



Learning Is Our Future



Get Set for Prep at Yarrilee State School

2024

*A guide to preparing your child for
their first year at school*

YARRILEE STATE SCHOOL

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GET SET FOR PREP

Welcome to Prep at Yarrilee State School. We aim to give your child the very best start to school by helping them make a smooth transition into the foundation year of their lifelong learning journey.

Prep will provide the scaffolding your child needs to succeed at school by developing –

- Early literacy and numeracy understandings and skills
- Thinking and problem solving
- Physical abilities – including both gross and fine motor skills
- Personal and Social capabilities

Prep is offered full-time and children attend from Monday to Friday during our normal school hours: 8.50 am – 3.00 pm.

“There is powerful evidence that the early years of development from conception to age six set the base for competence and coping skills that will affect learning, behaviour and health throughout life.”

(McCaine and Mustard, *Reversing the Brain Drain*, Early Years Study Final Report)



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Young children’s learning really is quite extraordinary. In the first years of life children learn how to walk, talk, think, explore and create. They also learn a huge amount about who they are and how others feel about them. They learn about what interests them and build a sense of themselves as capable learners.

Mental Health & Mindfulness

Keeping children happy and healthy not only involves taking care of their physical health but also their mental health.

Mental health and wellbeing is important as it underpins the way children feel about themselves, how they think, learn, and relate to others.

With good mental health, research shows children are happier, more confident, more resilient learners and able to build positive relationships. Good mental health in childhood sets young people up for positive mental health in the future.

Mindfulness is a state of being fully awake to life, being aware and undistracted in the present moment and observing life as it unfolds without analysis or judgment. It is about focusing attention on the here and now, rather than thinking about the past or worrying about the future.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

“Check and Connect” Morning Meeting Time

As part of our school wide focus teachers are implementing “Check and Connect” Morning Meetings in all year levels to start the day.

“Check and Connect” Morning Meetings provide a consistent, predictable routine that is about building connection and belonging.

During these meetings children and teachers participate in a number of activities including morning greetings and team building, ready to learn scales, positive primer games, discussions/reflections around school values, expectations and routines.

Participating in “Check and Connect” Morning Meetings promotes positive connections between students and peers as well as students and staff. This routine helps to create a sense of safety and belonging that can support student engagement, build well being and create positive classroom communities. Students experience positive emotions that prime them for open, flexible and engaged thinking.

Connection:

The power that exists between people when they feel **seen, heard, and valued.**

Brene Brown

Youth Dynamics

TRANSITION STATEMENTS

A transition statement is created to build a shared and accurate picture of your child's learning during their kindergarten year. It includes information about each of the learning and development areas and helps support your child's transition into Yarrilee State School.



A transition statement includes:

- Information about your child's strengths and interests
- Information about your child's learning in each of the five learning and development areas. These include – identity, connectedness, wellbeing, active learning and communicating
- The type and level of support that your child requires in both familiar and new situations
- Opportunities for you and your child to contribute information that is relevant throughout the kindergarten year and to support their transition to school
- Suggestions and strategies to support your child's transition to school and continuity of learning

Creating the transition statement

Kindergarten teachers will seek your written consent to create your child's transition statement in the secure QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Portal.



If you prefer not to have your child's transition statement created in the Portal, your kindergarten teacher can download a template from the QCAA website.

Sharing the Transition Statement

After you have read your child's transition statement, the kindergarten will ask for your informed consent to:

- share the transition statement with Yarrilee State School
- contact, or respond to contact from your child's Prep teacher and relevant school staff to discuss strategies for a successful transition to school

If you prefer, you can take the transition statement to share with the school.

Promoting Continuity

Sharing information helps promote continuity of learning and supports your child's transition into their Prep year. The process of sharing information is important for building strong, trusting relationships between all partners involved in your child's learning.

