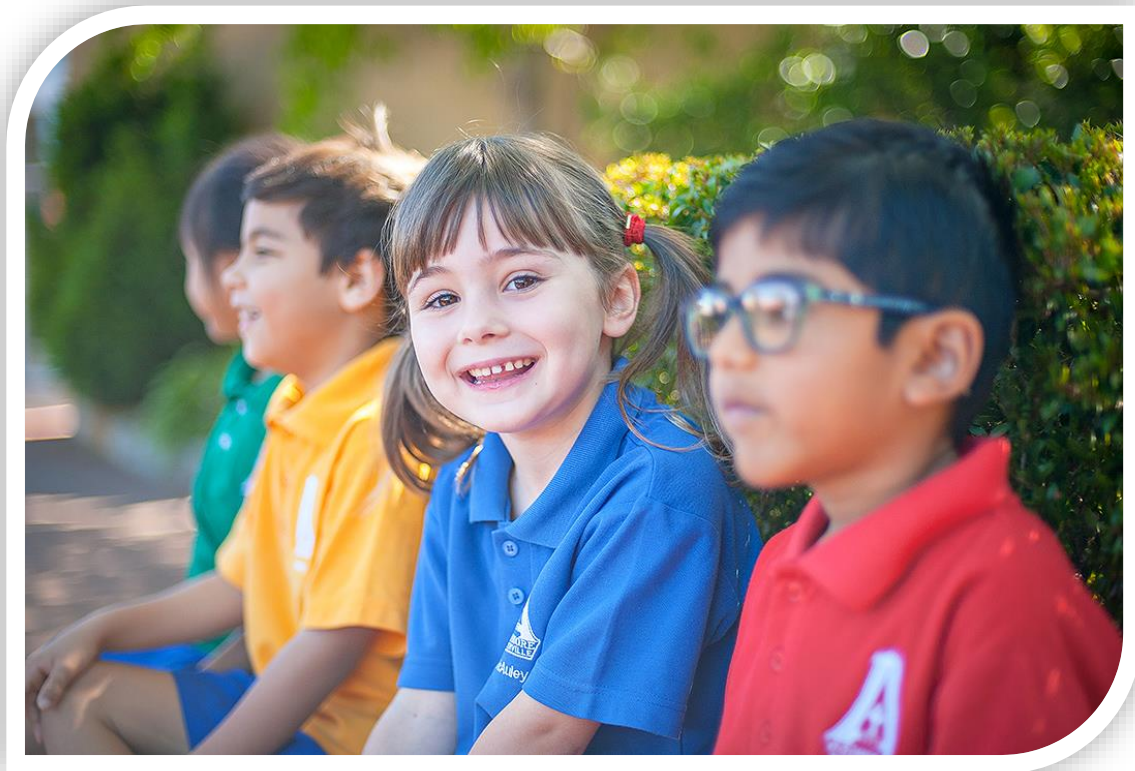




# Aranmore Catholic Primary School

## Parent Handbook 2024

### KINDERGARTEN



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### 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 Mission

Our school aspires to create an environment in which each child's dignity is actively developed spiritually, emotionally, academically, socially and physically. Through this, each child will recognise and respect their own worth as well as the dignity and rights of others.

### Our Vision

Aranmore Catholic Primary School, 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.

### Our Values

Founded upon the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers, the 250 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

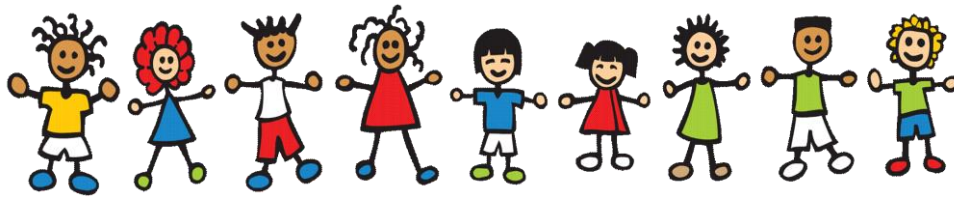
- **Hospitality:** Be welcoming, friendly and inclusive in our play and our lives
- **Stewardship:** Keep God in our hearts and our play
- **Service:** Make a positive difference in each other's lives.

