



STURT STREET
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
& CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Parent Information Book



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



STURT STREET COMMUNITY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CENTRE
221 – 239 STURT STREET
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Telephone: 8231 3100 (Front Office)
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Fax: 8231 3188

Email address: dl.1881.admin@schools.sa.edu.au

Website: www.sturtstcs.sa.edu.au

Senior Staff: Principal: Darrin Briggs
Deputy Principal: Kerri Watt
Early Years Director: Alison Wells
OSHC Director: Kevin Borruso
Community Development Coordinator: Kat Ochan

Administrative Staff: Sally Newman (Secretary)
Debra Kember (Finance Office)
Suzie Andrews (ELC Admin)

2024 SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 1: 29th January - 12th April

Term 2: 29th April - 5th July

Term 3: 22nd July - 27th September

Term 4: 14th Oct - 13th December

SCHOOL TIMES

8.30am - 8.45am	Yard open for play, a teacher is on duty
8.45am -10.35am	Lesson Time
10.35am -10.45am	Eating Time
10.45am -11.20am	1st Lunch (Play Time)
11.20am -1.00pm	Lesson Time
1.00pm -1.30pm	2nd Lunch (Play Time)
1.30pm - 3.10pm	Lesson Time
3.10pm	Dismissal
3.10pm - 3.25pm	Yard open for play and the collection of students. A teacher will be on duty. Students not collected by 3.25pm will be sent to OHS.

DISMISSAL IS AT 2.10pm ON THE LAST DAY OF EACH SCHOOL TERM.

ADMISSION POLICY RECEPTION AND JUNIOR PRIMARY CLASSES

Vacancies at Sturt Street Community School are limited and children are offered enrolment according to priorities determined by the Governing Council.

From 2024 there are two intakes (term 1 & term 3) of Reception students.

- Children who turn 5 from 1st Jan - 30th April will start school Term 1 of that year
- Children who turn 5 from 1st May - 31st Oct will start school in Term 3 of that year
- Children who turn 5 from 1st Nov - 31st Dec will start school in Term 1 of the next year

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ADMISSION

Students from overseas are admitted to South Australian schools according to the conditions attached to their parent's visa. Families must contact the Department for Education, International Education Services to determine the admission eligibility of their children.

For more information about studying abroad in South Australia please contact:

International Education Services

Department for Education (T/A South Australian Government Schools CRICOS Provider Number 00018A)

PO Box 1152, Adelaide SA 5001 | GFW, 31 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: +618 8226 3402 Fax: +618 8226 3655

Email: education.isp@sa.gov.au

Website: <http://www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au>

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD BEGIN SCHOOL MORE CONFIDENTLY

- Ensure your child attends their transition visits – visits classroom, look around school.
- Share enthusiasm and interest in beginning school and talk about new friends, games and interesting things
- Gather together lunch box, drink bottle and bag ready for school
- Share experiences with your child eg shopping, outings, stories, cooking, talking and music
- Encourage care of equipment at home
- Make sure your child knows how to hygienically use the toilet and wash their hands
- Become involved in your child's learning
- Always speak positively about your school, its policies and staff

PROGRESS THROUGH SCHOOL

Throughout Australia students are grouped by year level **not by academic achievement**.

A year level is a guide to the age of a pupil – not an ability level. Students do not pass or fail but progress by age. Very occasionally, parents and staff may jointly decide a change is needed – usually to correct an earlier mis-placement.

Please contact the school to discuss your child's progression through the year levels.

THE MAINSTREAM SCHOOL

The school offers the Australian Curriculum in all subjects with some special features:

- Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts programs (rotated as specialised subjects and incorporated into classroom teaching)
- Greek Language and Culture
- Students for whom English is a second language receive additional support in English

HOMEWORK

Parents are invited to discuss Homework Grid information with their child/children's teacher.

THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM ENGLISH

English aims to ensure that students:

- learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose.
- appreciate, enjoy and use the English language in all its variations and develop a sense of its richness and power to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue
- understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in combination with non-linguistic forms of communication to create meaning
- develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature.
- Students for whom English is a second language or who have special language needs will be supported through formal programs.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics aims to ensure that students:

- are confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives and as active citizens.
- an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts and develop fluency with processes, and are able to pose and solve problems and reason in number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.
- recognise connections between the areas of mathematics and other disciplines and appreciate mathematics as an accessible and enjoyable discipline to study.