This information may be used by school staff to allocate class groups, provide a starting point for learning that builds on your child's strengths, talents, motivations, interests and learning needs and promote the knowledge, skills and dispositions that help your child to feel comfortable at school.



WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN AND DO IN PREP

The Australian Curriculum – Foundation (Prep) Year

The Australian Curriculum is designed to develop:

- successful learners
- confident and creative individuals
- active and informed young people who are ready to take their place in society.

It sets the goal for what all students should learn as they progress through their school life – wherever they live in Australia and whatever school they attend.

The Australian Curriculum with its eight learning areas provides a modern curriculum for every student in Australia. Included in the content of learning areas are seven general capabilities intended to help prepare young Australians to learn, live and work in the 21st century. There are three cross-curriculum priorities that are also a focus across the learning areas.

The Australian Curriculum is flexible so that teachers can plan the learning for all their students, also taking into account their local school community.

The First Year of School

In their first year of school, students learn through teaching interactions with others, experimentation, practice and play in the classroom and school community.

Priority is given to literacy and numeracy development as these are the foundations upon which further learning is built. Opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy are found in all subjects but particularly in English and Mathematics. Learning in a classroom and belonging to a school community are key to the first year at school.

English

In the first year of school, students view, listen to and enjoy texts that entertain and inform, such as picture books or rhymes. They begin to learn to read and create texts.

Typically, students will:

- communicate with others in familiar situations
- read stories with one or more sentences, recognise pictures and familiar vocabulary
- recognise rhyming words, syllables and sounds
- recognise letters and the most common sounds the letters make
- listen to, read and view picture books, stories, poetry, information books, films and performances
- write some words
- recognise some words and develop skills in 'sounding out' words
- create their own texts such as giving information orally or in writing; presenting a narrative, which may include pictures.



GETTING YOUR CHILD SET FOR PREP

There are some simple steps you can take to help make your child's time at school more enjoyable and relaxed. Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to:

- Putting on and doing up his or her shoes
- Eating and drinking without help (opening lunch boxes, wrapping and unwrapping school lunches, placing straws in poppers and drinking from drink bottles)
- Caring for and putting away play things
- Using a handkerchief or tissue
- Going to the toilet independently
- Using playground equipment safely
- Identifying his or her name
- Identifying his or her belongings



Work with your child to develop his or her communication skills. Help your child to:

- Make his or her needs known using "their words"
- Use appropriate greetings
- Respond verbally when spoken to



Familiarise your child with the school environment and routine by:

- Driving or walking by the school a few times so that the school becomes a familiar place
- Attending one or both of the Pre-Prep Programs
- Making sure your child knows where to meet you of an afternoon or what the arrangements are for after school care or the bus line
- Making sure all your child's belongings are organised and labelled with their name
- Checking with your pre-Prep provider (Kindy/Childcare) about how they can help your child make a smooth transition to school

Resource Scheme

- Our school currently has a resource scheme which covers all books, stationery items which are used in the classroom. It also provides access to a number of educational internet sites which include the site used for home reading.
- If you choose not to participate in the scheme a booklist is available from the office.
- EFTPOS, BPoint online, phone payment using credit/debit card via BPoint, Centrepay, QParents, cash and Direct Debit facilities are available. If you choose to pay with cash please bring the correct money as we do not keep any change on the premises.

Please note: A QParent account can only be opened after your child's enrolment has become active, ie, for Prep parents, on Day 1 of the new school year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bell Times:

8.50 – 1st session begins

10.50 – First Break

11.00 – Play bell

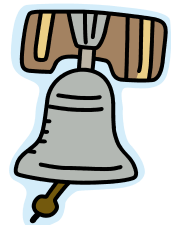
11.30 – 2nd Session commences

1.30 – Second break

1.40 – Play bell

2.10 – 3rd session commences

3.00 – School Day concludes



- *If your child's/children's normal bus arrangements are changed please contact the office prior to 2.30pm in order for this to be organised*
- Ensure that the office/teacher knows of the bus number/s your child catches and which days they travel.
- Teachers are rostered on bus duty.
- If your child does not have an older sibling at Yarrilee a teacher aide will be organised to collect them from their classroom and escort them up to the bus lines (until they are independent in doing so themselves). Please ensure that you advise your child's teacher if this escort is needed.

