Eton State School

Prep 2023

Information Booklet



We would like to extend a warm and hearty welcome to you, as parents of our prep year children. We look forward to sharing many happy times with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child.

Eton State School offers a wonderful start for your child’s learning. Developing a love of learning, celebrating success and establishing the building blocks for future learning are the core elements of a quality prep curriculum program.



**Eton State School**

10 Prospect Street

Eton, QLD, 4741

Phone: (07) 4954 2111

Fax: (07) 4954 2100

Email: the.principal@etonss.eq.edu.au

Website: [www.etonss.eq.edu.au](http://www.etonss.eq.edu.au)

Facebook: Eton State School

***The Early Years Curriculum***

The Australian Curriculum, in conjunction with the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines, has been designed for use in all Preparatory Year classes. The curriculum is designed to supply all students with a solid foundation to their learning and provides the springboard to future learning success. The Preparatory Year is focused on *age appropriate learning. Inquiry-based learning* and *investigations* are also key elements of the curriculum.

Key Learning Areas include English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities within the National Curriculum and these will be complimented by three *Early Learning Areas (Early Years Curriculum Guidelines)*:

* Social and personal learning
* Health and physical learning
* Active learning processes

These *Early Learning Areas* are linked to our school’s curriculum. In the Early Years, children learn through:

* Focused learning and teaching
* Investigations
* Routines and transitions
* Play
* Real Life Situations

Planning responds to the children’s needs and interests. Teachers monitor, assess and reflect on children’s learning by:

* Understanding children
* Building partnerships
* Establishing flexible learning environments
* Creating contexts for learning
* Exploring what children learn

**Age appropriate pedagogy**

Your child’s teacher, Mrs. Sue Dyson, has designed activities presented to students in our Prep class to encourage certain types of learning. Planning is structured with a logical sequence for all skills, in a series of steps, which gradually become more complex.

Teachers act as a facilitator to the children’s learning, guiding them to suitable activities, channeling their thinking and providing feedback. Teachers initiate learning and take advantage of any opportunities for learning which come from the children or the environment. Individual files are kept for every student so that each child’s progress is documented in all aspects of learning. The information assists teachers to plan the next steps in your child’s learning journey. This process continues all year.

Please feel free to take advantage of our open door policy to discuss any concerns you may have and help build a supportive and positive partnership between you and your child’s teacher.

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**Multi-age Education**

Eton State School engages a multi-age philosophy. From year to year, the class levels combined will vary depending upon enrolments.

**What is Multi-age Education?**

Multi-age education is the deliberate placing of children of different ages (and abilities) in the same classroom. Within the classroom, students are often regrouped into different learning abilities, rather than being taught at age level. As adults, we are all different. We learn differently, we excel in different areas, and we have different emotional maturity. Children are no different. The students often remain with the same teacher or teaching partners for more than one year, therefore forming a 'family' of students and teachers.

The multiage classroom promotes a diverse environment, where children do not feel the need to compete, only to do their best. In a multiage classroom, children can develop a positive self-concept that lays the foundation for life.

Research shows that multi-age grouping promotes cognitive and social growth. The wider age span also promotes an active learning environment as the students are not expected to 'perform' at their 'age level,' but encouraged to perform to the best of their ability. The teacher is better able to focus on the individual child's learning. The students are encouraged to learn from each other, as well as teachers and visitors to the classroom. Multi-age education recognises the natural development of the child.



***The Preparatory Year of Schooling***

Prep is a full time five day per week program. Students born within the following dates are eligible to enrol in Prep.

* For 2023 – 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

***Prep Enrolment Process***

1. Parents may place their child on the *Prep Student List* at any time by contacting our administration office.
2. Prep Transition Days will be held during Term 4. If you have provided your details to the office you will receive an invitation by mail/e-mail.
3. Our administration staff will contact parents to make a suitable time for a mandatory ***Prep Enrolment Interview*** which will be conducted by our principal Mr. Noel Reynolds during Term 4. Please complete all paperwork in the information pack you received from our school office and bring it along to your child’s enrolment interview, along with the following: Medicare number, doctor’s information and your child’s birth certificate.

Your child’s birth certificate must be sighted before starting the Preparatory year.

***What Your Child Will Need for Prep***

The material/booklist will be provided at the end of this school year and outlines all materials required to start the school year. Books can be neatly covered if preferred and ALL materials need to be marked with your child’s name. The classroom teacher will store some materials for use throughout the year. Notification will be sent home when your child needs replacement materials. Items such as glue, pencils, and other disposable materials will need to be replaced throughout the year.