## 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.



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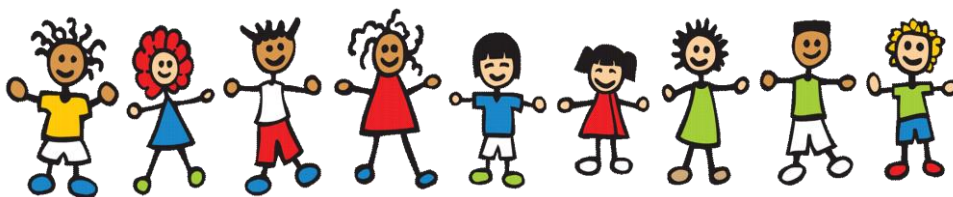


## School Prayer

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.



## ARANMORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Aranmore Catholic Primary School cherishes each child as a special miracle. We acknowledge that each child develops in different ways, at different rates and we embrace the individuality of each child. The school is 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 Kindergarten 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 whilst they are here at Kindergarten. 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.

Aranmore Catholic Primary School provides quality teaching and learning 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 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 Kindergarten 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

The Kindergarten Educational Program is guided by the national Early Years Learning Framework mandated by the Australian Government which, through a series of principles, practices and learning outcomes, sets out key ideas about the ways in which we work with young children in our care. Fundamental to the Framework is the view that children's lives are characterised by three important ideas - that of *Belonging*, *Being* and *Becoming*.

**Belonging** is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.

**Being** is about here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just "be" - time to play, try new things and have fun.



**Becoming** is about the learning and development that young children experience.

Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become. The goal to provide the highest possible degree of childhood education and care is a priority at Aranmore Catholic Primary School and in striving to achieve this, the school is working towards attaining set qualities as set out by the new National Quality Standard. This initiative is divided into seven areas and consists of guiding principles, quality areas, standards and elements. 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 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

### W.A. KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/kindergarten-curriculum-guidelines>

Teaching and Learning programs are designed 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 and the guidelines of the WA Kindergarten Curriculum. Our early childhood teachers incorporate these outcomes and guidelines into the teaching and learning indoor and outdoor experiences.

Early Numeracy and Literacy skills are targeted in our Kindergarten Program; a focus learning area is used to enhance the children's interests and develop key concepts and skills that are appropriate to the children's age and readiness.

## Learning Outcomes:

### **1. Have a strong sense of identity**

- Build a sense of stability and trust
- Build a sense of belonging
- Show resilience
- Make choices and decisions (by themselves and with others)
- Manage routines, organise self and belongings
- Show confidence in own learning and capabilities
- Display a positive image of self, their family and culture

### **2. Are confident and involved learners**

- Build enthusiasm, confidence, cooperation, commitment and persistence
- Develop curiosity, resourcefulness and reflexivity
- Develop problem solving, investigation and inquiry strategies
- Reflect on thinking and learning and transfer and adapt what they have learned
- Make choices and organise self for learning
- Use imagination and innovation
- Represent ideas, feelings and experiences in creative ways
- Develop knowledge of number and algebra
- Develop knowledge of measurement and geometry
- Develop knowledge of statistics and probability

### **3. Are connected with and contribute to their world**

- Develop skills for working with others
- Develop inquiry and communication skills
- Explore the diversity of culture, heritage, background and tradition
- Respond respectfully to diversity
- Explore natural and constructed environments
- Respect, care for and sustain the environment
- Investigate the interactions between the environment and its people

### **4. Have a strong sense of well-being**

- Interact positively to form relationships and friendships
- Recognise simple emotions and build self-regulation
- Build knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to physical movement
- Explore ways to promote own and others health and safety

### **5. Are effective communicators**

- Build aural and oral language
- Develop phonological awareness skills
- Convey and construct messages for a range of purposes in a variety of contexts
- Develop understanding of purpose and meanings of a range of texts
- Engage in reading, writing and viewing behaviours
- Develop concepts of print
- Investigate symbols and pattern systems
- View and create with media
- Investigate the properties of a range of media
- Use tools, resources and technologies in play, thinking and learning
- Develop simple ICT skills

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Hours of Operation

- Kindergarten days are **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am – 2.45pm**
- The Kindergarten doors open at 8:30am. We invite parents to stay until the bell is rung for mat time at 8:45am
- Kindergarten finishes at 2:45pm each day. At the end of the day we will ensure that your child is safely placed in your care

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 and Ride' between 8:00-9.30am 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.



