

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Our Lady's Assumption School



Kindergarten Handbook



Dear Parents

Welcome to Our Lady's Assumption School community. We trust that your association with the school will be both happy and rewarding. The time your child will spend in primary education is a most significant period in your child's life and in the life of your family.

We recognise the unique contribution made by parents to the life of the school and to the learning of the children. Education today demands parents are seen as partners and active contributors in the task of enabling children to reach their full potential. When parish, home and school share a common vision and work together there is likelihood of achieving success.

Our Lady's Assumption School is a community of faith, with Jesus as the model. Staff, students and parents work together in a spirit of Christian cooperation. Their primary goal is to assist in the spiritual, academic, physical and emotional growth of each child.

Our mission is to proclaim and witness the Gospel in a Catholic environment. We aim to integrate these values into the entire curriculum and life of the school. Our school motto 'Truth Gives Freedom' helps us to focus on what is truly important to us at Our Lady's Assumption School. Our 'Living The Vision' focus for 2016 is: '*Walking together in a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness*'.

The learning programme we offer at our school attempts to address the needs of all students and aims to provide the broadest range of educational experiences so that every person can enjoy achievement and success.

At Our Lady's Assumption School we celebrate the relationships that exist between all members of our school community and recognise the contribution made by all groups. The staff members of Our Lady's Assumption School make every effort to keep abreast of educational developments and to integrate the best of the new with true educational values.

David Barras

Principal



Kindergarten Staff

Kindergarten G:

Teacher: Mrs Kristen Dempster

Education Assistants: Mrs Denice Lombardo and Mrs Bernadette Leatherland



Kindergarten M:

Teacher: Mrs Simone Taylor

Education Assistants: Mrs Jane Sloss and Mrs Vicki Stillisano

Welcome to Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten at Our Lady's Assumption School. We look forward to meeting you and your child in the coming year. We trust it will be an enjoyable and exciting experience for your child.

The **Early Years Framework** is a national early learning framework for children from birth to 5 years. The Early Years Learning Framework ensures your child receives a quality education program in their early childhood setting. This is a vital time for them to learn and develop.

The framework's vision is for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life. The framework will be used in partnership with families, children's first and most influential educators, to develop learning programs responsive to children's ideas, interests, strengths and abilities, and recognise that children learn through their play. The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of **belonging, being and becoming**. Play based learning and developing relationships are crucial in these early years.

Faith Development

The aim of faith development in Kindergarten is to help young children know of God's great love and presence through providing and promoting an atmosphere where 'God talk' permeates all learning experiences as a natural part of the whole day. Children will be listening to stories of Jesus and other appropriate Bible stories to assist them in developing an understanding of God's love for them and how God wants them to live their lives as a foundation to developing as disciples of Jesus in today's world.



What to Expect in the First Few Weeks...

The first term at Kindergarten is an important time for each child. For some, it will be their first experience away from home and their immediate family. It is a time when they:

- Venture into a new environment.
- Meet and learn to trust new people.
- Have to mix and share with other children.
- Follow new routines and rules.
- Work in a group situation.

Our primary aim is to make sure that Kindergarten is welcoming, safe and happy because your child's positive self-confidence is important to their development.

You can support your child by:

- Talking about the positive experiences they have at Kindergarten.
- Sending your child to Kindergarten regularly and punctually.
- Showing an interest in what your child does at Kindergarten.
- Discussing with us anything which will help us to understand your child.

Separation Anxiety

All children have to learn to cope with temporary separations from their parents. Learning to be apart can be difficult for parents and children; however both benefit from spending time apart and with other people.

Some children may be distressed when their parents leave. This is called 'Separation Anxiety' and is often displayed by 4 year olds. Sometimes the stress can recur when the parent collects their child at the end of the day. This is because the sight of the parent has brought back the memory of being left. It can be a very distressing time for children, parents and teachers. Separation anxiety occurs because the child does not yet feel safe to be away from people they know and trust. Therefore it is important to quickly build that trust.

Trust can be built by showing the child that you, the parent, trust the teacher and are comfortable in leaving them at school. Spend some time chatting with the teacher while the child plays nearby. When the child sees you trust the teacher, they will begin to trust the teacher too.

Please be aware that the best way to handle separation anxiety is to remain positive and encouraging and to alert the staff that your child will need some support. Then kiss goodbye once, smile, say goodbye and leave swiftly. Most children settle very quickly but if your child is taking a long time to settle, we will call you. When you pick them up, please be on time and celebrate the events of their day and help them to look forward to the next Kindergarten session.

Share information with the teacher about the child's routines, fears and the sort of night they had. This means we will be well prepared with information about your child.

Remember, separation anxiety is part of many 4 year old's development. It will eventually pass if managed well.



Important Information

Arrival and Dismissal

Our doors open each day at 8.30am. Please be on time and spend some time with your child in the classroom reading a book or doing a puzzle. The children's belongings may be left in their bag except for their water bottle which they will need to bring inside. At around 8.50am the teacher will ring a bell which will signal you to say good bye to your child and they will come and sit on the carpet. It is fine to say goodbye to your child before the bell is rung.

School finishes at 3.05pm. Please be prompt at picking your child up. Please note that children must not be dropped at Kindergarten alone. An adult **MUST** chaperone a child to and from the Kindergarten classroom. Siblings will not be allowed to pick a child up.

