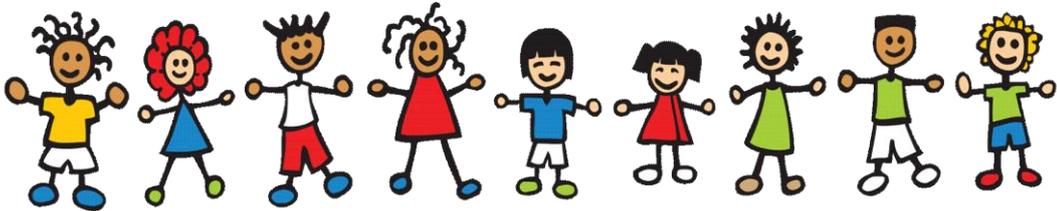




Aranmore Catholic Primary School
Parent Handbook 2017
Kindy

Aranmore School Vision

*The Aranmore Family,
enriched by its Catholic tradition
and cultural diversity,
nurtures in each child
a love of life,
a passion for learning
and the skills to make a difference.*



School Prayer

Jesus, Mary and Joseph
May we in our school years
Take time to read
Take time to think
It is the road to wisdom

Take time to laugh
Take time to love
It is the way to be alive

Take time to give
Take time to pray
It is the road to God



WELCOME

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the children and families commencing at Aranmore Kindergarten.

We acknowledge that you are the primary educator of your child and we look forward to working with you to support you in that endeavour.

We wish you and your child a wonderful year ahead. We are looking forward to having lots of fun together!

*Mrs Anna Tancredi and Mrs Lorna Brook
Kindy Teachers*

*Ms Sharon Tzaicos, Mrs Julie Gannaway,
Mrs Karen Krikstolaitis, Mrs Teresa Torre
Kindy Teacher Assistants*

LEARNING

Aranmore Catholic Primary School cherishes each child as a special miracle and we provide opportunities for children to engage in meaningful experiences for successful, creative, lifelong learning.

At Aranmore Catholic Primary School we acknowledge that families are the most powerful influence on children's lives and that learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when educators work in partnership with families. Aranmore Catholic Primary School support parents in their important role as the first educators of their children.

Aranmore Catholic Primary School recognises that warm and respectful relationships with familiar adults are fundamental to children's learning and development. Educators acknowledge the benefits for children and families of feeling welcome and value Kindy and work hard to ensure these relationships are formed and maintained.

Aranmore Catholic Primary School provide quality programs based on an understanding of current brain development and early years research. We know that the early years are when brain development is most active. At this time, all children's experiences – physical, cognitive, linguistic, religious, spiritual, social and emotional - are critical, as they impact on learning and later outcomes in life.

Children have a natural curiosity and desire to learn. Child development experts indicate that children in the early years learn most effectively through play based experiences. It is through these experiences that children make sense of their world, as they engage with others and the environment.

The early childhood programs at Aranmore Catholic Primary School involve learning that is a balance of intentional teaching and play based learning, that provide children with opportunities to explore, discover, imagine and engage in purposeful and meaningful experiences.

Children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development and are able to regulate their behaviour, leading to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning' (Bodrova & leong, 2005).

At Aranmore Catholic Primary School we design learning programs that 'capture the integrated and complex learning and development of all children' by pursuing the five outcomes in Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. This framework clearly stipulates that children:

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

The Early Years Learning Framework is implemented at Aranmore Catholic Primary School in conjunction with the Western Australian Curriculum Framework and Western Australian Kindergarten Curriculum within the context of a distinctive Catholic program which aims to develop children as followers of Jesus in today's world.

The rich and diverse communities of which the children are a part are valued and understood as central to their lives and learning. At Aranmore we respect the history, culture, language and traditions of families and communities and see learning in a social context built on collaboration and community participation.

- **Religious Education**

Our focus:

 - the spiritual development of the child occurs through activities that support positive feelings towards themselves and others and which relate directly to the wonderful things that God has created.
 - in the uninhibited excitement that Kindergarten children feel, they are encouraged to see God's work in all of their experiences through touching, seeing, tasting and hearing as we explore creation together.

