PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Parent & Student Handbook

Sessions run on Mondays 8.30am-2.45pm (Term time)

Pre-Kindergarten for 3 year olds

We're excited to welcome you to the Aranmore Catholic College community! We look forward to introducing your child to school, offering play-based learning opportunities that inspire their curiosity and imagination.

We embrace the individuality of each child. We understand every child develops in different ways, at different rates and offer learning experiences designed uniquely for them.

Pre-Kindy is an educational program for children aged three years. At Aranmore Catholic College we design learning around the five outcomes in *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*.

This framework details children:

- Have a strong sense of identity
- Are confident and involved learners
- Connect with and contribute to their world
- Have a strong sense of well-being
- Are effective communicators

Our program is play-based and provides children with meaningful experiences that promote the development of spiritual, social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical skills.

Our team creates a caring, safe and stimulating environment that nurtures your child to wonder, explore and construct meaning about the world.

Children must be three years old to participate in Pre-Kindergarten. If your child has not turned three when our program commences at the start of the year, they can still be enrolled and their place can be held until after their third birthday.

For further enrolment information, please contact the College Enrolments team.

What to bring to Pre-Kindy

- A bag large enough to carry all necessary items.
- A hat for outdoor play. Our school has a “No hat, no play” policy to ensure sun safety for children.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable, cut up in a small container for morning tea.
- A drink bottle of water only, so children can help themselves to a drink throughout the day.
- A packed lunch in a lunch box to be eaten individually at lunch time.
- A spare change of clothes (suited to the season) in a plastic bag in your child’s school bag to allow us to attend to accidents or spills.
- A small cushion (no larger than 30x30cm) for rest time.

Please ensure all your child’s items are clearly labelled with their name. Children are asked not to bring toys or personal belongings to Pre-Kindy as items lost or broken often cause undue stress.

Settling in at School

One of the first things a Pre-Kindy child needs to learn is how to be away from his/her parents or primary caregiver. This may take some time for some children as they learn to cope with their new environment and routine.

It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the Pre-Kindy environment.

Our team will work closely with you to ensure your child is given the best chance to settle in at their own pace.

What to wear to Pre-Kindy

Comfortable play clothes that can get messy and that are easy to manage for quick dashes to the toilet.

Shoes your child can manage to take off and put on by themselves.

Hair, for both health reasons and appearance, is to be neat and tidy. For safety and security reasons, it is recommended that no jewellery be worn.

We understand that not all three-year-olds are toilet-trained. We are happy to support children in this learning process and encourage the wearing of ‘pull-ups’ to assist with their independence.

Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to Pre-Kindy. We will have sunscreen available to re-apply when needed.

The Uniform Shop sells short and long-sleeve “I'm an Aranmore Kid” shirts in different colours. You are welcome to buy the shirts for your child to wear as it develops a sense of belonging and identity with Aranmore. View the Uniform Shop.

Our Pre-Kindergarten Program

Our Pre-Kindy program offers your child a fun and engaging introduction to life at school, providing learning experiences that inspire them to discover, create and wonder about the world around them.

The Pre-Kindy program aims to:

- Provide an environment supportive of the Catholic ethos which acknowledges the innate spirituality of every child, fosters the child's ability to wonder, experience awe, overcome difficulties, love others and reflect on God as their creator.
- Provide a happy, stimulating and supportive environment where children feel welcome, secure and valued.
- Provide a program that will cater for a wide range of developmental abilities and interests allowing children to develop to their full potential.
- Provide a program that will emphasise learning as an interactive process. Interacting with the environment, through a balance of teacher initiated or directed activities, free play and discovery learning.
- Encourage children to become self-reliant and to be able to make choices.
- Develop the ability to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings verbally and non-verbally

Guiding Children's Behaviours

Responsible freedom is encouraged through the development of self-confidence, self-reliance and self-regulation in a safe and secure democratic setting where children have clear defined limits.

Children will be involved in the setting of these limits and they will be implemented consistently and fairly. The role of the Pre-Kindy teacher is to encourage positive behaviour and interactions through positive reinforcement.

We believe a child has the right to talk about their feelings and frustrations with unconditional acceptance. We will respect and comfort a child regardless of that child's behaviour. Children will be given verbal reminders of appropriate behaviour and if necessary will be given assistance to appropriately assert themselves to others.

On a daily basis appropriate behaviours are demonstrated and acknowledged by our teachers.

The Pre-Kindy program will place special emphasis on:

Play-based learning

Formation of friendships

Children's interests

Creative expression

Skills
social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical

Sensory experiences

Health & Wellbeing

Please inform us of any condition that may affect your child's wellbeing, and equally of any circumstances that may affect their behaviour on a particular day. This helps us to cater for the needs of your child.

If your child is unwell

If your child is unwell please do not send them to Pre-Kindy and ensure that they remain at home until fully recovered. Please let us know if your child has an infectious disease such as chicken pox, measles etc so that other parents can be notified.

Should your child become unwell or be involved in an accident while at school you will be notified. For this reason it is important that telephone numbers and emergency contacts are kept up to date at all times.

Medication

If your child requires medication, this must be administered before/after school where possible.

If your child requires medication whilst at school:

- we ask that you come to school to administer the daytime dosage
- staff can administer medications if required; however, medical consent forms must be completed by parents prior to this occurring.

Please let us know of any allergies or medical concerns so that a Medical Action Plan for your child can be put in place if required.

If your child has a severe allergy or asthma plan, this plan must be given to the classroom teacher on your child's first day of school, together with medications.

Birthdays

We are happy to celebrate your child's special day! Please be aware we are an Allergy Aware School and some children are allergic to nuts, eggs, dairy etc.

If you provide small birthday treats please ensure there are enough for all students and depending on the treat, it may be shared at the end of the school day to take home.

Allergies

Aranmore Catholic College is an Allergy Aware School. Please be aware that some children are allergic to nuts, eggs, dairy etc. The school will make you aware of which food items you can and cannot pack into school lunch boxes due to severe allergies.

Parent Partnerships

We acknowledge that parents know their children best. Please keep our team informed of matters concerning your child's health, wellbeing and changes at home that could affect his/her participation.

As Pre-Kindy is often the first big step away from home for a child it is very important that there is a strong communication link between parents and the school.

If we reciprocate in keeping communications open and up to date, then we can ensure Pre-Kindy is a positive experience for your child.

There are opportunities for an informal chat with the classroom teacher before and after the Pre-Kindy session. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child and would like to have a more in-depth conversation, please make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

All children must be taken to and from the Pre-Kindy classroom by an adult.

Please notify us if someone other than one of the parents is collecting your child. We realise that unforeseen circumstances may arise at times; therefore, if there is a change of person collecting your child or you are running late, please email or telephone the school.

Communication Tools

acc@aranmore.wa.edu.au

(08) 9201 5200

www.aranmore.wa.edu.au

ARANMORE
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

20 Brentham Street, Leederville 6007 | 9201 5200 | acc@aranmore.wa.edu.au