to remember their founders and benefactors.

Every year there is to be a Thanksgiving Mass in the College, to which the founder or benefactor is to be invited. During that liturgy, a wax candle is to be presented to the founder or one of his close relatives. “The candle, says Ignatius, should contain his coat of arms or emblems of his devotions, as a sign of the gratitude due in our Lord.”

We do not have a wax candle to present to you – nor, I suspect, do many of you have a coat of arms to emblazon upon it if we did! But you do, more importantly, see bright lights in Jarjum. You see living flames of hope for a future. You see energetic, enquiring, imaginative youngsters – ‘jarjums’ – hungry for a shaping of minds and hearts. Thriving in this little community which you and a committed staff day by day make possible.



The American teacher and astronaut, who died tragically on the Space Shuttle Challenger four decades ago, once described her career. She said, “I touch the future. I teach.” So, thank you for sharing this ministry with us. Together, we touch the future.

God bless you for your goodness.

Fr Ross Jones SJ

“You are part of this mission.”

Your support is present in every meal, every lesson, and every moment of care.”

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF THE BOARD



As I reflect on the past 12 months, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what we have achieved together as a community.

Redfern Jarjum College continues to go from strength to strength, delivering on its mission to provide a safe, nurturing, and culturally rich environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to thrive.

Our 2025 Impact Report highlights the many milestones, partnerships, and stories that demonstrate the profound difference we are making in the lives of our Jarjums and their families.

At the heart of our success is a shared commitment to our values—respect, courage, collaboration, and compassion.

These values guide every decision we make and every action we take. They are reflected in the dedication of our staff, the support of our partners, and the resilience and joy of our students.

This year, we have seen our programs expand, our community connections deepen, and our impact grow. From academic achievements to cultural celebrations, each moment is a testament to the power of education grounded in identity and culture.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Jarjum College community, to the Elders and cultural leaders who guide us, to our partners and donors whose generosity sustains us, and to our exceptional staff who walk beside our students every day.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building a future where every Jarjum feels proud of who they are and confident in where they're going.

Together, we are creating a legacy of hope, opportunity, and transformation.

John Wilcox

Chair of the Board



Gili - here to shine

our jarjums shine

Principal Kath Zerounian - Graduation Speech 2025



“

“It’s got to be my handwriting!” Ally announced to me proudly.

“Nah, nah,” Jason shot back, “it’s me learning to read seven-digit numbers. Seven digits. That’s a proud moment.”

“Come on, please,” Keanu chimed in. “Do you even know I can now say all the 2D shape names? Even trapezium.”

“Hang on,” said Quinton, “but I finished my MiniLit program with Chris, so now I can sound out any big words.”

In that moment, they all paused, thinking it over - then Keanu gently patted Quinton on the back, Jason reached out to shake his hand, and Ally burst into applause.

Suddenly from behind, Scarlett pipes up, completely unfazed by the competition: “Um....isn’t it me? I come to school every day feeling good and happy. That’s my proudest moment.”

”

Good morning to our special guests, families, staff, volunteers, community members, and students. A very warm welcome to our Gathering today on Gadigal Country. This is a gathering of young and old, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and all who believe in the power of education. We are brought together for one purpose—to celebrate our young Jarjums, their achievements, and their success.

That scene I described at the start reflects one of the closing moments of our school year—when we gathered in our morning yarning circle and each Jarjum and staff member shared their proudest moment of 2025. As you heard, there was plenty of comical debate with a small group and me during the break that followed about whose moment was truly the proudest, but within that sacred space of sharing that morning, each contribution was a celebration, a reflection, and a glimpse into their perseverance, resilience, hard work, and companionship.

I stand here today incredibly proud of every single Jarjum and deeply humbled and inspired—not just by what they have achieved individually, but by who they are becoming and the way they support and lift one another. In many ways, this is our personaelis lived out a latin term used to express care for the whole person—nurturing hearts, minds, spirits, and identities.

And it is clear to me that, in partnership with our families, we are forming young people who will find their place in the world and make it brighter, kinder, and better for everyone around them.

As Uncle Les McLeod reminded us during his visit for Aboriginal Language Week, education is not just about what you learn—it’s about who you walk with, who you listen to, and how you grow together. His words echo beautifully the Ignatian way: that learning happens through relationships, reflection, and companionship on the journey.

Through their actions, our Jarjums have brought this to life.

