Kindy

Play, Learn and Grow... Together!

St John Paul II Catholic Primary School
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Welcome to St John Paul II Catholic Primary School

Kindergarten

Our Kindy & Early Childhood Education classes are based upon The Early Years Learning Framework & National Quality Standards documents and incorporate the Western Australian Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines.

We look forward to a wonderful and rewarding year with you and your child. Kindergarten is the start of a new era in your child’s life.

AIMS OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

The aims of Kindergarten Education are:

- to help each child develop a positive self-image;

- to provide an environment and educational experience which acknowledges the innate spirituality of every child’s ability to wonder, experience awe, overcome difficulties, love others and reflect God, their creator;

- to encourage children to become independent and to be able to make choices;

- to promote learning in the area of language use and its associated skills;

- to assist each child to develop appropriate skills in the spiritual, social, emotional, physical, intellectual, creative and language domains;

- to develop within children their natural religious sense;

- to develop interactive and positive relationships between the Kindergarten class and Early Childhood area of the school; and

- to encourage the participation of parents in all aspects of the Kindergarten program.
THE EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

The Framework puts children’s learning at the core and comprises three inter-related elements: Principles, Practice and Learning Outcomes. All three elements are fundamental to early childhood pedagogy and curriculum decision-making.

The Framework conveys the highest expectations for all children’s learning from birth to five years and through the transitions to school. It communicates these expectations through the following five Learning Outcomes:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS

The National Quality Standard (NQS) is a key aspect of the National Quality Framework (NQF) and sets a national benchmark for early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services in Australia. To ensure children enjoy the best possible conditions in their early educational and developmental years, the NQS promotes continuous improvement in quality through these seven areas.

- Educational Program and Practice
- Children’s Health and Safety
- Physical Environment
- Staffing Arrangements
- Relationships with Children
- Leadership and Service Management
- Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

The Kindergarten curriculum guidelines support educators to plan curriculum which will assist learners to develop general capabilities that encompass the knowledge, skills, attitudes and dispositions that support learners in the 21st Century.

To be successful learners, children will be encouraged to be confident, creative problem solvers immersed in environments where they can explore multiple perspectives and ways of working.

It draws from the key ideas and related content from the EYLF (Early Years Learning Framework) to construct curriculum to ensure that all children in kindergarten experience quality teaching and learning.

Kindergarten children are connected to family, community, culture and place. Their learning takes place through these relationships. As children participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understandings of the world.

The guidelines recommend the use of the following curriculum decision-making processes (adapted from Queensland Studies Authority, 2010):

- **Plan and organise** for learning and teaching – daily, short and long term plans.
- **Monitor, assess and document** children’s learning and participation in a variety of ways in diverse contexts over time.
- **Enact, interact and respond** thoughtfully using a number of strategies to engage children in learning experiences.
- **Analyse and evaluate** to inform ongoing planning and share information with parents and colleagues.
- **Reflect** on learning and practice to further professional growth.
TERM DATES
Term dates will be advised to you via our school newsletter at the start of each year.

If there are any changes, this will also be noted in our newsletter.

HOURS
Alternate Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays OR Alternate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Session Times: 8:25am–2:45pm (Tuesday to Friday)
8.25am-2.00pm (Monday)

- After you have picked up your child, please wait for older siblings at the Pick-up Point. Adults should not be walking through the school during school hours.

PROCEDURES FOR ARRIVAL AND PICK UP
The door will open at 8:25am. Please stay with your child until the door opens. You are welcome to stay and settle your child by doing an ‘early bird’ activity with them until 8.45am. Please be punctual and comply with session times. Punctuality is important, as no child likes to be the last one to arrive or leave and young children can become distressed over late pickups.

We will not dismiss a child to unauthorised persons, so please inform the teacher, education assistant or the office. If there will be someone other than a parent regularly picking up your child, please inform the class teacher. Arrival and pick up point is at the classroom door.

ALL KINDY CHILDREN are to be dropped off and picked up by an adult.

EARLY DEPARTURE OF CHILDREN
If you need to pick up your child during school hours, for reasons such as illness, appointments, etc. you must to report to the school office to complete the Students Register. A blue card will be given to you to give to the class teacher.
ABSENCES
If your child is going to be absent, we require you to inform the school office. Regular attendance will allow your child to benefit from the sequential educational program offered at the school. The schools absentee line to SMS is 0438 404 375.

COMMUNICABLE and CONTAGIOUS DISEASES
Please contact us if your child contracts measles, mumps, chicken pox, glandular fever, german measles, conjunctivitis, ringworm, head lice or other notifiable diseases. General health information can be obtained from Health Info: 1300 135 030 or your local G.P.

MEDICAL INFORMATION
Please inform us as soon as possible of any information regarding your child’s health, e.g allergies, asthma, toileting issues. It is important that this information is provided so we are able to provide the best possible care for your child. If your child requires any regular medication / intervention throughout the day whilst at Kindy, then an ‘ACTION PLAN’ must be provided by your G.P.

HEAD LICE
Head lice is a problem that occurs every year. We ask you to please be vigilant in checking your child’s hair as the Health Dept requires schools to send children home if they have lice or eggs in their hair. All eggs need to be removed before your child returns to school. Please ensure your child’s hair is tied back for Kindy.