SCIENCE

Science aims to ensure that students develop:

- an interest in science as a means of expanding their curiosity and willingness to explore, ask questions about and speculate on the changing world in which they live.
- an understanding of the vision that science provides of the nature of living things, of Earth and its place in the cosmos, and of the physical and chemical processes that explain the behaviour of all material things
- an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry and the ability to use a range of scientific inquiry methods, including questioning; planning and conducting experiments and investigations based on ethical principles; collecting and analysing data; evaluating results; and drawing critical, evidence-based conclusions
- an ability to communicate scientific understanding and findings to a range of audiences, to justify ideas on the basis of evidence, and to evaluate and debate scientific arguments and claims
- an ability to solve problems and make informed, evidence-based decisions about current and future applications of science while taking into account ethical and social implications of decisions
- an understanding of historical and cultural contributions to science as well as contemporary science issues and activities and an understanding of the diversity of careers related to science
- a solid foundation of knowledge of the biological, chemical, physical, earth and space sciences, including being able to select and integrate the scientific knowledge and methods needed to explain and predict phenomena, to apply that understanding to new situations and events, and to appreciate the dynamic nature of science knowledge.

LANGUAGES : GREEK

The study of languages aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure students:

- communicate in the target language
- understand language, culture, and learning and their relationship, and thereby develop an intercultural capability in communication
- understand themselves as communicators.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Physical Education aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to:

- access, evaluate and synthesise information to take positive action to protect, enhance and advocate for their own and others' health, wellbeing, safety and physical activity participation across their lifespan
- develop and use personal, behavioural, social and cognitive skills and strategies to promote a sense of personal identity and wellbeing and to build and manage respectful relationships
- acquire, apply and evaluate movement skills, concepts and strategies to respond confidently, competently and creatively in a variety of physical activity contexts and settings
- engage in and enjoy regular movement-based learning experiences and understand and appreciate their significance to personal, social, cultural, environmental and health practices and outcomes
- analyse how varied and changing personal and contextual factors shape understanding of, and opportunities for, health and physical activity locally, regionally and globally.

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Humanities and Social Sciences learning area includes a study of history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business.

Students will develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. Thinking about and responding to issues requires an understanding of the key historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors involved, and how these different factors interrelate.

The Humanities and Social Science subjects provide a broad understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can participate as active and informed citizens with high-level skills needed for the 21st century.

THE ARTS

The Arts comprises 5 subjects: Dance, Drama Media Arts Music & Visual Arts and aims to develop students'

- creativity, critical thinking, aesthetic knowledge and understanding about arts practices, through making and responding to artworks with increasing self-confidence
- arts knowledge and skills to communicate ideas; they value and share their arts and life experiences by representing, expressing and communicating ideas, imagination and observations about their individual and collective worlds to others in meaningful ways
- use of innovative arts practices with available and emerging technologies, to express and represent ideas, while displaying empathy for multiple viewpoints
- understanding of Australia's histories and traditions through the arts, engaging with the artworks and practices, both traditional and contemporary, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- understanding of local, regional and global cultures, and their arts histories and traditions, through engaging with the worlds of artists, artworks, audiences and arts professions.

These aims are extended and complemented by specific aims for each arts subject.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology comprises 2 subjects - Design and Digital Technologies

Technologies aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students:

- investigate, design, plan, manage, create and evaluate solutions
- are creative, innovative and enterprising when using traditional, contemporary and emerging technologies, and understand how technologies have developed over time
- make informed and ethical decisions about the role, impact and use of technologies in the economy, environment and society for a sustainable future
- engage confidently with and responsibly select and manipulate appropriate technologies – materials, data, systems, components, tools and equipment – when designing and creating solutions
- critique, analyse and evaluate problems, needs or opportunities to identify and create solutions.
- An '*Acceptable Use Agreement*' is signed by parents (and older students) regarding the guidelines and expectations for using technology at the school

ARRIVING AND LEAVING SCHOOL

It is the responsibility of each parent to support the school by ensuring children are punctual for school at all times.