“

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”



We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation,
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We pay our respects to elders past, present and future.
We trust they will guide us to be deadly members of our community.

our jarjums shine

2025 2025 in Numbers - Graduation Speech 2025

One particular highlight for me this year has been watching our Jarjums work together to write a school song under the guidance of Aunty Kerry and Aunty Evie. The care, collaboration, deep listening, and pride they brought to this task was remarkable—a real expression of our motto Gili, “to shine,” and of our Ignatian identity, where every voice is valued and learning comes through reflection, relationship, and creativity. I am so excited that they will perform it for you today—singing in English, with one verse in language—to close our ceremony.

So:



26 Jarjums – our largest cohort in the 13 years since we opened



17 Yellow Hats awarded for achieving 90% attendance



Over 4,000 journeys made to and from school to and from school on our buses



Our first-ever interschool debate against OLMC Waterloo and our inaugural Jarjum Cross Country Carnival



7 committed Gamaradas—schools, corporates, parishes and foundations—supporting our mission



37 creative workshops delivered by the Story Factory, and NAPLAN results now placing the majority of our students in the strong category for writing



65 Deadlies awarded at our Friday assemblies



41 birthday cakes baked by Barb for staff and students

We are Jarjums

We are Jarjums standing proud
Learning Culture and singing loud
Language, Dance and Stories too
Sharing the old ways learning what's true

Respect for each other hand in hand
Playing with our mates from across the land
Our uniforms shine, red, black and yellow
We smile and wave and we say hello

Here in Redfern where our hearts run deep
On Gadigal Country our roots we keep
Kingfisher Dance from the Torres Strait
In spirit and rhythm—We Celebrate!

We are Jarjums strong and free
Walking together in harmony
Competence, Commitment, Compassion too
Conscience and hearts in all we do

Love one another, be proud and true
For we are Jarjums, through and through.



THE YELLOW HAT AWARD

The Yellow Hat Award was introduced last year to recognise those students at our school who have an attendance rate of 90% or higher. At the end of the term, we collect the hats, review the records, and hand them out at the start of the next term with another gold star for them to stand out.

Today we'd like to recognise those students here at Jarjum who have maintained an attendance record of 90% or more across the whole year acknowledging this with an additional star on their hat and I'd like to invite Mrs Danielle Cronin, Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools and Board Director of Jesuit Education Australia/ James Retterson from Knight Frank Australia, to come forward and present a Yellow Hat STAR to the following students:

- Aaliyah
- Addelyn
- Keanu
- Kordell
- Scarlett
- Zaiden
- Asher



“ It feels only right to end my reflection by sharing their words with you, because they capture the heart, spirit, and voice of our community. →



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Shauna's Story

Jarjum Gave Us Stability

“Jarjum isn't just a school. It's not just a program or a place on Redfern Street. Jarjum is family. It's a safe space where my children finally feel they belong.”

Before we came to Jarjum, I truly believe that if we had taken a different path to a mainstream school, my children could have easily fallen through the cracks. They were carrying so much pain and trauma, and they were just so hurt... It would have been so easy for them to be misunderstood, pushed aside, or suspended, caught in the same cycle so many children who aren't understood sadly end up in.

But by the grace of God, we found Jarjum... and everything changed.

We came from nothing. We came from trauma, from broken homes with no hope for a future. No food on the table and no rest at night. This was our life. And although we came from poverty, at Jarjum we found something we had never experienced before. It wasn't money, but we found richness in spirit, in love and in hope. Jarjum didn't just support my children; they helped rebuild us as a family. They turned a broken heart into one that's now full of laughter, love, and joy. And the change in my kids... It's something I can't even fully put into words.

Culture is a crucial part of our identity, and to be in an environment where this is embraced and accepted is instrumental to the Jarjum community.

I was inspired to donate to Jarjum because I believe that the two best ways to address inequality are education and healthcare. Having heard through St Aloysius about Jarjum I decided that I could give back to the community in a small way.

because not only is it a school but it is truly a community. It brings in the journey of family and acknowledging culture and education to be a fulfilling and rewarding learning experience for the students who attend.

Shauna McKellar

JARJUM'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE



OVER 10,000
BREAKFASTS AND
LUNCHES SERVED
IN 2024



90%+
ATTENDANCE
TARGET
CONSISTENTLY
ACHIEVED



25
JARJUMS
CURRENTLY
ENROLLED



WRAP-AROUND
SUPPORT
BEYOND THE
CLASSROOM



Gili - Here to Shine

My wish for Jarjum in the future is that it continues to grow so that more families like mine can find the same support, safety, and sense of belonging that we did. What Jarjum provides is truly special. It's something not every child has access to, but every child deserves.