- **Social Skills**

We want the children to develop:

 - a love of life
 - their confidence, self-esteem and independence
 - the ability to co-operate and make choices
 - an awareness that things change over time
 - an understanding of why we have rules
 - a sense of fairness and right from wrong
 - an ability to express their own thoughts and feelings
 - an awareness of their needs and those of others

- **Literacy**

In literacy we want the children to develop:

 - a love of reading and writing
 - an understanding that print conveys meaning
 - a link between spoken and written language
 - listening and speaking skills

- **Library**

The children have one library session per week with the Teacher Librarian in the Library. Borrowing of books is encouraged so please help your child to remember to bring their library bag on their designated day and return their borrowed book each week.

- **Italian**

The children have Italian sessions with a specialist Italian teacher.

- **Mathematics**

We want the children to develop:

 - a love of numbers
 - an ability to recognise and create patterns
 - an awareness of measurement, size and shape
 - sorting, matching, ordering and counting
 - their use of materials flexibly and imaginatively
 - an ability to use mathematics in real situations
 - their questioning, estimating and predicting skills

- **Science**

We work with the children on developing:

 - a love of nature and the way things in the world are made
 - their senses
 - estimating and predicting skills
 - their ability to make good choices and decisions
 - observation and questioning skills
 - comparison and describing skills

- **Technology and Enterprise**

We want the children to:

 - investigate and identify the use of every day products
 - generate ideas for own designs, using trial and error
 - undertake simple production processes with care and safety
 - describe feelings about own design ideas, products and processes

- **Society and Environment**

We want the children to:

 - build upon their understanding of how individuals and groups live together and interact with their environment
 - develop a respect for cultural heritage and a commitment to social justice
 - contribute relevant ideas and suggestions from direct experience or from a stimulus provided
 - assemble, collect and identify relevant information in activities
 - sort information into simple categories and talk about ways of organising information

- **The Arts**

We work with the children to develop:

 - a love of art and music
 - imagination and creativity
 - skills in different media, tools and materials
 - high regard for their own work and that of their peers
 - enthusiasm for working individually and in a group situation
 - the skills to explore and make music
 - a love of singing a variety of songs and in a group
 - listening and appreciating sounds, music and rhythm

- **Music**

The children have one music session per week in the Music Room with a specialist Music teacher.

- **Health and Physical Education**

We want the children to:

 - be healthy and stay safe and take care of their own needs
 - enjoy sport
 - increase their fine and gross motor skills
 - develop coordination; hand, eye and body movements
 - expand upon an awareness of how to look after their bodies
 - develop an awareness of basic safety
 - develop basic ball skills
 - understand the need for fair play and sportsmanship

The children have a physical education session during the week with the Kindergarten teacher. Children need to wear sports shoes on their designated PE day.

DAYS AND TIMES

- Kindergarten days are **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**. We offer an **optional fourth day on Fridays** (Please see the office for further information).
- The Kindergarten **doors open at 8:30 am**. We invite parents to stay until the bell is rung for mat time at 8:45 am.
- The beginning part of our day is important as it gives your child an opportunity to settle into the new day and learn about what activities are occurring throughout the day.
- Kindergarten **finishes at 2:45 pm** each day. At the end of the day we will ensure that your child is safely placed in your care.
- It is important that you are on time when picking up your child as children become upset if parents are late. If you are running behind schedule please ring the Office to advise them and they in turn will notify us.

SETTLING IN

- Children love coming to Kindy however sometimes some children may get upset when their parents drop them off.
- **Tips for parents:**
 - When it is time to leave, please say goodbye to your child, rather than slipping away quietly and trust that even if they are upset, they will quickly settle.
 - Remember also that our Kindy staff are trained to deal with upset children so if your child is reluctant to let you go, please hand them over to a staff member and walk out the door without looking back. It is best that you do not linger as this only makes it harder for your child to settle.
 - Sometimes it can take a few weeks for a child to settle but be reassured that they do settle in time.

ATTENDANCE

- Whilst Kindergarten is not a formal part of schooling, children are more secure with routine and friendships are more easily nurtured with regular attendance.
- Please notify the school office by 8:30 a.m. should your child not be attending school and advise a reason for their absence.
- Please notify the school in writing when your child returns after a period of absence, stating the date of absence and the reason for the absence.

PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS

- **If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please note this on the Kindy 'Today's Pick-up' notice board which is located just inside the classroom door.**
- Please note that we will not hand your child over to someone who has not been made known to us.
- If your child is to be regularly collected by someone else, please make a note of this on the 'Ongoing Pick-up Arrangements' notice board which is also situated just inside the classroom door.
- Children who are not collected at 2.45pm will be brought to the Administration office to wait for you.

Children must be dropped off and collected by an adult, therefore parents are asked to park their cars on neighbouring streets.

Parking is restricted in the Kiss & Ride between 8-9.30am and 2.30-3.30pm, so please ensure that you read all signage.

Out of School Hours Care (Gumtrees)

By partnering with the **YMCA**, Aranmore Catholic Primary School provides a value-added service to its school community by offering Outside School Hours (OSH) Care Program, **Gumtrees** at 22 Brentham Street, Leederville (right next door to the school). The centre is open for early morning child care from 7.00am and after school care until 6pm. Gumtrees also offers a wonderful school holiday program. Further information can be found on the school website.

WHAT TO BRING?

Your child needs to bring:

- **morning tea and lunch (please refer to our Healthy Eating Policy)**
- **water bottle**
- **hat**
- **set of spare clothes**
- **library bag**
- **schoolbag**
- **sunscreen** (keep in own bag so children can be reapply)
- All items belonging to your child, i.e. bags, clothes, hats, bottles, lunch boxes etc must be clearly labeled with their name on it.
- Please give your child healthy food. We suggest that you pack morning tea in a separate container from lunch. Please ensure your child can open their containers and sandwich wrappings by themselves as this encourages independence.
- To promote healthy eating, please avoid sending high sugar foods in lunchboxes such as lollies, chocolate or cakes.
- Lunch can be ordered from the school canteen on Wednesdays and Fridays for Kindy
- Please do not allow your child to bring toys to Kindergarten. We do not want to run the risk of them being lost or broken.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Children should wear comfortable clothes that can get messy.
- We encourage independence at Kindy therefore please ensure that the children can manage all clothing by themselves, including footwear. Please avoid belts and buckles. Thongs are not to be worn to school as these are unsafe on the climbing equipment.
- **The uniform shop sells short and long sleeve "I'm an Aranmore Kid" shirts in the different faction colours. You are encouraged to buy the shirts for the children to wear as it develops a sense of belonging and identity with Aranmore.**
- For hygiene reasons, we do not keep spare clothes in Kindy so children need to have a spare set of clothes in their bag at all times. If your child needs to change and there are no clothes in their bag, we will phone you so that you can bring your child a change of clothes.

- In summer, sunscreen should be applied before the children come to school. Sunscreen can be kept in their bags for the children to re-apply if required during the day.
- In keeping with the school's '**No Hat, No Play**' policy, a hat must be worn outside every day of the year. No hoods/beanies.

BOOKLIST

Please order all items on the booklist and bring them to school on the first day of Kindy. There is no need to label any of the items as they will be used by all the children in the class.

▪ Hair

- Hair, for both health reasons and appearance, is to be neat and tidy
- Shoulder length hair is to be tied back (with red, white or blue hair ties or clips)
- Hair to be tied up in a conservative manner
- Fringes are to be above the eyebrows or clipped back
- Hair colour is to be kept natural (no tints, streaks, tips etc)
- **Hair styles should be of a conservative nature** (no tracks, hawks, undercuts, tails, mullets, partly shaved/close cut hair etc)
- Hair should be no shorter than number 2 cut
- Minimal hair product/gel may be used
- The Leadership Team shall have discretion in determining appropriate hairstyles

▪ Jewellery

For safety and security reasons, it is recommended that no jewellery be worn. The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage of jewellery. Children are permitted to wear:

- A watch
- A bracelet (no bands, leather ties, etc)
- A maximum of one earring in each ear, must be worn in the lobe (no other part of the ear), sleepers or discrete studs only
- A gold/silver necklace with a small Christian religious medallion or cross, kept tucked in shirt/dress (no leather/neoprene bands etc)
- No other body or face piercing or tattoos is permitted

If you are unsure of jewellery requirements, please speak to the Assistant Principal.