The school's duty of care to students begins at 8.30 am unless they are booked into Before School Care. Students should not arrive unaccompanied at school before 8.30am or remain after 3.25pm unless enrolled in the Out of School Hours Care Program. The western car park gate is open from 7.30am for access to the playground but **parents must remain with their child until 8.30am.**

Student safety is our highest priority.

- Only Year 5-6 students may leave the school unaccompanied at the end of the day to walk home or to the parent's parked car.
- Do not pull up at the front of school to collect waiting children. **This is a bus zone, not a 'kiss and drop/collect' zone.**
- Parents of Rec-Yr4 students must park their car and bring the child into the school in the morning and collect them from the rear playground at the end of the day.

Families utilising OSHC may access the school through the western car park gate but must sign their children in on the OSHC attendance sheet.

ABSENCES

If your child is to be absent from school, parents must contact the school by 9.00am by phone, fax or email.

If arriving at school after 8.45am, a late slip is to be collected by students at the Front Office and taken to the class teacher.

It is acceptable for your child to come to school for half a day if they have a medical or dental appointment in the morning or the afternoon. Please sign your child in with the Front Desk staff in these instances.

For absences of more than four days for family reasons including travel and extension of school holidays an exemption from attendance is legally required and must be completed prior to the absence. Please see the Front Office with the dates of the intended absence

1st LUNCH/2nd LUNCH

Two hours after school starts we have a major eating break from 10.35 – 10.45am, followed by a play break from 10.45 – 11.20am. 2nd Lunch follows later at 1.00 during which there is an eating and play break for 30 minutes until 1.30pm.

This configuration provides many nutritional benefits for children resulting in sustained periods of concentration. The model also supports the school's Sun Smart commitment. Having longer playtime earlier in the day reduces the time spent outside in the hottest and most dangerous UV times.

LUNCH ORDERS

The school does not operate its own canteen but lunches may be ordered at school and are provided by the Cozinha Cafe or the Sturt Street Snack Bar. Paper bags are provided at the Front Office. Please write your child's name and room number on the top of the bag followed by the choice of lunch, its cost, the amount of money enclosed in the bag and the change to be received. The order is collected from the school at 9.30 sharp. Food will be delivered to the school for distribution to classes at 10.35am. We are a health promoting school and our lunch provider follows the DfE "Right Bite" healthy eating policy which encourages healthy foods. Foods not on the Lunch order list should not be ordered. We do not permit chips, soft drinks or lollies.

PACKED LUNCHES

Parents are encouraged to send healthy foods for lunch. Please name your child's lunchbox and drink bottle.

When providing foods such as yogurts and fruit snack packs, please ensure that your child is able to open the container themselves and has a spoon packed for them. We discourage the sending of small tins of tuna etc for younger children who cannot open them safely.

For safety reasons **glass containers are not permitted** at school.

When a child has no lunch a lunch order will be provided at the parent's cost. A copy of the school's **Nut and Allergens Awareness policy** is enclosed. Please read this carefully to help us provide a safe environment for all our children and staff.

YARD RULES - REMINDERS

There are times when students don't understand a rule or find it difficult to remember.

When no great malice is evident staff will:

- Check that the students understand the rules and the rights and their responsibilities concerned.
- Point out any logical consequences eg someone will have to clean up a mess which has been made.
- Possibly restrict a student's movements for a short time, up to 10 minutes, to focus attention.

The following are banned: littering, play fighting, spitting, teasing, and throwing small objects.

No child is to bring any form of toy weapon to school.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT

In Week 3 of Term 1 the school holds Acquaintance Night. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and other parents in your child's classroom and to hear from the teacher an overview of the learning planned for the year as well as information on classroom routines and requirements. Acquaintance night is a familiarisation evening in a group atmosphere. Individual parent / teacher / student interviews are held in Term 1.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

At Sturt Street we value partnerships in learning. During Term 1 we will invite you to participate in Student Led Conferences. These 15 minute sessions include children reporting on their learning through sharing their workbooks and activities they do during class time and an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. Appointment times are booked through the Parent Portal of SENTRAL

Please make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher if you have concerns about their learning or wellbeing at any time throughout the year.