SICK CHILDREN
Please keep your child at home when they are unwell. Bed rest or quiet time at home helps prevent illness spreading throughout the class.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BRING TO KINDY
Please supply your child with the following clearly named items:

- A school backpack & library bag (from School Uniform Shop)
- A spare change of clothes in-case of accidents.
- A suitable sun hat (school hats available from Uniform Shop and are recommended) which is to be kept at school.
- A water bottle and lunch box.
- A small cushion or pillow (approx 30cm x 30cm).
- One box of tissues and one pack of baby wet wipes per child.
HEALTHY FOOD BUILDS HEALTHY KIDS
The food your child will need to bring is as follows:

- Fresh / dried fruit or vegetables for Crunch ‘n’ Sip
- A small nutritious snack for recess
- A small sandwich, yoghurt, a few crackers or extra fruit for lunch.

Please note that the children will only be permitted to drink water during the Kindy day. Children will not be permitted to share food from their lunchboxes.

As a Healthy eating school, we discourage lollies, chocolate and chips.

*St John Paul II Catholic Primary School is an Allergy Aware School.*

We have a number of students with severe nut allergies. Please assist us to keep our students safe by ensuring you provide nut-free foods in your child’s lunch box, which includes muesli bars.

PERSONAL TOYS AND JEWELLERY
We would appreciate it if you could see that your child’s personal toys remain at home. In accordance with school rules, jewellery is requested not to be worn at Kindy.

BIRTHDAYS
Birthdays are very special to young children. We love to help your child celebrate and hope to make their day special. You are most welcome to bring in a treat to help us to celebrate your child’s special day.

Please provide small cupcakes or treats to make the sharing process a little more personal and intimate.

If you have birthday invitations to hand out, please give them to staff to pass on to children.
ROUTINES
Each day is always different in Kindy, however there is a ‘timetable’ that we aim to adhere to as establishing a routine at school is important as is being flexible. The following is some general information to assist you and your child in becoming familiar with the structure of Kindy and to develop their independence skills.

ARRIVAL
When your child arrives at Kindy please:
♦ Encourage them to take out their own water bottle, lunch etc
♦ Place their bag on their faction shelf
♦ Join in with them to begin an ‘early bird’ activity.

From 8.45 am the children will assemble on the mat as we will gather together to start the day. Please try and be punctual for the mat session time. During the course of the day the children will be provided with the opportunity to access a variety of activities involved both indoor and outdoor. The children will also begin ‘specialist classes’ with other staff members during the course of the Week. The staff will work to ensure that each child is catered for according to his/her needs and abilities.

DRESS
Please send children to Kindy in school sports uniform or play clothes.
♦ As we love making mess we encourage you to dress your child in clothing suitable for our creative play. Please no ‘Sunday Best’.
♦ Skirts and dresses can restrict movement.
♦ Belts and buckles can be difficult for children to handle, to ensure going to the toilet is as easy as possible, please avoid them.
♦ School hats and bags are available from the Uniform Shop. School hats are preferable however any sun-safe, broad rimmed hats, are acceptable. We fully support the school policy of “no hat, no play”.
♦ To help develop independence, it is essential that your child has enclosed shoes which they are able to put on and take off themselves. No laces please!

KINDY ROSTER
♦ In Kindy, we love parent helpers! You are required to attend a Parent Helper Workshop run by staff in Term 1. The date & time will be advertised in the newsletter.
♦ The Parent roster will begin in Week 4 to ensure children have settled into school routines. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate siblings so arrangements will need to be made for younger children.
♦ Please be aware that when you are on roster, you will be there to help all of the children, not necessarily just your own.
COMMUNICATION
Our first concern is the happiness and well being of your child. Should anything happen at home that upsets your child in any way, we would appreciate it if you let us know. We have at least two Collaborative Conferences with each child’s parents each year, and parents are always welcome to request a meeting at any time with their child’s teacher.

NEWSLETTERS
Your family will receive an emailed publication from the school each Thursday. Once a fortnight, they will receive a school newsletter. Please ensure you read every newsletter – they are full of important information. Alternate fortnights, your family will receive a publication called “The Grove”. This is where you will find out important information pertaining to the school.

SUSTAINABILITY
Our school has been built on a sustainable premise and we value sustainability highly. As a sustainable school, we participate in the Water Wise and Waste Wise school programs we implement these practices and procedures in our learning curriculum and throughout our school community on a daily basis.

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE
Out of school care is available daily. To register your interest, please go online to www.oshclub.com.au.

We would like to welcome you and your child to our school. We look forward to helping your child get the best start possible.

Please keep this booklet as a handy reference for all of your questions about Kindy at St John Paul II Catholic Primary School.

* Please note that all Catholic schools in Western Australia are smoke-free zones.
A Child's Plea

Today I did my maths and science. I toasted bread, I halved and quartered, counted, measured, and used my eyes, ears and hands. I added and subtracted on the way. I used magnets, blocks and memory tray. I learned about a rainbow and how to weigh.

So please don’t say -
“Anything in your bag today?”

You see. I’m sharing as I play, to learn to listen and speak clearly when I talk, to wait my turn and when inside to walk. To put my words into a phrase, to find my name and write it down. To do it with a smile and not a frown, to put my pasting brush away.

So please, don’t say -
“What nothing in your bag today?”

I learned about a snail and a worm. Remembered how to take my turn. Helped a friend when he was stuck. Learned that water runs off a duck. Looked at words from left to right. Agreed to differ, not to fight.

So please don’t say -
“Did you only play today?”

Yes, I played the whole day through. I played to learn the things I do. I speak a problem, find a clue and work out for myself just what to do. My teacher’s set the scene, and stay near-by to help me when I really try. They are there to pose the problems, and to help me think. I hope they will keep me floating and never let me sink. All of this is in my head and not in my bag.

It makes me sad to hear you say - “Haven’t you done anything today?” When you attend your meeting today and do your work, I will remember not to say to you - 'What nothing in your bag? What did you do?’