Health Issues:

- It is vital that you let us know both verbally and in writing, if your child suffers from an allergy or any other health issue.
- Please ensure that the school is made aware of the exact nature of your child's allergy, the allergens to which they react, and the care and action plans needed to manage a potential allergic reaction.
- If your child has an ongoing medical condition, such as diabetes or asthma, you should communicate this on your child's enrolment form. A personal health plan (completed by a GP) also needs to be provided to the school.
- You also need to inform the school of any medication or treatment which may be need to be administered.

Medications:



- All medication, including over-the-counter medication such as paracetamol and alternative medicines, treatments or supplements, must be authorised by a medical practitioner before it can be administered to students. That is, a prescription label on all medication as listed above.
- **Short Term and Long Term Conditions/Medication:** A 'Consent to Administer Medication' form needs to be completed by the parent or their child's medical practitioner for students with chronic (long term) and short term medical conditions who require *routine, short term or emergency medications*. *i.e.* anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy or asthma medication and general medication. This form can be downloaded from the school website or obtained at the office.
- ADHD - If your child is medicated for this condition your paediatrician is to supply a letter stating your child's name, date of birth, medication type and strength, dosage and time to be administered.
- Regulations of the Education Act, amended in 2013, require that before medication is administered:
 - a parent has completed and returned relevant documentation *i.e.* letter/'request to administer form'
 - the prescription label on the medication clearly states: (a) the name of the child (b) the dosage and times for it (c) the doctors name
- Please note: All medication is to be stored at the office and signed in using the appropriate form.

Communication:

- We encourage you to keep informed about school events and your child's education through reference to the school's website – yarrileess@eq.edu.au , Facebook, Class DOJO and the fortnightly newsletter which is emailed to you.
- Your child's teacher is the first point of contact should you wish to discuss any issue pertaining to your child. Please be mindful that school starts at 8.50am and that the teachers need to be teaching from this time, therefore if you do want to speak with your child's teacher please make an appointment with them.
- Please ensure that you advise the office of any change of address or contact details as it is of the utmost importance that your details are correct in the case of an emergency.

Student Absences:

Please phone the absence line: 4197 7111 dial 1 for absences

Please do not email Admin or leave absence messages on Facebook or Class DOJO as they may be overlooked due to the cut off time for sending text messages.

Should you receive a text message from Yarrilee SS for an "Unexplained Absence", please reply with a reason and the student record will be updated.

Should you receive an "Absentee Letter", please complete and return to the office asap.

Tuckshop:



- Is open at each break on Thursday and Friday.
 - Qkr! (quicker) online ordering system is available for both Tuckshop and selected uniform purchases. (Preferred method of ordering)
 - The Qkr! App can be downloaded through Google Play or the App Store.
- Cash payments - A paper bag with your child's name, class, order, and amount of money enclosed needs to be placed in the appropriate box (orange – first break/white – second break) prior to the beginning of school.
- The boxes are delivered and picked up by designated tuckshop monitors.
- Placing the correct money in the bag negates “change hassles” and is much appreciated by our tuckshop helpers.
- If a frozen item is ordered, the bag must be retained and the student must proceed to the tuckshop to collect the item after the play bell has rung.
- EFTPOS is available for transactions at the tuckshop.



Below is an example of how to write a tuckshop order on a lunch bag
(A separate order would be required for 2nd break)

1 st Break	
<i>Joe Bloggs</i>	<i>JPLK</i>
<i>1 x bolognaise</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>
<i>1 x watermelon</i>	<i>.50</i>
<i>1 x water</i>	<i>\$1.50</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$5.50</i>