



Aranmore Catholic Primary School **Pre-Primary Parent Handbook 2023**



20 Brentham Street, Leederville WA
Ph: 6318 7800 Fax: 9242 2784
Email: admin@aranmorecps.wa.edu.au
Website: www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Aranmorecps/>
Instagram: [aranmorecatholicprimary](https://www.instagram.com/aranmorecatholicprimary)



Catholic Education of Western Australia Vision

Catholic Education of Western Australia is a Christ-centred and child-focused community of engaged learning environments, inspiring all to actively live the Gospel.

Our Motto

TRUST

This ideal is central to the relationship between teachers, parents, and children. Aranmore Catholic Primary School embodies three ideals:

- a deep-seated respect for our history
- a strong commitment to those in school at present
- confidence that, through learning and trust, God's love will continue to enable, enrich and empower our future lives

Our Values

Founded upon the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers, the 500 students and the broader Aranmore community uphold the values of Jesus Christ.

Daily, we strive to live out the values outlined by the Sisters of Mercy:

- **Mercy:** Be thoughtful, warm and respectful in all you do and feel
- **Compassion:** Show you care for others' needs and help meet their needs
- **Justice:** Treat all members of our community fairly and justly
- **Dignity:** Respect each other, knowing we are all valued and loved by God
- **Excellence:** Try to be your best in all that you do
- **Hospitality:** Be welcoming, friendly and inclusive in our play and our lives
- **Stewardship:** Keep God in our hearts and our play
- **Service:** Make a positive difference in each other's lives

Be a MERCY Kid



Welcome

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the children and families commencing in Pre-Primary at Aranmore Catholic Primary School. 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. On the following pages we have published important information which will help make the transition from Kindergarten to Pre-Primary as smooth and as happy as possible.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with you and your child.

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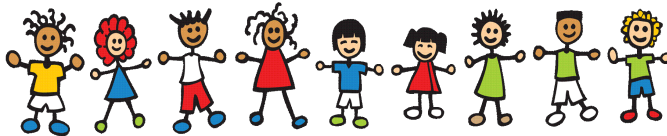
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School Prayer

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



ACPS EARLY YEARS TEACHING and LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

Aranmore Catholic Primary School acknowledge that each child develops in different ways, at different rates and we embrace the individuality of each child. We are passionate about providing all children with an excellent education in a safe and supportive learning environment that enables each child to reach their full potential, not only academically, but socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We want your child to get the most from their educational experience and to grow up as happy and caring life-long learners. Educational objectives can only be fulfilled when a child feels happy and secure. Our educational objectives complement our Catholic ethos of respect and love for one another and thus, develop the values of a Christian Community.

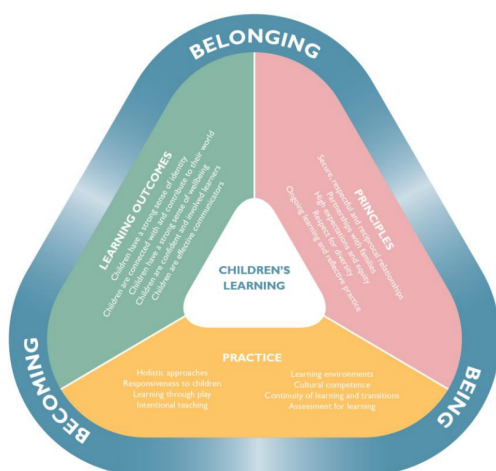
At Aranmore Catholic Primary School, we acknowledge that families are the most powerful influence on children's lives and that learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when educators work in partnership with families. The rich and diverse communities of which the children are a part are valued and understood as central to their lives and learning. 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.

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. Our Pre-Primary program consists of learning experiences based on the needs, interests and abilities of the children. They incorporate 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.



BELONGING, BEING and BECOMING

At Aranmore Catholic Primary School, we provide a balanced curriculum, incorporating play-based learning and intentional teaching to address the requirements of the Australian Curriculum, Early Years Learning Framework and the State Curriculum and Standards Authority. A sense of belonging enables our early years students to engage in learning experiences and foster the development of warm and trusting relationships with the children in our care and their families.



Our priority is to provide the highest possible degree of childhood education. In striving to achieve this, the school is working towards attaining set qualities as set out by the new National Quality Standard. These areas have been identified by research as being the most important to ensure that the safety, health, well-being and educational and developmental outcomes of children can be met.

