



GPS Kindergarten Orientation Parent Information Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Is your child ready to start school?

Like life, school is not always smooth sailing. Children that are successful at school are resilient and can cope with lots of routines, as they will have less flexibility than they are afforded at pre-school or home. The majority of children who will start school will be turning six years old throughout the calendar year. School readiness is mostly about emotional and social maturity rather than whether the child is smart enough to count, write or read. In general, teachers have found that the older the child is when they start school the better they perform academically and socially. The best person to assess school readiness is the child's preschool teacher who will know which milestones your child is readily able to achieve and how they cope in a school setting day-to-day.

Best Start State-Wide Testing

At the beginning of Term 1, all Kindergarten students will have a Best Start Assessment with one of our Kindergarten teachers. During this assessment, your child will sit one-on-one with a teacher, who will assess their initial knowledge in early literacy and numeracy. The results then help with classroom planning. All parents will receive a feedback sheet during the Term 1 Parent Interviews.

How can parents help their children starting school?

Parents can assist by talking positively with their child about school. Some children can become upset when first starting school. This is usually short lived and is why it is vital for your child to attend the Kinder Orientation program. Quick goodbyes at school are the best and the children usually settle in very quickly! Parents can also assist their children in being self-sufficient by ensuring they know how to manage their lunchbox, backpack and clothing before beginning school. Once your child starts school, we are always looking for helpers to change home readers, work in the canteen and help with reading programs. Your child loves to see you up here at school helping! By joining our school P & C you can also make a positive impact!

Will the Kindergarten children have a separate area?

Kindergarten classes are all located on our Kinder to Year 1 campus in Mary Street. Kinder students eat in their own area at recess and lunch and will play in the K-1 playground.

What happens when there is conflict?

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) lessons are explicitly taught each week. Children are encouraged to verbalise "Stop it, I don't like it, go away" if another child is annoying them. They are also told to see the teacher on playground duty if there is an issue in the playground or see their class teacher if there is a problem in class. Issues can only be dealt with, if our staff are made aware of them! Please encourage your child to 'tell the teacher' if they have any concerns. A copy of the school welfare policy is available on the school website. Every Kinder student will have a Year 4 buddy who they do weekly social skills lessons with during Term 1. Children are taught to be a STAR!

Set a good example Tolerate differences Always do your best Respect everyone

Can I help reduce my child's anxiety?

Yes! You can do this by ensuring your child is socially ready to start school, attends the orientation visits and that you are having conversations about starting 'big school'. Kindergarten children can become very anxious about not being able to find their belongings. You can help your child by not sending expensive toys to school, encouraging them to be responsible for their own belongings (eg. carrying their own school bag, putting their lunch box in their bag) and by labelling everything with your child's name. Please send a backpack to school that is not too big for your child but will comfortably fit their lunch box, home reader, drink bottle and jumper in.

Who are the Kindergarten teachers?

This will depend on the number of enrolments, however; we can assure you that we choose our Kindergarten staff very carefully as we are fully aware how important the first 12 months at school is in a child's life.

What if I am unsure of anything?

There are no silly questions and we are always willing to help! Please contact the Infants Campus at Grafton Public School if you are unsure of anything. Ph: 66422286