**Meals:**

Healthy Snack Break: (10:00am-10:15am)

This is a short, in-class break so students can have a quick, healthy snack mid-morning. Fruit, vegetables or a sandwich may be eaten at this time. As it is held in the classroom, only water is permitted during healthy snack break.

First Break: (11:00am – 11:35am)

This is our student’s main break. It is expected that children bring a sandwich or healthy alternative for this break. We discourage ‘junk’ food, as it does not assist in optimising their learning outcomes. Children are able to drink a fruit juice popper or milk at this time, otherwise they will be encouraged to drink water.

Second Break: (1:10pm – 1:45pm)

A snack suitable for afternoon tea should be packed for this break. At all breaks, eating time is ten minutes, but if children wish to have a longer time, this is fine.

Remember to pack all utensils required to eat provided foods and to name ALL containers

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Ensure your child knows what food has been packed and when to eat it. Supplying lunch in labeled, easy to open packages and containers will help to encourage your child’s independence.

Suitable healthy food choices include:

* SNACK BREAK – Cut fruit or vegetables including apple, grapes, strawberry, carrots, beans
* LUNCH – Sandwiches, rolls, wraps, poppers
* AFTERNOON TEA – Crackers, cheese, boiled eggs, dried or fresh fruit, vegetables, natural popcorn, muesli bars or savoury biscuits

Unsuitable food choices include:

* Chips, lollies, cakes
* Processed snack foods like roll ups, sweet biscuits.
* Soft drinks
* Foods in containers children cannot open

From time to time, the school will have what are known as ‘red days’ where special treats are permitted. We will notify you in advance of these events. We explicitly teach children not to share, swap, give away or take other students’ lunches to alleviate any issues related to allergies. We appreciate your support in this matter.

***Clothing***

All parents are requested to leave a spare set of labeled clothes, including underpants, in your child’s bag. Second hand uniforms are available at the uniform shop if you require a set for this purpose. The P and C supply all new enrolments with a free polo shirt and hat, please contact the school office.

***School Bag***

Your child’s school bag should be large enough to safely and easily carry their lunch box, water bottle, hat, change of clothes and homework bag. Please ensure that you practice packing the bag with your child and that they can open and close it so all their items remain securely inside.

***Personal Property***

Please ensure that all your child’s personal items including clothing, hat, lunch box, drink bottle and backpack are all clearly labeled. If an item is not appropriately labeled and students do not identify the items as theirs, the unlabeled property will be placed in the lost property box.

Although children may be excited by new or special toys and treasures they have at home, at school they can often become lost or broken. Due to this, the school strongly recommends that all these items remain at home to save both heartache and time for all involved.

***What Your Child Wears at Prep***

Prep students wear the same uniform as all Eton State School students. The uniform is detailed in the Parent Handbook and available for purchase at the school office. To comply with our Sun Safety policy it is compulsory for all children to wear a clearly labeled, broad brimmed hat for play times. If your child does not have their hat, they will be asked to remain under the covered areas. All students are required to wear covered shoes. The school has a uniform policy that all students must follow.

***Arrival at School***

All students are expected to arrive between 8.30am and 8.40am. Students arriving prior to this time are to sit quietly in the administration office until their teacher collects them. When the bell rings at 8.45am children assemble on the carpet ready for the day. It is important that your child arrives on time as important learning experiences are embedded in every activity in the day, including carpet time.

***End of the Day***

School concludes at 2.50pm each day. Parents are encouraged to allow children to pack and collect their own bags, then to meet parents in the designated area.

**Specialist Programs**

Prep students will participate in Music and Physical Education lessons.

**Resource Centre**

The Library is open for students at certain times.

During scheduled instruction time, Prep students will be able to borrow books from our school library. Students are required to use a library bag to protect the books whilst they are in the students’ care.

**School Events**

As the year progresses there will be several whole school events or class activities for Prep students to participate in, for example Athletics Carnival, Book Parades or other school activities. As each event approaches information will be provided to parents via the newsletter, communication book, Facebook, website and/or class letters. It is vital that parents read these notes to ensure children are fully prepared for every activity and parents and families do not miss an opportunity to see a milestone in your child’s first year at Eton State School.

**Attendance**

Every day counts! Regular student attendance in Prep ensures maximum opportunity to engage in essential learning experiences.