- Parents must be aware that all jewellery worn is at the owner's risk
- Nail polish and make-up is not permitted

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- If your child is unwell please keep them at home to rest otherwise if they come to school they run the risk of infecting other children and/or developing secondary infections themselves.
- Please let us know if your child has an infectious disease such as chicken pox, measles etc so that other parents can be notified.

▪ Medication

- If your child requires medication, this must be administered before/after school. 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 urgently required **however medical forms need to 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 ventolin, spacers and epi-pens.

▪ Allergies

- Aranmore Catholic Primary School is an allergy aware school. Please be aware that some children are allergic to various food products including nuts, which are the most common allergen.
- We ask that nuts or food that contain nuts, not be brought to Kindy as a precaution. Consider very carefully what you send to school in your child's lunchbox and remind your child not to share food.

BIRTHDAYS

- Birthdays are a special time in the lives of young children. We are happy to celebrate your child's special day. Please keep the school Healthy Food and Drink Policy in mind if you provide birthday treats. Please speak to the teacher or refer to the policy for suggested treats.

GUIDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

- The role of the Kindy staff is to encourage positive behaviour and interactions through positive reinforcement eg praise, stickers etc.
- Kindergarten children are usually very good at following the classroom rules. We guide children by reminding them of the boundaries and this is usually all it takes to set them back on task. If a child does not respond to this initial reminder and they continue to display inappropriate behaviour, then we will give the child some 'thinking time' or 'time out' as an opportunity for reflection. Typically this is one minute for each year of their age.
- The Kindy children love to visit our Principal, Mrs Williamson, to show her their wonderful work, get a treasure from her treasure chest or sing her little songs.

COMMUNICATION

- Learning Journeys are held one evening from 3:30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. in Terms 1 and 3. These evenings provide an opportunity for parents to come into the classroom and for the children to showcase some of their wonderful work to their parents.
 - Samples of your child's work will be displayed in the classroom and are then collected in a portfolio. The children will take these home at the end of the year to showcase their learning journey.
 - Parents are more than welcome to come and chat with the teacher about their children's spiritual, academic, social, emotional, physical progress during the year.
 - There is no formal reporting in Kindy however, Kindy Teacher and Parent Interviews are held mid-year. These give parents and the Kindy Teacher the opportunity to discuss the progress of their child.
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- **Parent Roster**
 - We love to have parents coming to visit us in Kindy. Please write your name on the Kindy roster whenever you are available to come in and help us in the classroom. We ask that you stay for the morning session, up until morning tea time. You play a critical role in the success of your child's Kindergarten year, so please support us in the classroom.
 - Being on parent roster is a special time for you to enjoy with your Kindergarten child in their classroom. Unfortunately we are unable to invite siblings into the classroom during this time.
 - It is important to stress that parent helpers are not permitted to discuss with others the behaviour or performance of any of the students. In this way we safeguard the feelings of others and maintain high levels of professionalism and confidentiality.
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- **P&F Class Representative**
 - The Parents and Friends Association is a magnificent friend-raising and fund-raising group within our school who organise social events for the parents and children and also assist in purchasing additional resources for our school. Parents are encouraged to support the P&F.
 - The Class Representative role involves welcoming new parents to the school, organising informal get-togethers for parents and general liaising between the P&F and parents.
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- **Newsletters**
 - Newsletters are available on the school website and you can access these from Friday evenings. Our website address is: www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au
 - Please ensure that you provide the school office with a current email address so that the newsletter link can be sent to you each week.

Modern Victorian Cursive Script

 apple	 bear	 cow	 dog	 elephant	 fish	 gorilla	 house	 itchy	 jacket	 kangaroo	 ladder	 monkey
Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj	Kk	Ll	Mm
 nine	 octopus	 pelican	 queen	 rabbit	 sun	 tiger	 umbrella	 van	 worm	 x as in box	 yacht	 zoo
Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt	Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz

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Bayswater, Victoria 3153 Australia



Aranmore Catholic Primary School,
20 Brentham Street, LEEDERVILLE WA
Ph: 9444 9366 Fax: 9242 2784
Email: admin@aranmorecps.wa.edu.au
www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au