What to Bring to Kindergarten

- A large backpack which can hold a lunchbox, drink bottle, change of clothes and a note folder.
- A **COMPLETE** change of clothes—underwear, shirt, pants and socks. Please make sure that the clothes are appropriate for the weather.
- A hat which has a wide brim or a cap with neck protection. The school's policy is 'No Hat, No Play' and we support this in Kindergarten.
- A water bottle—water only please.
- Please apply sunscreen before school in the warmer months.

Please ensure that all of the above items are clearly marked with your child's name.

What to Wear to Kindergarten

It is very important that children wear clothes that are comfortable and manageable. Activities and outdoor play are often messy so please do not send your child in their best clothes. Please avoid clothing that may cause difficulty going to the toilet. Elastic waisted pants are best.

Children are encouraged to put their own shoes on at Kindergarten. Please ensure that they are wearing shoes that they can independently take off and put on. Velcro strap shoes are highly recommended.

We allow children to play with water outside all year round and encourage them to bring in wellies on rainy days which can be left under their bags outside to change into when required.

Absentees

The children's attendance will be recorded by 9.00am and you will receive a text message if you have not informed the school of your child's absence. You may send an email to let the teacher know of your child's absence by 8.25am.



Lunch Boxes

Children will be required to bring their own morning tea and lunch in a lunch box. Morning tea may include fruit and vegetables, cheese and crackers, yoghurt etc. Try to avoid packaged food as much as possible. Lunch may be a sandwich, salad, wrap, quiche etc. Lunch can also be ordered from the canteen. In Kindergarten we promote a healthy, nutritious approach to food, so we ask that all food brought in by your child is healthy and sugar is limited. Please do not give your child lollies or chocolates in their lunchbox. Make sure the food you provide is reflective of the amount your child would eat every day. Lunch boxes must be clearly labelled and will be stored in your child's school bag until they are required. It is advisable to put icepacks into your lunch box in warmer weather to keep your child's food fresh and cool, especially when providing them with cold meats, yoghurts etc. **Please do not send food containing any type of nuts.**

Communication

Communication between home and school is essential for your child's happiness and well-being. Our preferred way to communicate is via email:

taylor.simone@cathednet.wa.edu.au or dempster.kristen@cathednet.wa.edu.au

If you wish to discuss your child's progress or any other concerns, please see the teacher to make a mutually convenient time for an appointment. For day to day concerns, please let staff know at the beginning of the day as your child's happiness is of utmost priority.

You will be kept informed of school events via email or on the noticeboard outside. Please check the school website and newsletter for further information regularly.

Please notify the school if there is any change in address, telephone numbers and email addresses.

Class Blog

Each Kindergarten class has a Class Blog to showcase the learning and fun we have at Kindergarten. You will be provided a password to access this blog and it will be updated regularly. The blog is a great way for you to feel part of your child's journey and see what they have been getting up to while at Kindergarten.



Illnesses and Medication

Please do not send your child to Kindergarten if they are unwell.

Germs spread very easily in our environment and this is very important for the health of all of the children and staff. If your child has a medical condition or allergy, it is essential that you advise the school. A management plan will be requested if necessary. If your child needs to take medication whilst at school, you will need to fill out a form at the office.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays in Kindergarten. When it is your child's birthday, we get them to wear a special birthday hat and pretend birthday cake. We all sing happy birthday and your child will blow their candles out. We ask that you **do not** send in treats for the whole class as this excludes children who have allergies.

Laundry and Playdough Roster

We have a laundry roster for washing tea towels, rugs and aprons. You will be allocated specific weeks to do the laundry.

You will also be allocated a week to make playdough for your Kindergarten group. A playdough recipe will be given to you when it is your turn.

We really appreciate this help at Kindergarten.

Toys and Jewellery

Children are discouraged from bringing their own toys to Kindergarten. Please do not allow your child to wear jewellery to school.

Parent Roster

We welcome and encourage parents to come into Kindergarten on roster. Rosters will be displayed each term and will begin at 8.45 am and finish at 10.00am. Your roster involves assisting children with a simple activity which we will explain to you. Coming on roster gives you an opportunity to see what your child is doing at Kindergarten and also to see how the sessions are run. You will also get to mix with your child and their friends. We ask that siblings are not brought to the Kindergarten when you are on roster so that you can participate fully, and not be distracted by other young ones.



Roster Advice

- Be actively involved with your child, ask questions and have them explain what they are doing. Be a part of their play.
- Always encourage your child to have-a-go or to do something for themselves.
- Feel free to sit and engage with your child whilst on the mat.
- Do not get embarrassed or discouraged if your child doesn't 'behave' or becomes clingy when you are on roster...this is very normal behaviour and is often not a true indication of how your child is at Kindergarten.
- Encourage your child to communicate with their peers.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY** is essential. Please do not discuss other children with parents, friends or Kindergarten staff. Comparisons and comments can lead to problems for all. Children learn at different rates, some faster than others and some require different strategies and support. All children are special and should be respected as individuals.
- Have fun!





SCHOOL ADDRESS: Our Lady's Assumption School
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SCHOOL PHONE: 94713000 **SCHOOL FAX:** 92769298

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WEB ADDRESS: www.ola.wa.edu.au

TYPE OF SCHOOL: PARISH SCHOOL

SCHOOL MOTTO: "Truth Gives Freedom"

ENROLMENT: 2 Stream School for Boys and Girls
Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6