**Absences**

If your child is ill or will be absent it is very important that you let the classroom teacher/office staff know by sending a note with another sibling, ringing the school or speaking to your child’s teacher in person. You will be contacted by the school when your child is absent. This is a requirement of Education Queensland for child safety. If your child arrives late or leaves early from school, a parent is required to sign the student in or out in the administration office. If you know in advance that your child will be away, please notify the administration office in advance.

**COMMUNICATION:**

**Newsletter**

Eton State School’s newsletters are produced fortnightly on Friday and all Prep Students will receive an email copy. If you would not like to receive the newsletter via email, please let the office know.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent/teacher interviews occur twice a year to discuss individual children’s progress. Teachers value the opportunity to speak directly to parents about their children and in so doing take another important step towards a strong teacher-parent partnership, one that benefits each student. All parents are encouraged to attend these important meetings. Please take this opportunity to signal clearly to your child that school and gaining the best education possible, is the highest priority for future success.

**Parent Teacher Communication**

Effective communication between families and schools will help to foster and enhance the learning experience of all students. Eton State School encourages parents to take the opportunity to speak with teachers to discuss your child, their learning and progress. Teachers are generally available both before and after school for informal conversations regarding your child. If a more detailed discussion is required please arrange a mutually convenient time with the teacher. Please also consider that once the school day has started, teachers will be engaged in focused learning and teaching with the class and it will be difficult to speak to the teacher.

It is also important to discuss and share information with the teacher that may have an impact on your child and influence their behaviours. Events like family visits, moving house, accidents etc. need to be communicated to teachers so that we can work together to support your child.

**Parental Involvement**

Parents are encouraged to become involved in as many ways as they can manage. We recognise parents as the prime educators of their children and only when parents and teachers combine their skills and knowledge are young children gaining the most from their Prep year. We would appreciate any assistance that you could offer to support your child’s classroom with activities or to help organise items for the children to work with.

As parents, you play a vital role in the education of your children and therefore, we welcome you to become involved in our classroom.

You can help by:

* Visiting the classroom and joining in the program
* Discussing any problems or concerns with the teacher
* Offering to share hobbies, interests, ideas and any special expertise
* Collecting materials such as tissue boxes, magazine etc, and doing small jobs at home (e.g. cutting up collage.)

**Collecting your child**

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, make sure they know who the person is and let the school staff know. This is for your child’s safety.

**Bus travel**

Queensland Transport have contracted Bus Fox to run a bus for designated students.

Everyday a bus roll is called to make sure all bus children do not miss the bus. If your child is usually on the bus, but will not be going on the bus, please contact the administration office before 12 pm, so the bus roll can be altered.

**Emergency contacts**

It is important that we have a current contact phone number and another emergency contact if there is an accident or your child is ill. A child can become very distressed if they are not feeling well. Please let the administration office know if your contact details change.

Please feel free to discuss anything that may affect your child’s learning at school with their teacher.

**Illness**

If your child contracts an infectious disease (eg Chicken Pox, Measles, or School Sores) please contact the school immediately. In certain cases, children will be required to be kept at home until the disease is no longer infectious. Please contact Queensland Health or your doctor if you are unsure about the period of time children are to stay away from school when they have an infectious disease. Please note that children with head lice should stay at home until the commencement of treatment.

**Swimming**

In Term 4 children will participate in swimming lessons.Children will need togs, shirt, towel, sunscreen, swimming cap and a swimming bag (a little back pack is ideal). It is important that your child wears a sun shirt over their togs for sun safety. ALL items sent to be NAMED please. Swimming days will be advised during the year.

**PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR PREP**

There are simple things families can do to support their child’s transition from home to prep.

Encourage your child to be independent by helping and teaching them:

* their full name
* to recognise their name in print
* the name of the street/road where they live
* their phone number
* to pack, open, close and carry their school bag
* to identify their personal property
* how to eat their packed food, recognising what to eat at first and second break, opening packets and containers
* to use a handkerchief or tissues
* how to wash hands properly, that they should be washed before and after meals and after going to the toilet
* to go to the toilet independently
* to put on and take off clothing such as jumpers, socks, shoes and rain wear
* to put on school shoes (including laces)
* to care for items and to put things away
* where to wait for you at the end of the day

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

* make their own needs known
* use appropriate greetings
* respond verbally when spoken to
* practice listening skills and follow directions
* help, care and share with others

Children’s oral language skills can be developed by:

* talking in sentences
* looking at picture books
* remembering little rhymes
* reading with parents
* listening to parents reading stories regularly

***Giving a Head Start To Early Readers***

In today’s world, reading involves more than reading books. Books are still very important, although viewing websites, television and movies, reading shopper dockets, street directories or junk mail provides great opportunities for families to encourage their children’s reading.

