Principal pleased to be on hospital team

Nigel Gladstone

ROVAL North Shore Hospital has welcomed a new principal to its Hospital School, which helps students from Kindergarten to Year 12 maintain their education.

The school was established 52 years ago and is one of its operating in major hospitals across Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Teachers at the RNHS School meet with clinical staff to understand the needs of each patient in the Children’s Ward and where possible they create an individual learning program.

The new RNHS School principal, Vanessa Murphy, was the assistant principal at St George’s Hospital in Granville and has worked with children with special needs in mainstream schools and special education settings.

Ms Murphy said her background helped her focus on the emotional and academic needs of the children along with parents and carers.

“Our involvement often gives parents and carers some respite and one less thing for them to worry about, so they can then concentrate on the health of their child,” Ms Murphy said. “We assess the patient’s capability and determine if they require recreational activities or assistance with academic tasks, so that we can best address their needs.”

“We show patients and their parents that we understand their concerns, and that we are here to alleviate any fears and anxieties about being in hospital and not at school.”