



# St Mary MacKillop College

## Frequently asked questions: Pre Kindy

### What is Pre Kindy?

Pre Kindy is a one day per week program designed to provide a fun-filled, positive experience of schooling that assists their smooth transition into the 4 year old Kindy environment.

Children learn by doing, and the Pre Kindy program at St Mary MacKillop College provides a rich, meaningful, play-based and multi-sensory environment to maximise interaction and exploration. Based on the Early Years Learning Framework of belonging, being and becoming, an organised and constant daily routine offers the predictability and security children need in order to develop the ability to make choices, take risks and be creative.

### What happens at Pre Kindy?

Each week there are different sensory play activities in the classroom, designed to encourage exploration and support language development, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving and social interaction. A number of art, craft and cooking activities also develop hand and finger strength, eye-hand coordination and body awareness, as well as incorporating skills with colours, shapes and patterning. Mat time involves singing, interactive stories, movement and games that relate to weekly concepts and develop their social skills, language and thinking with lots of fun.

Pre Kindy provides children with opportunities to learn independence and self-help skills, beginning each day by putting their own personal items in the correct places and hanging up their bags themselves. At fruit and lunch times, children eat on outdoor tables together, learning a routine that includes prayer, washing hands, retrieving their own hats and lunchboxes and eating healthy foods first.

A variety of outdoor activities set up after fruit and lunch times enhance their gross motor, problem solving and social development, as well as co-ordination and strength. The children enjoy a 20 minute rest time after lunch on a small pillow they have brought in.

### What age can my child start Pre Kindy?

A child can attend Pre Kindy once they have turned three. Children may commence part way through a term or at any stage throughout the year, provided we have places available in the program. Parents are welcome to apply early to secure a place for their child.

It is desirable that your child is toilet trained before they commence Pre Kindy.



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### When is Pre Kindy?

In 2023 we started with a **Friday** class and commenced a second class at the beginning of Term 3 on a **Tuesday** to accommodate the growing numbers. Pre Kindy operates on the College's term calendar and does not operate during school holidays.

The classroom opens at 8:40am and Pre Kindy concludes at 2:45pm (from 2024 classes will conclude at 3:00pm).

### How many children and staff in a Pre Kindy class?

There are a maximum of 20 children in a Pre Kindy class at St Mary MacKillop College, with two staff: a Pre Kindy Teacher and a qualified Education Assistant.

Our current Pre Kindy Teachers are **Josette Bayliss and Rachel Fleet**.

Josette has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and 24 years' teaching experience.

*"I have a real passion for early childhood – it's the perfect age to impact a child's life in a positive way. My main aim is to build on the children's self-confidence and self-esteem, and to support each individual child as they learn new things through play. I provide the children with a warm, caring and supportive environment where they are encouraged to play, explore and experiment."*

Rachel has a Bachelor of Education and has over 9 years' experience teaching in Early Education.

*"As a Pre Kindy teacher I aim to provide the children with a nurturing, fun, play-based and positive first experience of schooling, that will assist in a smooth transition to Kindy. My classroom is a calm, creative, engaging and safe environment where children will be provided with many opportunities to learn through play."*

### What are the costs of attending Pre Kindy?

In 2023, Pre Kindy is charged at **\$81 per session**. Fees are invoiced a term in advance and are payable within seven days of receipt of an invoice by the College.

**From 2024 this fee will be waived if you enrol in (and attend) Kindergarten in 2025.**

Reimbursements and credits are not available for absences, however public holidays and Pupil Free days are not charged for. Child Care Benefit/Rebate and Health Care Card discounts are not available for the Pre Kindy program fees. Tuition discounts for siblings do not apply to Pre Kindy.



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### Is there a uniform for Pre Kindy?

Children in Pre Kindy are required to wear the College sports uniform (polo shirt and shorts, track-top, pants and wide-brimmed hat) available at the Uniform Shop.

### How do I apply for Pre Kindy?

To apply for Pre Kindy at St Mary MacKillop College, simply complete the Pre Kindy Program Application form and return it to the College with copies of your child's birth certificate, immunisation history and baptism certificate (if applicable) attached. We will process your application and make contact with you about the next step in the process.

You are welcome to apply for Pre Kindy at any time. Interviews for the following year's Pre Kindy generally commence in August the year prior.

### Does Pre Kindy guarantee Kindy enrolment at the College?

Attendance in our Pre Kindy program does not indicate an enrolment at St Mary MacKillop College.

Parents must complete a separate Application for Admission to enrol their child into Kindy at St Mary MacKillop College.

### Can I come and have a look?

We'd love to show you our Pre Kindy classroom and the wonderful things the children are doing. Please contact our Admissions Registrar, Natalie Gordon on **9752 7406** or [natalie.gordon@cewa.edu.au](mailto:natalie.gordon@cewa.edu.au) to book a visit.