I hope Jarjum can reach more children who are struggling, more families who feel lost, and more parents like me who just need someone to believe in them. Because that belief... it changes everything.

Jarjum didn't just change my children's lives it changed mine too.

So my wish is that it continues to be that place of hope. That it keeps standing strong for our community. And that it keeps showing children that no matter where they come from, they are worthy, they are capable, and they have a future.

*Because Jarjum isn't just changing lives
it's shaping generations to come.*

A LITTLE ABOUT MY CHILDREN



Lethan is now a Waverley College boy who loves rugby and has discovered a joy for going to school that I never thought I'd see.



Zaiden has found a passion for music, for learning, and for getting lost in books or doing his homework. He never misses a beat, even if that means missing out on other things just to catch up.



Addelyn has such a bubbly personality. She loves making everyone feel welcome, and she lights up when she's learning – she's grown so much this year alone.



Caitali has found a new hobby – skipping! She loves skipping, she loves learning, and even looks forward to her school bus rides in the morning.

These may seem like small moments, but to us, they are everything. They are proof that when children feel safe, supported, and valued, they can flourish.

Thank You From the Bottom of My Heart

To everyone who supports Jarjum and donates to this incredible college – thank you. Your generosity doesn't just build classrooms or programs – it changes lives. You give children who have faced trauma, fear, and uncertainty a safe place to grow, to learn, and to shine. You give parents like me the hope and strength to keep going. Thank you for walking this journey with us. Thank you for believing in our children.

Your support changes everything.

ABOUT MY FAMILY



Shauna is a proud Guugu Yimithirr and Gaarubal woman – who is a Mum.

My journey with Jarjum began when my child started Kindergarten.

Jarjum is more than education – it's belonging, culture and opportunity.

and loves being involved in the school and community.

JARJUM'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE



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90%+
ATTENDANCE TARGET
CONSISTENTLY
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26
JARJUMS
CURRENTLY
ENROLLED



WRAP-AROUND
SUPPORT
BEYOND THE
CLASSROOM



BEYOND THE NUMBERS



Beyond the numbers are the stories that truly define Jarjum.

Each day, our students arrive carrying more than a school bag, they carry experiences, challenges, culture, and enormous potential. Through consistency, care, and connection, we begin to see change. Confidence grows. Attendance improves. Learning becomes possible.

We have seen students who once attended only a handful of days each term return to school regularly, build friendships, and begin to thrive in the classroom. Families reconnect with education. Culture is strengthened. Identity is celebrated.

This is what impact looks like at Jarjum, not just outcomes, but transformation.



OUR HOLISTIC, WRAPAROUND MODEL



At Redfern Jarjum College, education goes beyond the classroom. We remove the obstacles to learning and belonging so every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Every student receives:



Daily transport to and from school



Speech therapy and wellbeing support



A nutritious breakfast and lunch each day



Cultural education with Elders and community



School uniforms and learning materials



Music, sport and creative programs



Access to health support, including hearing, vision, dental and paediatric care

This model ensures that students are not just attending school, but are **ready to learn, supported to grow, and proud of who they are.**

THE IMPACT



90%

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance rates of around 90%



80%

BEHAVIOUR

Significant reduction in behavioural incidents over time



10,000+ MEALS PROVIDED

Over 10,000 meals provided annually to support student wellbeing



100%

CULTURALLY SAFE

A culturally safe, community-led learning environment



AALIYAH'S STORY

Aaliyah's confidence, culture and curiosity continue to grow. She is learning, leading and inspiring every day.



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Aaliyah joined Redfern Jarjum College in Kindergarten and is now preparing to graduate Year 6. Her story is one of confidence, belonging and growth. **These are Aaliyah's own words.**



SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

At Jarjum, Aaliyah receives the support she needs to feel safe, confident and ready to learn.



Counselling and wellbeing support



Trusted adults and mentors



Family support services



A safe and caring school

“

When I first started at Jarjum, I was a very aggressive kid who got mad a lot. When I got mad, I didn't really know what to do with my feelings.

The school helped me learn how to let my anger out in a safe way.

The school gave me a counsellor to talk about my problems and that was good.

”



28 STUDENTS

Small class sizes allow every student to be known, supported and celebrated.