The seven quality areas of **The National Quality Standard** are:

1. Education Program and Practice
2. Children's Health and Safety
3. Physical Environment
4. Staffing Arrangements
5. Relationships with Children
6. Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities
7. Leadership and Service Management

PRE-PRIMARY CURRICULUM

Our balanced Teaching and Learning programs encompass the Western Australian Curriculum and national Early Years Learning Framework: Being, Belonging and Becoming. Our early childhood teachers incorporate these outcomes and guidelines into the teaching and learning indoor and outdoor experiences to achieve a successful balance between educationally play-based and structured learning for the children.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) communicates these expectations through the following five Learning Outcomes:

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

The EYLF Learning Outcomes, Principles and Practices are integrated across the learning areas of the Western Australian Curriculum. Refer to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website for further curriculum information - <https://parent.scsa.wa.edu.au>

Assessment and Reporting Methods

Term 1 (or as requested)	Parent Teacher Meeting
End of Term 2 and Term 4	Academic Report
Each Term	Work Samples

Religious Education

Catholic Schools are empowering today's students to make a positive impact in our ever-changing world. In the early years, we nurture religious awareness through the children's learning experiences each day. Children are encouraged to wonder about God while nurturing a real and personal relationship. We teach the children about Jesus through prayers, songs, dance, drama and stories. A variety of topics are covered including All About Me, Family, Communities, Christmas, Easter, Church and Baptism.

Liturgies

Pre-Primary students take part in all whole school liturgical celebrations including Masses at St Mary's Church, Leederville, the celebration of Feast Days, Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas.

The children participate in Whole School Liturgical Singing. The Pre-Primary classes celebrate a Liturgy of the Word lead by the Parish Priest. All parents and relatives are most welcome to join us for these events, which are indicated on the school calendar.

Assemblies

Whole school Assemblies take place on a Friday, commencing at 8:50am in the School Hall. All dates are indicated on our school calendar, which is accessible via the ACPS app and website. If your child is receiving a Merit Award, you will be notified by your class teacher through the Seesaw app.

Library

The Pre-Primary students will have an allocated time to visit the school library and borrow books. Please help your child to remember to bring their library bag on their designated day and return their borrowed book each week.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Pre-Primary hours of operation

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 3.00pm

8.30am	Classroom doors open
8.40am	Learning commences
10.45am – 11.05am	Recess
12:45pm – 1:20pm	Lunch
3.00pm	School finishes (please wait outside the classroom door until the door is opened by the teacher or teacher assistant)

Attendance

Pre-Primary is the first official year of schooling in Western Australia and is compulsory for all children who turn five before 30 June. Should your child be unable to attend school, please ensure the school is notified as soon as possible. This can be completed on the Aranmore Catholic Primary School App (see page 16) or a phone call to the office.

Please notify the school in writing when your child returns after a period of absence, stating the date and reason of absence.

All children who arrive **after the commencement of school 8.40am or if they are required to leave before 3.00pm, must be signed in/out at the front office, as per the school's procedure.**

Drop off and pick up arrangements

- Parents are asked to wait with their children in the undercover area until the gate opens at 8.30am
- Children playing on the Early Learning Centre equipment before or after school must be supervised by parents/carers
- When the 8.30am bell sounds, the Early Learning Centre gates and classroom doors will be opened
- Upon entering the classroom, feel free to complete an activity with your child to help them get settled until the bell sounds at 8.40am
- Please be punctual when picking up your child – if someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please inform the teacher
- Students who are collected at Kiss and Ride will be walked to and supervised by staff at the Kiss and Ride collection area located at the front of the school. Please let teacher know if your child is being collected at Kiss and Ride.

What to bring to Pre-Primary

- **School bag**
- **Library bag**
- **Homework folder**
- **Aranmore hat**
- **Water bottle**
- **Lunch box** containing crunch and sip snack, recess and lunch. Please send only the amount of food that your child can normally manage as he/she will be expected to make a reasonable effort to eat it.
In adherence to the school healthy eating policy – please avoid packing lollies, unhealthy processed foods and foods high in sugar.
Lunch (not recess) can be ordered from the school canteen on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- **A spare change of clothes** “just in case”

Please ensure that hats, shoes, socks, uniforms, lunch/morning tea containers (including lids), water bottles and bags are clearly labelled.

Personal items

Please avoid bringing personal toys or items to school, as far as is possible, since any loss or accidental damage can be very distressing. If your child brings a toy or object to school as part of their news telling, this will be kept safe by the class teacher until news time and returned at the end of the school day.

What to wear in Pre-Primary

Our uniform is a sign of our community and belonging to Aranmore Catholic Primary School (ACPS). Pre-Primary children wear the sports uniform all year around and are expected to be attired in correct and complete school uniform at all times. Hats are part of the uniform and need to be worn every day.

