



Sacred Heart School Goomalling

PRE-PRIMARY INFORMATION BOOKLET 2020



PO Box 86 Goomalling WA 6460
Hoddy St Goomalling WA 6460
Telephone 99629 1174 Facsimile 9629 1486
Email: admin@shcsgoom.wa.edu.au
www.shcsgoom.wa.edu.au

Welcome to Sacred Heart Pre-Primary

We look forward to a wonderful and rewarding year with you and your child. The experiences that your child has in Pre-Primary will lay the foundations for future learning.

The early years will be your child's first experience outside the home, of faith formation.

Our core belief is that God's presence is everywhere.

Each day we will provide opportunity for the children to experience the wonder and awe of God in their lives and the world around them.

By working together, families and teachers ensure every child has a positive beginning at Sacred Heart School.



Communication

We consider communication between the school and home to be very important, therefore we will keep you informed of all Pre-Primary and school news through the use of notes, newsletters and email. To enable us to do this, please ensure your contact details are always current and updated.

We encourage you to keep us informed of any changes or major events that happen in your child's life that may have an impact on how they are feeling or behaving.

We are always happy to talk with you about your child's development, progress or any other matters regarding your child. Appointments can be made before or after school and short, informal conversations can take place while you are on roster. Alternatively, you may find it convenient to email your concerns to:

elicia.bove@cewa.edu.au



Sacred Heart Pre-Primary

At Sacred Heart, we are dedicated toward creating a warm, friendly and secure environment where children are encouraged to develop at their own pace and in their own unique way.

Our focus early on in the year is to support all children in our care to feel comfortable in their new learning environment and to support them as they build and maintain friendships.

We believe that if the children are settled, secure, comfortable and happy then they will grow in confidence within themselves and in their ability to learn.

All the experiences we provide each day will assist the children to know and understand and enjoy who they are. One of our primary goals is to help them along their journey in becoming sociable, independent four and five year olds.

Our Pre-Primary programme is guided by the Catholic Education Early Years' Positional Statement, the current curriculum practices and outcomes stated in the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: BELONGING, BEING AND BECOMING.



BELONGING

WE PROVIDE LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT ALLOWS EACH CHILD TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR FAMILY, THEIR CLASSROOM, THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY.



BEING

ALL CHILDREN NEED TIME TO BE, TO SEEK AND MAKE MEANING OF THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

THE PRESENT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN. WE CREATE A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT WHICH ALLOWS STUDENTS THE TIME TO KNOW THEMSELVES, BUILD AND MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHERS, TO ENJOY LIFE AND TO GROW AND LEARN IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE WAY.



BECOMING

CHILDREN'S IDENTITIES, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDINGS, CAPACITIES, SKILLS AND RELATIONSHIPS CHANGE DURING CHILDHOOD. BECOMING REFLECTS THIS PROCESS OF RAPID AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGE THAT HAPPENS IN THE EARLY YEARS AS YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

Our philosophy is based on developing the whole child in an environment which develops security, identity and respect embedded in a strong sense of belonging.

SOCIAL

During play, children are provided with opportunities for social interaction with their peers. Children learn the importance of social rules and how to get along with others through play.

LANGUAGE

These skills develop and grow as children's experiences are extended. The natural language flow during play interaction and during time spent with the teacher and other adults, encourages communication and expression and increases self-confidence.

EMOTIONAL

It is during times of social interaction that children learn to express and control their emotions in appropriate ways and to resolve conflicts with others. Children are supported by staff to help resolve conflict when needed.

SPIRITUAL

Through natural, everyday experiences, we hope we will help the children to grow in awareness of the wonder of God and how great God's love is for them and the world in which they live.



PHYSICAL

Young children's motor development becomes increasingly more advanced through the physical activity that play naturally provides. In addition to this, opportunities to use and explore a range of basic fundamental movements are provided.

All fine motor skills are developed and practiced daily through the manipulation and exploration of toys and materials.



CREATIVE

Through the mediums of art and craft, music, dance, drama and media, children learn to express their own thoughts and ideas using a variety of concepts and materials.



We recognise the connectedness of body, mind and spirit.
We see children's learning as integrated and interconnected.

Pre-Primary Routines

Because of the age and nature of Pre-Primary children, we believe a play based program is most appropriate. Enjoyable, constructive, engaging play experiences are provided to assist your child to grow in all areas of their development.

