



WHITFORD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pre-Kindergarten 2017

School Information

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PRIEST:	Father Joseph Tran
PRINCIPAL:	Mrs Tamara McGougan
ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:	Catharine Hughes (Pre K-Year 2 Cluster) Andrew De Maio (Year 3-6 Cluster)
PRE-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER:	Celeste de Rozario derozario.celeste@cathednet.wa.edu.au

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Embracing Catholic principles, our mission at Whitford Catholic Primary School is to educate, respect and nurture each child."

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"Our Vision is to be a community where children thrive, enjoy learning, and gain life skills to meet future challenges and technologies."

WELCOME

We welcome you to the Pre-Kindergarten Program at Whitford Catholic Primary School. We look forward to working together with your family as a team to provide the best learning environment for your child. Our Pre-Kindy Three Year Old Program provides an introduction to schooling for children and their families and sets the foundation for future school learning. We aim to facilitate this learning through a fun and educational, child centred, program that develops a lifelong love of learning.



WHAT IS PRE - KINDERGARTEN

Pre-Kindergarten is an educational program for children aged three years. The program is play based and provides children with meaningful experiences that promote the development of spiritual, social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical skills. The teacher's aim is to create a caring, safe and stimulating environment that will nurture each child's disposition to wonder, explore and construct meaning about the world.

THE PROGRAM:

Whitford Catholic Pre-Kindergarten program will cover all learning domains within the "EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK FOR AUSTRALIA".

Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children's lives as characterised by 'belonging, being and becoming'.

THREE YEAR OLD PROGRAM AIMS:

- Encourage self-help and independence in young children
- Enhance the development of the whole child across the physical, social and emotional, language, cognitive and spiritual domains.
- Assist children to develop a positive self-image and self-efficacy.
- Encourage parent participation and develop strong partnerships between children, schools and families.
- Provide an aesthetically pleasing environment that encourages learning in the young child.
- Create a safe, secure and nurturing physical and human environment.
- To acknowledge, value and celebrate each child's individuality.
- Make available support to parents in relation to the child's development.
- Include flexibility in the program that allows for individual needs of each child.
- Provide a developmentally appropriate program for three year old children based on the current national requirements for early years.

PLAY, PLAY, PLAY!

The Pre-Kindergarten program is 'play' based. The importance of play in the lives of children is supported by many theorists, researchers and practitioners.

Play is the instrument for teaching in the Pre-Kindy program; it will be both spontaneous and planned. The following types of play will form much of the program.

- Sensory play
- Construction/deconstruction play
- Dramatic play
- Exploratory play
- Manipulative play
- Physically active play
- Creative play

Important Information about Pre-Kindergarten

WHO MAY ATTEND?

The program is available to children as soon as they have turned THREE. Regulations prevent us from taking children until they have turned three years of age. Please note that enrolment at the Whitford Catholic Pre-Kindergarten program does not guarantee a place in the Four Year Old Kindergarten Program. Normal enrolment procedures will apply for Kindergarten. For further enrolment information please contact the school office.



ADMINISTRATION

Pre-Kindergarten operates full days only.

Extra places/days are often made available during the year as more students turn three years old. Please notify the office should you be interested in extra sessions. Due to legislation, children cannot attend Pre-Kindergarten more than 2 days per week.



SESSION TIMES

Operating times are 9.00am - 2.45pm

EDUCATORS

The program will operate with a Teacher and one Teaching Assistant. We work on a 1:10 ratio.

WHAT TO BRING TO EACH SESSION

- All items brought to Pre-Kindergarten must be **labelled**
- Morning tea in a separate labelled container (fruit plus another healthy snack)
- A labelled drink bottle (filled with water only)
- A **WIDE BRIMMED** yellow hat for outdoor play. A yellow Pre-Kindy hat is available to be purchased from the Office for \$8.00.
- A spare set of clothes for accidents
- A healthy packed lunch
- A **large** bag to keep belongings in. (e.g. backpack)
- Apply sunscreen before bringing your child to school
- Uniforms are not compulsory in Pre-Kindy but a Pre-Kindy t-shirt is available from the Office for \$12.50.

We are an ALLERGY AWARE school! Please don't bring foods containing nuts or traces of nuts to Pre-Kindergarten.

ITEMS TO BRING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

- 2 glue sticks
- A colour family photo with family members' names on the back. No larger than A5.

CLOTHING

Parents please ensure that all items belonging to your child are clearly labelled. Children should attend Pre-Kindergarten wearing clothes that are weather appropriate, comfortable and that you do not mind getting wet, painted or glued. Please don't send your child in tank/singlet style tops/dresses. Also please ensure your child can put on and take off shoes by themselves.



TOILET TRAINING

Having your child toilet trained before they commence Pre-Kindy is preferable. If your child is in the process of being toilet trained, please speak to the teacher prior to school commencing.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE ROUTINES

One of the first things a Pre-Kindergarten child needs to learn is how to be away from his/her parents or primary caregiver. This may take some time for some children. It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the Pre-Kindergarten environment. The Pre-Kindergarten staff will work closely with parents/caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best chance to settle in at their own pace.



Parents are asked to wait outside the classroom until the door is opened at the beginning and end of the Pre-Kindy sessions. Parents are then encouraged to stay for the first 15 minutes of each session as a way of helping your child settle into the classroom.

Parents are required to inform the teacher (verbally or written) if you are unable to collect your child from their Pre-Kindy session. You will need to inform staff the name(s) of the person(s) who will be collecting your child from Pre-Kindergarten. If your circumstances change during the day and you are unable to pick up your child as planned, please telephone the office and leave details of the new arrangements.

Children may only be collected by an adult, not an older sibling.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are a very special time in the lives of young children. To celebrate your child's birthday you may like to bring cup cakes, biscuits or something similar for each child in the class to be served at morning/afternoon tea.

SICKNESS

If your child is unwell please do not send him/her to Pre-Kindergarten. Coughs, colds and flu can spread very quickly in an Early Childhood environment. Please let us know if your child has an infectious disease such as chicken pox or measles etc so that other parents can be notified.

MEDICATION

All medication coming into school must be accompanied with written instruction from the parent/guardian on a school medication form which is available at the office. Children may not self administer medication or store medication in their bags. Medication is to be given to the teacher with the medication form and will be stored in the medicine cabinet or fridge. For long term administering of medication, approval must be obtained from the school office.



ALLERGIES

Please let the school office and class teacher know of any allergies or medical problems so that an action plan for your child may be put into place, if necessary.

PERSONAL TOYS AND ITEMS

We would appreciate if you could ensure that your child's personal toys and belongings remain at home along with excessive jewellery and watches.

FEES



Fees for 2017 are as follows:

- \$75.00 per full day
- \$50.00 resource fee per year/ per number of sessions per week (pro-rata for students commencing after Term 1)

Fees will be issued via students on the second week of Term 1 or on the first week of attendance. Details on methods of payment will accompany fee statements.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Please notify the school immediately of any change of address or phone number for yourself or your alternative contact. A 'Change of Details' form is available from the school office.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Teachers are always available for a quick chat before or after class time for parents to share information with us. However, if you need a longer meeting we will make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Religious Education is informal and unstructured. We link the children's everyday experiences with developing an awareness and growing understanding of God.

There are some structured opportunities:

1. **Easter:** Jesus had a special meal with His friends
2. **Christmas:** Christmas recalls the day Jesus was born
3. **Prayer** is an important part of our day... songs, movement and Grace before lunch.



We look forward to getting to know you and your family!