

Pre-Kindergarten

Information Handbook

2020

OUR PROGRAM

The Pre-Kindy program at St. Joseph's School caters for 3-year-old children. The program aims to develop the whole child, through a play based learning environment. It is through play that children make sense of their world, and learn to socialise, problem solve and discover.

The program focuses on providing a variety of activities to cater for your child's development in all areas:

- Social/Emotional
- Physical
- Spiritual/Moral
- Creative/Aesthetic
- Cognitive/Language

The program encourages children to build on skills of independence, self-esteem, and self awareness in a fun, developmentally appropriate, and stimulating environment.

ATTENDANCE

PRE-KINDY BLUE

Tuesday: 9.00am - 2.50pm

Children MUST be three years old to attend Pre-Kindy. If a child is not yet three years old, his/her commencement date is on, or after his/her third birthday.

The school year begins on:

Tuesday, 4th February, 2020

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

All children are to be dropped off and picked up from Pre-Kindy by a parent or nominated adult. If someone else is to pick up your child, please inform the staff in writing or with a phone call.

On arrival, please wait outside the Pre-Kindy classroom and remain with your child. Staff will open the classroom door to commence the session. Please note that the play equipment is OUT OF BOUNDS before and after session times. This is to ensure the safety of all children.

At the end of the session, please wait outside the classroom until your child is dismissed. Please make sure you are prompt to avoid any unnecessary anxiety for your child.

MORNING ROUTINE

On arrival, please encourage your child to place his/her own bag inside the assigned cubby hole, and bring his/her own water bottle, piece of fruit, and small pillow inside. This is to promote your child's independence.

Children may then choose an activity to settle into the morning - you are more than welcome to stay with your child until the session commences.

The music will signal time to start and for parents to say goodbye and leave promptly. If your child is upset, please leave them with the Teacher or Education Assistant, who will settle him/her calmly. It is important to leave quickly in order to settle your child, as staying usually prolongs the distress. If your child continues to be distressed, we will contact you by phone to inform you.

Once the initial separation is over, children generally settle within a few minutes and are ready to join in for the day.

SIGNING IN

If you need to come to school during the day to pick up your child, or you are a parent helper, you will first need to go to the OFFICE and SIGN IN. Upon signing in, you will receive a badge to wear while at school. Please remember to sign out and return your badge when you leave.

Signing in and out of our school ensures the safety of all children, and allows the school to know who is present in the event of an emergency.

REQUIREMENTS

Each session, your child will need:

- A small LABELLED bag
- A LABELLED hat
- A LABELLED water bottle
- A small LABELLED pillow
- A healthy snack for shared Morning Tea
- A healthy lunch, packed in a LABELLED lunch box
- A spare change of clothes (t-shirt, pants, socks, UNDERWEAR) in the case of an accident

At the beginning of the year, your child will need:

- A box of tissues

FOOD

MORNING TEA

Children will be required to bring ONE healthy snack to Pre-Kindy for shared platters. Some popular options include:

- Fresh seasonal fruit
- Dried fruit
- Cheese cubes
- Vegetables

LUNCH

Children will be required to bring a HEALTHY lunch to Pre-Kindy, in his/her own labelled lunch box. Please pack lunches that your child can manage him/herself. Some examples may include:

- Sandwiches/rolls/wraps (filled with ham/lettuce/ carrot/cheese, or butter/vegemite, or chicken/ mayonnaise, etc)
- Cold fried rice
- Crackers and spread
- Vegetables and hummus dip
- Sushi rolls
- Zucchini slice

Packing an ice brick during summer time will ensure a fresh lunch for your child.

Please DO NOT send your child to school with nuts or nut spread. This is to ensure the health and safety of ALL staff and students at St. Joseph's School.

ATTIRE

Casual play clothes are best suited for Pre-Kindy. This allows children to participate in messy activities, as well as indoor and outdoor play, comfortably. Clothes that allow children to self toilet are beneficial, particularly if they are in a hurry.

Footwear should be comfortable and simple enough for children to take off and put on easily. Sandals and shoes with Velcro are ideal. Thongs and high heeled shoes are not appropriate. Please do not send your child to school with laces.

HEALTH

If your child is unwell, please do not bring him/her to school. Infections spread quickly in the kindergarten environment, and the health and safety of ALL Pre-Kindy students is paramount. If your child has been absent, please bring in a signed note on his/her return.

Please inform staff if your child develops a contagious illness, so that we can alert other parents to be aware of symptoms.

If your child has a medical condition or requires medication to be taken at school temporarily, you **MUST** fill out a form which can be obtained from the OFFICE and will be kept for our records. Please give medication to the Teacher or Education Assistant - please **DO NOT** leave any medication in your child's bag.

It is important to keep your contact and emergency details up to date with the school. Please promptly inform the staff or office, should any changes occur.

TOILET TRAINING

It is STRONGLY encouraged that your child is toilet trained or in the process of training when beginning Pre-Kindy. However, we understand that accidents happen and we will deal with these discreetly. For this reason, please ensure your child has a spare change of clothes in his/her bag at ALL times.

Children will be reminded to go to the toilet regularly throughout the day to help minimise accidents. Please ensure that your child wears pants that he/she can easily pull up and down him/herself.

If there are difficulties in regards to toilet training, please let us know. We will deal with accidents appropriately, however, if there are ongoing problems, parents will be contacted.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

A roster will be placed on the notice board, where you or other family members are encouraged to write your name. Involvement in Pre-Kindy allows children and guardians to become familiar with the school and classroom environment. It is best that younger siblings do not accompany parents/family members on roster.

Your involvement in Pre-Kindy will assist your child with feeling comfortable in the classroom and building trust with staff, as your child will begin to notice a relationship between his/her home life and school life.

COMMUNICATION

At St. Joseph's School, we use Seesaw to connect and communicate with families. Photos and anecdotes of your child's day, and important upcoming events will be uploaded and posted regularly.

The school also produces a newsletter each week, detailing vital and exciting information. Please check these regularly.

We also ask that you inform us of any relevant matters regarding your child. As a community, we want to work together to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of all our students.

GETTING READY

Below is a small list of things you can do with your child, or your child can practise independently, in order to be prepared for his/her first day of Pre-Kindy.

- Eat lunch from lunchbox
- Drink from water bottle
- Choose favourite hat
- Wear hat when playing outside
- Choose favourite pillow
- Use pillow when resting at home
- Put on and take off shoes
- Practise toileting and wiping
- Pull pants down/up (for toileting)
- Talk about likes/dislikes and feelings
- READ TOGETHER!

CONTACT

St. Joseph's School

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Admin.sjsqp@cewa.edu.au

Sjsqp.wa.edu.au

THANK YOU

We look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you and your child, as you become an integral part of our school community!

TEACHER

Miss Celeste Della Posta

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT

Mrs Jenny Tesch