The classroom is set up into learning areas which stimulate exploration and curiosity. We provide time for uninterrupted play in the learning centres because we understand and respect that children need time and support in their quest to construct knowledge.

During the course of the day, children will have the opportunity to choose to engage in play situations individually or in small groups with an adult or with a group of children.

These varied opportunities allow the children freedom to have fun and to experience and celebrate many achievements throughout the course of the year.

MAT SESSIONS

As part of our desire to help children feel safe and secure and connected to one another, we come together each day for greeting time, prayer, stories, songs and rhymes, dance, class sharing and discussions.

INDOOR PLAY

Play based learning centres, such as blocks, puzzles, dramatic play, writing centre, arts and crafts centre, library and construction centres, all offer rich learning opportunities for the children.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Outdoor play is as important as indoor play. Space, fresh air, freedom and time are essential for children's emotional, social and personal well-being. Movement is central to children's development and learning. Many of the opportunities offered outdoors are given to strengthen children's large muscles which will in turn improve the control of their small muscles.

MORNING TEA AND LUNCH

Eating morning tea and lunch together encourages healthy eating habits, teaches children about nutrition and is a valuable social experience.

RELAXATION

All children rest and relax for 20 minutes in the afternoon. We believe it is important that the children are able to develop the ability to quieten their body and mind for a short period.



INFORMATION ABOUT PRE-PRIMARY

SESSION TIMES

Monday-Friday 8.30 - 3.05pm

It is school policy that your child is brought to Pre-Primary each morning and collected at the end of the day by an adult (or bus).

Each morning parents are encouraged to settle their child by reading a story, doing a puzzle or a table top activity. Children will gather on the mat when called, to begin the day.

Please try and be punctual in collecting your child at the end of the day. It can be distressing for a little person if they are not picked up on time. We understand that on occasions you may be unavoidably delayed. Wherever possible, please inform us of your delay by phone.

A Communication and alternative collection book will operate in the Pre-Primary room. You are asked to inform us through this book of any changes to your child's usual pick up routine.

PARENT ROSTER

Once the children are settled into the routine of Pre-Primary, we will introduce a parent help roster. Your help provides an extra pair of hands during activity time, and your child will enjoy your involvement and interest in their learning. Parents, Grandparents and extended family are invited to help in the classroom.

We prefer not to have younger siblings come with parents on duty. If you have no access to babysitting, you may want to visit us for short periods with your baby/toddler. We are very happy to arrange this for you.

CLOTHING

Pre-Primary is an exciting place to be, so when your child is experimenting with paints, glue, play dough etc, their clothing may get messy. We do provide aprons for many of the experiences your child is involved in, but messy accidents do happen! For this reason, children should be dressed in the schools sports uniform clothes that will not inhibit them when playing by the fear of getting dirty, therefore we ask they come dressed in the school sports uniform. The Sacred Heart's school uniform is available for purchase.

Please mark all clothing with your child's name. A full "spare" set of clothing, suitable for the current season, is to be left in their bag, in case of "accidents".

Please ensure your child wears shoes that they are able to take off and put on with little assistance.

We place great emphasis on Sun Smart behaviours, therefore the children are required to wear a **school** hat each day when playing outdoors.

SUNSCREEN

We encourage all families to apply sunscreen to their child before school each day. This practice promotes sun safe behaviour.

MORNING TEA/LUNCH

Families are asked to provide their child with a bottle of water along with morning tea and lunch in separate containers. Healthy choices such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, dried fruit, cold meats, salad, wraps, bread and crackers are encouraged.

Your child's name should be clearly seen on their lunch box and water bottle. All food containers are to be easily opened and closed, as we encourage the children to be independent.

Children will have access to their water bottle at all times throughout the day.

Please note that we are an 'nut aware' school.

SCHOOL BAG

Your child will need a middle to large sized backpack to ensure it can hold a lunchbox, drink bottle, change of clothes and your child's paintings, gluing etc.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRE-PRIMARY

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are a special time for all children. Feel free to bring in small cup cakes or small treats for your child to share with class mates on their special day. Please check with staff if there are any students with allergies before bringing in treats.

PERSONAL TOYS

We would appreciate it if your child's personal toys remain at home. It can be heartbreaking for young children if their belongings are lost or broken. Please check your child's bag each day to avoid this happening.

ALLERGIES

Please inform us in writing if your child is allergic or intolerant of any particular food. This is not only relevant for fruit and lunch time, but also for when we do cooking.