STUDENT ACADEMIC REPORTS

Written reports are sent to parents twice per year – at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.

These are sent home with students on the last Thursday of the term and are then available to view on the Parent Portal.

Please inform the Front Office if a second report is required for separated parents.

SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL

The school uses SENTRAL as a communication portal and parents will be issued with access codes when their child enrolls at Sturt Street. Parents can access the school calendar, their child's student reports and make appointments for Parent/teacher conferences.

NEWSLETTERS

The school newsletter is produced in Week 3 and Week 8 and contains information and dates for pupil free days, upcoming events and reports on activities in the school, preschool and ELC. Newsletters are available electronically through the school's website.

ASSEMBLIES

Each Monday morning a short assembly is held in the hall at 8.45am where upcoming activities for the week / sporting team results are announced.

A Tuesday morning assembly is held in the hall approximately every 3 weeks beginning at 9.10am and these assemblies can include class presentations and items.

SCHOOL FEES

Invoices are issued and sent to the address of the enrolling parent for Materials and Services charges. Payment in full is due by the end of Term 1 unless other arrangements have been made with the school's Finance Officer. Families may be eligible for assistance with school fees through the DfE School Card scheme – see below.

SCHOOL CARDS – SUBSIDY FOR SCHOOL FEES BY DfE

The School Card Scheme provides financial assistance towards the educational expenses incurred by families at government and non-government schools and who meet the eligibility criteria. School Card assistance is available for:

- having a child or children from 4 years of age attending school (not Preschool) full time
- those parents with a gross income being within the School Card income limits for the number of dependent children

Full-time students from low income families who are in financial need may be eligible to receive assistance to enable them to pay school fees, obtain books and materials and attend camps and excursions.

Eligibility for the School Card is generally dependent on the parent, guardian or adult student being able to produce to the enrolling school the relevant documentation attesting to their income level, for example, Parenting Payment, Single Pension card or other evidence as determined from time to time by the department.

Applicants wishing to be considered for School Card assistance must apply EACH YEAR.

Parents will be requested to contribute per term where there is a difference between school levies and the School Card allocation made by DfE.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The school offers tuition in Woodwind and Brass to Upper Primary students as part of the concert band program provided by the DfE Instrumental Music service. If selected for this program, students are expected to participate for the whole year.

These lessons are provided by DfE IMS staff. There is a charge for the hire of the instrument.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

When your child is enrolled at Sturt Street Community School he/she may enrol in the Out of School Hours Care Program. Before your child can attend however, an Out of School Hours Care Program enrolment form must be filled out.

The Out of School Hours Care Program operates from:

7.45am – 8.30am

3.25pm – 6.00pm

Pupil Free Days operate from 7.45am – 6.00pm

Fees: Before School Care Casual \$18 Permanent \$15.50 Late Notice \$20
After School Hours Care Casual \$28.00 Permanent \$25.50 Late Notice \$30
Pupil Free Days \$68 per day, Late Notice \$70

Early Bird price \$61.50 per day

Please contact OSHC Director, Kevin Borruso on 8231 7990

VACATION CARE PROGRAM

The Vacation Care Program operates during the hours of 7.45am and 6.00pm during school vacations. A program of activities and costs for each of the days in the holidays is released during the term. Places fill quickly and parents are advised to book early for Vacation Care through the OSHC Director on 82317990. Places are strictly limited.

Fees: Vacation Care \$68.00 per day (Early Bird price - \$61.50)

CASUAL DAYS

Our SRC nominates the last day of each term as 'Casual Day' where students donate a gold coin to not wear school uniform. The SRC nominate a charity to donate the proceeds. Casual day is not a 'costume' day and we ask that parents ensure that students are dressed appropriately and comfortably for a day at school, eg – no high heels, bare midriffs, thongs.