There are always reasons to read – for pleasure, to follow instructions or learn something – and children quickly learn that reading is useful through watching people around them make sense of the world and to acquire what they need.

Reading print is still vitally important, but it is no longer sufficient. We need to be able to read much more than print alone. When viewing an internet site you need to recognise and interpret icons to choose a pathway to follow, perhaps watch a video presentation, listen to a voice-over and compose some text to answer questions or send an email.

When supporting and encouraging beginning reading, the key word is ***‘TALK’*** – talk with your child and talk about what they are reading or viewing.

* **Read** to your child and encourage discussion through questions such as: *What do you think might happen next? If you were … what would you have done? Has anything like that happened to you? Were you puzzled or surprised?* Give the child plenty of time to answer.
* **Watch** a favourite television program or video together and discuss what you liked or disliked.
* **Play** computer games and talk about what is happening.
* **Read** books and **view** websites together. Talk about menus, index or table of contents and how these help identify specific information.
* **Explain** and **discuss** signs, advertisements and safety notices around us.

Tips for helping a young reader read independently

* **Before reading**, talk about the cover, author and title, make predictions about the content, look for new vocabulary and have fun finding out the meaning of new words.
* **During reading** allow plenty of ***WAIT*** time for self-correction or re-reading, or reading on when unsure of a word.
* **If** a reader substitutes a word that still makes sense – for example, ‘house’ instead of ‘home’ – let the reading continue.
* **If** what the child reads does not sound correct or does not make sense, ask *Did that sound right to you?* or *Did that make sense to you?*
* **If** the child makes a mistake in letter – sound relationships, ask *Does that look right to you?* Have them check their reading.
* **After** reading, discuss the text together. This is far more useful and enjoyable than comments such as ‘Good reading’ or asking the reader a series of questions.

***LITERACY – Parents make the world of difference!***

**Parents are our children’s first teachers!**

Your child first learns how to speak and use words at home. Families answer questions about what things look like, what things are used for and when to use them. All the basic skills that are taught give the child a good start at school and stay with them. Many of the everyday activities that we do at home help our children to learn.

**Helping your child to learn can be simple!**

* Read to them.
* Let them read to you.
* Encourage them to tell you the same story in their words.
* Ask them to talk about what they have learned at school.
* Ask them to talk about the things that interest them.
* Talk about events and activities that occur in your area.
* Write a shopping list together.
* Get a book out of a library together.
* Cook and follow a recipe together.
* Draw a picture, write on it and send it to relatives.
* Read comics, magazines and newspapers.
* Make a book with pictures and words.
* Get your child to teach you how to use a computer.

Everyone has knowledge to share. Everyone has a story to tell. Parents are vital in helping children to make sense of their world. **Parents are our children’s first and most important teacher!**

**Learning together is fun!** Sometimes, it seems that the way your child is taught at school is very different from your own school days. You may feel as though you can’t help – but you can! What school children need most to help them learn is encouragement from their family – from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. **Giving support and encouragement to your child to learn is the most important way you, as a parent, can help them succeed.**

**What can parents do at school?**

By becoming involved, parents can understand schools better and find new ways for our children to learn.

* Talk to the teacher about helping your child learn.
* Talk to other parents about how they are helping their children.
* Help with the Reading Programs at school.
* Attend parents’ meetings at the school.
* Join our wonderful P&C

**Stay COVID safe**

Please remember, wherever you are, that it is still important to do your part to [keep Queensland COVID safe](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/684/2dpd376/2488579/A0vQFWNTaldoh03IR78E7ZTjTSHAGwB2hTuRvFcK.html):

* stay home if you are sick
* [get tested](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/684/2dpd376/2489274/A0vQFWNTaldoh03IR78EudifHuyn3uw_EPigMVGZ.html) if you have any [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/684/2dpd376/2489273/A0vQFWNTaldoh03IR78Ev9qS3WoZBCEScS3Tk.2t.html), no matter how mild
* wear a face mask if required under any [restrictions in place](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/684/2dpd376/2489287/A0vQFWNTaldoh03IR78EY31SxK.aqP4c9BH30oQN.html)
* check in using the Check in Qld app whenever required
* maintain physical distancing (1.5m) when you’re outside your home.

Please continue to regularly check the [Queensland Government COVID-19 website](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/684/2dpd376/2487686/A0vQFWNTaldoh03IR78ElTZM052CUt5rd4Kn2okM.html) for updates including recent exposure sites and changes to restrictions.

Queensland Beginners Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10