ILLNESS AND

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

If your child appears unwell in the morning, please do not send them to school. This keeps our class a happy and healthy place for everyone. Coughs, colds and tummy upsets spread very quickly in an early childhood environment.

Please inform the school if your child has an infectious condition (Eg chicken pox or measles)

If your child is ill with any of the following symptoms please keep

them at home until they are better or until they have seen a doctor for medical treatment.

- * High temperature
- * Ear/eye discharge
- * Severe nasal discharge
- * Abnormal temperature
- * Infected sores
- * Diarrhoea/vomiting
- * Head lice
- * Any communicable disease (Eg chicken pox or measles)

If a child becomes ill or suffers a serious injury while at school, parents will be contacted.

ABSENTEES

It is school policy that the class teacher or the office is contacted to notify us if your child will not be attending Pre-Primary on any day. Alternatively, let us know the day before if your child has an appointment to attend. We also ask that you send a brief note to school explaining your child's absence upon their return. This is a legal requirement for schools.

CHILDREN'S TRAYS AND SATCHELS

Newsletters, notes and your child's work are sent home with your child. They are encouraged to check their own trays and collect all notes.

THINGS WE NEED

We are always in need of 'junk' materials for our project works. We would be most grateful for the following donations:

- * Clean boxes (all shapes/sizes)

- * Clean egg cartons
- * Cylinders (eg cling wrap but no toilet rolls)
- * Any interesting fabric off cuts, ribbon, lace, sequins, beads, buttons
- * Unwanted scarves
- * Old jewellery
- * Clean meat trays
- * Corks, bottle tops
- * Kitchen utensils, old pots and pans
- * Pine cones, gum nuts, seeds, pebbles, shells, bark, wood cuts etc
- * Clean plastic containers with lids eg yoghurt, ice cream and margarine containers.
- * Packets of rice for rice play
- * Packets of pasta for craft activities (elbows, spiral, bows etc)

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

In addition to helping us on roster, we invite you to be involved in the program by:

- * Sharing skills or hobbies you or other family members may have, for example pottery, music, carpentry, art, cooking, gardening.
- * Talking to the children about your work, for example police officer, nurse, hairdresser etc.
- * Washing dress-up clothes at the end of each term.
- * Assisting us with cleaning and disinfecting toys and equipment at the end of each term.

INFORMATION ABOUT PRE-PRIMARY

"PARENT INTERVIEWS/MEETINGS"

We understand and respect that you know your child best and therefore we invite you to share your invaluable knowledge of your child with us so we are able to get to know them as quickly as possible. For this to happen we will be asking you to communicate any questions, concerns or relevant information about your child and his/ her progress in a timely matter.

LEARNING JOURNEY THROUGH SEE SAW

Your child will bring home a parent letter to welcome you to sign up for the See Saw App. This is an interactive journal that will contain a collection of the 'work' your child has done throughout the weeks and over their school year. The App is user friendly and will allow you to message the teacher directly if you prefer. The main aim is to provide you with timely feedback about your child's learning and experiences they have engaged in throughout their days at school. It will also give you ice breakers to start the 'talk' at home about their learning. On some samples we will include an explanation about the learning intention and in some cases, an assessment of the piece of work. This App will be a long term reminder of your child's Pre-Primary year.

EARLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY

During the Foundational year of Pre-Primary the children have access to the Western Australian Curriculum content for English and Mathematics. Throughout the year we give you more information regarding the Literacy and Numeracy content your children are involved in each term and ways you can help your child at home to strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills.

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

To help your child to feel positive about starting school, we offer you the following tips:

- Drive by the school often and talk positively to your child about the teachers, the classroom and the outdoor play area.
- Let your child practise getting ready for Kindy by packing their lunchbox, water bottle and hat into their school bag. Check that your child can open and close their school bag, lunch box and drink bottle. This will all take some practise; please be assured that staff will assist children where needed.
- Make sure your child can manage things such as taking jumpers and shoes off and putting them back on.
- Make sure your child can go to the toilet independently, or talk with us about how to manage toilet problems.
- Check that your child can wash and dry their own hands and blow their nose.
- Encourage your child to recognise and be responsible for their own belongings.

CONCERNS

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the school if you need any more information regarding your child starting kindergarten in 2020. We will be very happy to help you.

elicia.bove@cewa.edu.au
admin@schcsgoom.wa.edu.au

Kind Regards,
Miss Elicia Bove and the Early Childhood Team