EXCURSIONS & PERFORMANCES

Excursions and performances are an important part of our school program. Learning in the classroom is helped by an excursion or performance when children have first-hand experience. These activities stimulate the children's interest, assist the development of language and are also enjoyable because learning takes place in a different environment. Excursions are valuable for the development of social skills. **We expect all students to be involved in these activities.** There are classroom activities before and after these experiences. If an excursion/performance is missed, much of the classroom work is less meaningful.

Before each excursion/performance a consent form will be sent home explaining the details and costs.

The consent must be signed if your child is to attend.

If you have any queries about the planned activities, please contact the school.

Each year the Year 3 - Year 7 parents will be asked to sign a Park Play consent form for your child as these classes walk to the Princess Elizabeth Playground on South Tce for lunchtime play on 1-2 days per week.

WATER SAFETY EDUCATION WEEK / AQUATICS DAY

During the year, your child will participate in Water Safety Education week or Aquatics Day (Yr 6). WSE week is held at the Unley Swimming Centre. Aquatics Day is usually held at Port Noarlunga Aquatic Centre. Extra fees apply to these activities (approx. \$50) Attendance is obligatory as part of the Health & PE curriculum. Exemptions apply only with a medical certificate.

A consent/health form will be sent home prior to these lessons.

SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS

Participation in local sports programs in netball, soccer, cricket etc is possible when parents of interested students act as coaches and team managers. Please check with the Front Office if you are interested in organising participation in any of these programs.

HEALTH CARE PLANS, MEDICATIONS & FIRST AID

Children with a medical condition noted on their enrolment form that requires routine health support or medication must submit a **written health care plan** to the school from the treating doctor / health professional. Medications will only be administered in accordance with this written plan.

Where antibiotics are required by a student 3 times per day we ask that these doses be given before school, after school and before bedtime and not sent to school.

Please do not send medications of any type, including Ventolin, to school in children's bags for children to self administer.

Where a child is sent for First Aid as a result of a blow or bump to the head where concussion may be considered, a parent will be notified by phone call.

The school does not have a 'sick room' area. A child who is considered by their teacher to be too unwell or injured to be at school will be sent to the Front Office and a parent called to collect them. If a parent is unable to be contacted the child's emergency contacts will be called to collect the child.

AMBULANCE

Where a student has sustained an injury resulting in loss of consciousness, suspected fractures or spinal / neck injury we will call an ambulance so that we know the child will be moved expertly.

Legal responsibility for paying for ambulance service fees rest with the parent/guardian of the student using this service.

If the parent or guardian is not a member of the Ambulance service and does not have any other form of insurance in relation to ambulance services, the parent/guardian may complete an ambulance claim form and submit the form through the school requesting payment of account by the Minister.

STUDENT RECORDS: PRIVACY AND ACCESS

Student records are collated to meet the needs of this school and departmental requirements.

Student records are confidential and secured in storage cabinets,

Student records are accessible to parents provided they seek the Principal's permission and that they are viewed at school. Student records are transferred to other public schools if a child moves schools but are not transferred to private schools or interstate.

Reports on students for persons other than parents may be supplied provided permission has been given by parent or student. Information can be made available to other teachers within the school and to officers of the department.

SECURITY OF MONEY

In the interests of security, we ask that money for excursions be sent in a named, sealed envelope. We discourage children from bringing valuable items to school and take no responsibility for loss or damage to valuables brought to school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM - A SCHOOL POLICY

Parents are expected to provide a school uniform. The school colours are red, navy and white.

We encourage the wearing of these colours.

Children's clothing needs to be appropriate for daily activities. Sports shoes or rubber soled black shoes allow for physical activity.

PLEASE NAME YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING.

School polar fleece tops, polo tops, shirts and hats are available for purchase from the school.

Please see Admin staff at Front Desk for sales.

We may also have second hand uniforms available for purchase from time to time.

HATS - SUN SMART POLICY

Our school has a "No hat, no play" policy. Please supply a named blue broad-brimmed/legionnaires hat and sunscreen for your child to wear whenever they go outdoors.

During Term 2 students may be outside without hats in line with the Cancer Council recommendations regarding the UV index being under 3 during May, June & July.

MOBILE PHONES

Students who have mobile phones **are required to put them in the** class box at the beginning of the school day.