FINDING A PLACE TO BELONG

I love how our school is a very small school. There's only 28 kids, so it's much easier to get noticed and not be compared to lots of children. You can just be yourself and feel like you belong.



PROUD OF CULTURE

All the kids at Jarjum are Aboriginal and we feel proud of our culture. Many students who went to other schools before Jarjum didn't feel proud about being Aboriginal. Some of them tried to hide it. We love to dance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dances and learn about our culture.



What Makes **JARJUM** DIFFERENT?

*Aaliyah explains Jarjum
in her own words.*

DAILY MEALS

"Jarjum gives you breakfast, lunch and snacks every day. Other schools might give food, but this food is free and made with love by our cooker Gayl."

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

"They also help with your family. Many people go through challenges at home and they help you with this."

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

"We have a dentist come and check our teeth, a hearing specialist to make sure we can hear properly, and an eye specialist to see if we need glasses."

SAFE TRANSPORT

"I really like the buses that pick up all the kids to come to school and help them get home. The kids feel safe."

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

"We get to go on camp for free and have so much fun and try new activities."

AALIYAH'S JOURNEY



KINDERGARTEN

Started at Jarjum.



YEAR 6 GRADUATE

Student leader,
confident learner and
proud young Aboriginal
woman.



YEAR 7 STUDENT

Thriving at The
John Berne School.



WHERE IS **AALIYAH** NOW?

After graduating from Redfern Jarjum College in 2025, Aaliyah commenced Year 7 at The John Berne School.

When asked how high school was going, Aaliyah shared:

“High school is going well. It is very fun being at The John Berne School. I like how we don't have to wear a uniform and I have made some friends. My favourite subjects are Maths, Geography, History, Science and Art.”

SCAN TO DONATE

Your support changes lives.



*Every gift
makes a
lasting
impact.*

THE GAMARADA PROGRAM

STANDING TOGETHER. SHAPING FUTURES.

The Gamarada Program is a community partnership initiative that connects organisations, schools, corporations and community groups with Redfern Jarjum College. As a Gamarada, your support helps remove barriers to education and enables our Jarjums to thrive – academically, emotionally, culturally and socially.

WHAT IS A GAMARADA?

A Gamarada is a valued partner who walks alongside our students and community. Your support contributes to the holistic education and wellbeing of our Jarjums through:



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Enhancing literacy, numeracy, technology and learning resources.



WELLBEING & CULTURE

Supporting cultural connection, social emotional learning and wellbeing programs.



OPPORTUNITIES & EXPERIENCES

Enabling excursions, enrichment programs and leadership development.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Building meaningful relationships and creating opportunities for engagement and collaboration.

TOGETHER, WE CAN

Every contribution – big or small – makes a lasting difference.
Join us as a Gamarada and help our Jarjums shine.



BECOME A GAMARADA TODAY

Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more
about how you can support the future of our Jarjums.

Gili – to shine

OUR GAMARADA PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT PARTNERS FOR STANDING WITH US AND SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION AND WELLBEING OF OUR JARJUMS.



Loyola College



Queenwood School
for Girls



Our Lady of the Way
North Sydney
Lavender Bay
Kirribilli

Our Lady of the Way
North Sydney



Riverview College



St Aloysius' College



Xavier College



SUPPORTED BY
THE KYRIE FOUNDATION



Knight Frank

GAMARADA PARTNER PROFILE



INVESTING IN FUTURES.
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Knight Frank is proud to partner with Redfern Jarjum College through the Gamarada Program, supporting the education and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

As a global real estate consultancy with deep roots in Australia, Knight Frank believes in creating lasting impact in the communities where we live and work. Our partnership with Redfern Jarjum College reflects our commitment to reconciliation, equity and opportunity.

Through our support, we help provide resources and experiences that empower students to thrive – academically, culturally and personally. We are inspired by the College's dedication to nurturing each child's potential and fostering a strong sense of identity, belonging and hope.



REDFERN JARJUM COLLEGE

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Gili – to shine



THANK YOU

Everyone watching



Why this matters

Your support helps remove the obstacles that stand between Jarjum students and learning.

From daily transport and meals, to health care and cultural connection, this is what makes attendance possible, confidence grow, and futures open.

Together, we are building brighter futures for the next generation.

GILI

Here to Shine

Every student deserves the opportunity to learn, belong, and thrive.



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The Next Generation Starts Here