Summer Uniform (Term 1 and Term 4)	Winter Uniform (Term 2 and Term 3)
ACPS blue sport shorts or skort	ACPS blue tracksuit
ACPS polo shirt in faction colour	ACPS polo shirt in faction colour
White sneakers or black sandals	White sneakers
White ACPS socks	White ACPS socks
ACPS hat	ACPS hat

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 styles should be of a conservative nature (no tracks, etc)
- Hair should be no shorter than number 2 cut

The Leadership Team shall have discretion in determining appropriate hairstyles

Jewellery

For safety and security reasons, it is recommended that no jewellery be worn to school. Children are permitted to wear:

- A watch (no smart watches)
- A bracelet
- A maximum of one earring in each ear, must be worn in the lobe (sleepers or discrete studs only)
- A necklace with a small Christian religious medallion or cross

The school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage of jewellery.

If you are unsure of uniform requirements, please speak to your classroom teacher.



HEALTH and WELL-BEING

The health and well-being of your child is of upmost importance to us - please keep staff informed should there be anything that could affect his/her participation at school.

Medical

If your child is unwell, please do not send him/her to school. Illnesses such as gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, coughs and colds are highly contagious and can spread rapidly through a group of young children.

If your child has a common communicable infection such as chicken pox, measles, diarrhea or hand, foot and mouth disease – please contact the school so that other families can be notified due to the risk of further infection.

We closely follow protocols set by the Health Department for the management of COVID-19 and will keep you informed of any action required. Anti-bacterial hand gel is available in all classrooms.

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.

It is imperative the school is notified 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, a copy of this plan must be provided to the school office, together with Ventolin, spacers and epi-pens.

Aranmore Catholic Primary School is an allergy aware school as some of our students have allergies to nuts, eggs, etc. The school will make you aware of which food items you can and cannot pack into school lunch boxes.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time in the lives of young children and we are happy to celebrate your child's special day. Please keep healthy eating in mind if you provide birthday treats. Lollipops on sticks are not suitable for safety reasons.

Children with allergies are asked to supply some small items at the beginning of each year, so they are not left out if they are unable to eat the birthday treat provided (these will be kept in a staff drawer or freezer). Please note that birthday party invitations are not to be given out at school to avoid disappointment for those who do not receive one.

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Communication

The quality of the learning experience we offer is enhanced by the development of strong and supportive community relationships, which we work hard to grow and strengthen between students, families and staff.

Please keep the staff informed of matters concerning your child's health, well-being and changes at home that could affect his/her participation. If we reciprocate in keeping communications open and up to date, then we can ensure Pre-Primary is a positive experience for your child.

There are opportunities for an informal chat with the classroom teacher before and after the Pre-Primary 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 directly with the class teacher or via email to admin@aranmorecps.wa.edu.au.

Please ensure that you provide Administration with your current email address and phone number. Parents are strongly advised to become familiar with the:

- Aranmore Catholic Primary School App (refer to page 15)
- School Website www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au
- School Newsletters (Every Friday)
- Seesaw App

Guiding Children's Behaviours

In Pre-Primary we encourage students to think about and make good choices. We model and encourage students to solve problems. Parents will be notified regarding concerns or repetitive inappropriate behaviours.

Parent Helpers

We love to have parents assist with learning experiences and excursions in Pre-Primary. The classroom teacher will provide a roster for parents to indicate their interest and availability to be involved. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite siblings into the classroom during this time.

Grandparents play an important role in the lives of young children and we welcome grandparents on roster; however, a Working With Children check is required by all helpers, aside from parents. The Working With Children card will need to be presented to the front office. Please refer to www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au for further information.

All helpers (parents and grandparents) are required to sign the School's Code of Conduct. 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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS OF WA

The Catholic School Parents of WA (CSPWA) formally 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 CSPWA. The Class Representative role involves welcoming new parents to the school, organising informal get-togethers for parents and general liaising between the CSPWA and parents.

Further information is located on the school website www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au .

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HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE ACPS APP



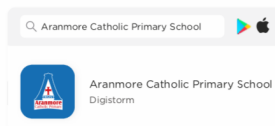
HOW TO GET YOUR ARANMORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL APP

Learn how you can quickly and easily access the new Aranmore Catholic Primary School app.



STEP 1 SEARCH & DOWNLOAD

Search for **Aranmore Catholic Primary School** on the Apple App Store or Google Play to download the school app.



STEP 2 STAY CONNECTED

You will now receive the **latest updates** and information from the school.

STEP 3 TAKE THE TOUR

Explore the **features** of your new app by tapping the tiles on the dashboard.



STEP 4 MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS

To ensure that you receive only the information that is relevant to you, you can change your Subscriptions.

Tap **Settings** and then **Subscriptions** and make your selection. You can change your Subscriptions at any time.