They are not permitted to be used at lunchtimes and are not to be accessed / checked or used until leaving the school at the end of the day.

Parents should not expect their child to answer a phone call or access / reply to text messages during the day.

Parents who need to relay any urgent message to their child during the school day should contact the Front Office.

Teachers will not take calls from parents from a student's mobile phone.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN DECISION MAKING

Students make decisions affecting them through:

- **Class Meetings** – Class meetings are held fortnightly. Each class will develop and display its own class rules. Each class group has a budget, which it may use to provide equipment to make playtime or class time more enjoyable and useful.
- **Student Representative Council** – The SRC meets on the week alternate to class meetings. Agenda and minutes are available to all class meetings. The SRC is able to have a voice in making changes.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT - GOVERNING COUNCIL & FRIENDS OF STURT STREET

Those who wish to become involved with school matters or helping with the smooth running of our organisation are invited to join the Governing Council. The Council is a decision making body which helps formulate school policy and organise the school budget. It meets on the third Monday evening of each month. Members are elected on a two year basis at the Annual General Meeting in March of each year.

The Governing Council has the following sub-committees:

- Finance Committee
- OHSC Advisory Committee
- ELC Advisory Committee

Parents can also join the **Friends of Sturt Street** parent group who support the school with organising events and fundraising.

Classroom support in your child's classroom can be hearing children read, excursion supervision and art and craft assistance. Ask your child's teacher on Acquaintance Night how you can be involved in the classroom. Volunteers are required to have a Dept of Human Services, Working with Children Clearance and the school will arrange this for volunteers at no cost. Please see the Front Office.

ROAD SAFETY

Parents of children are urged to discuss road safety.

School Crossing:

When crossing Sturt Street, the safest way to do so is at our crossing, so please use this to encourage your children to do the same. Parental example is requested.

SCHOOL CAR PARKING

Sturt Street is an extremely busy, CBD road.

Car parking around the school is mostly limited to **2 hourly**.

There is no 'kiss and drop' zone at the front of the school.

This is a bus stop and parents must not pull up and let their children out of the car.

Parents must not park or drop off / pick up children in either of the 2 staff car parks.

Do not walk your children through / in and around the staff cars in these car parks. Please use the walk ways / paths at all times.

PRE SCHOOL SERVICES

The Pre-school is an integrated service with the Early Learning Centre at our school. It is located in the Preschool Room which caters for children from 3.5 – 5 years.

Children are eligible for **15 hours** of Pre-school over 2 days for 12 months prior to school entry.

Preschool days: Monday – Thursday: 8.15am – 3.45pm

Preschool fees are charged through the school and are \$165 per term.

On Fridays there is Long Day Care available from 7.45am – 6.00 pm – cost \$133 per day.

Before and After pre-school care is also available.

Before Pre-school care Mon – Thurs 7.45am – 8.15 am is \$19 per day

After Pre-school care Mon – Thurs 3.45pm – 6 pm is \$35 per day

PRE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The Pre-school curriculum is based on the Early Years Learning Framework. Play is an essential aspect of learning for young children and planning for play is seen as the central component in developing a curriculum that integrates all areas of the child's development.

The program for each term has an over-arching Big Idea that we use to stimulate and extend children's interests and we welcome parent involvement in all aspects of our program.

The preschool program aims to provide opportunities for children to explore, experiment and learn about other people and their environment in a relaxed, happy atmosphere. It allows them to develop new skills, gain confidence in relationships with others and gives opportunities for social and language development.

As an integrated part of the schools' program and transition to Reception, time at the preschool can be valuable in familiarising children with school procedures and reducing their anxiety prior to school entry. Children can borrow books from the library, and parents will receive the school newsletter.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Our school is a designated DfE Children's Centre for Early Learning and Development. As part of this initiative, we have a Community Development Coordinator, Kat Ochan, who links with the community to facilitate services for parents and other community members to support early childhood development.

Kat will focus on community capacity building and in her role will encourage and support families to actively participate in all aspects of the Children's Centre. She will work with families and key stakeholders to identify community strengths, needs and aspirations to support the development of a range of responsive services for families with young children that enhance parenting and family relationships.