### 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 ensure the school is notified as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend. This can be completed on the Aranmore Catholic Primary School App (see page 13) or via a phone call to the office.
- 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

- Please be punctual when picking up your child.
- If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please note this on the Kindergarten 'Today's Pick-up' notice board which is located just inside the classroom door.
- We will not hand your child over to someone who has not been made known to us.

## Settling In

Children love coming to Kindergarten; however, there may be an initial period of adjustment at the start, where saying goodbye to mum and dad may be unsettling.

- When it is time to leave, please say goodbye to your child, rather than slipping away quietly. Trust that even if they are upset, they will quickly settle.
- Remember also that our Kindergarten 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. 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; however, be reassured that they do settle in time.

## What to Wear

- Children should wear comfortable clothes that can get messy. We encourage independence at Kindergarten, therefore please ensure that the children can manage all clothing by themselves, including footwear. Please avoid belts and buckles. Please have spare clothing available in your child's bag.
- Closed in shoes or sandals are recommended; sports shoes should be worn on allocated sports days.
- 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. Check with Administration as to which faction your child is in.
- In keeping with the school's 'No Hat, Play in the Shade' policy, a hat must be worn outside every day of the year.



## What to Bring

- **School bag**
- **Sunscreen** (keep in own bag so child can re-apply)
- **Hat** – children are required to wear a hat for all outdoor learning and play experiences. Please ensure your child has their hat packed every day
- All items belonging to your child, i.e. bags, clothes, hats, bottles, lunch boxes must be clearly labelled with their name
- **Recess and lunch** - Aranmore Catholic Primary School promotes healthy eating. Please avoid packing lollies, unhealthy packet foods and foods high in sugar to help adhere to our healthy eating policy. We suggest that you pack morning tea in a separate container from lunch. Lunch can be ordered from the school canteen on Wednesdays for Kindergarten.
- **Water bottle**
- The children have an opportunity to borrow books once a week. Please remember to bring their **library bag** on their designated day and return their borrowed book each week
- **Personal toys** are to be left at home as the loss or accidental damage to them can be upsetting for the child. They can also prove to be a distraction in class. There may be opportunities in the year when the children will be asked to bring in an item and talk about it to the class. Your co-operation in this matter is important.



## HEALTH and WELL BEING

If your child is unwell, **please keep them at home to rest and recover**. If they come to school, they run the risk of infecting other children and/or developing secondary infections themselves.

Please let us know via [admin@aranmorecps.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@aranmorecps.wa.edu.au) 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 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 at the office 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 EpiPens.

### Allergies

Aranmore Catholic Primary School 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.

### Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time in the lives of young children. We are happy to celebrate your child's special day. Please be aware that our school is 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. Depending on the treat, it may be shared at the end of the school day to take home.

## PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

***By working together, parents/carers and teachers can ensure that every child gets off to a wonderful beginning at Aranmore Catholic Primary School.***

### Classroom Helpers

Children enjoy seeing their parents assist in the school. When children see the parent and school connection, their sense of security and belonging is strengthened. Parents, carers and grandparents are welcome to assist the teaching and learning in the Kindergarten classroom. Please write your name on the roster whenever you are available to come in and help. Siblings are unable to attend while parents are assisting. Your help is valuable to the children and the staff.

All classroom helpers must adhere to the School's Code of Conduct. It is important to emphasise that classroom helpers are not permitted to discuss with others the behaviour or performance of any of the students. In this way we safeguard each child's personal development while maintaining high levels of confidentiality and professionalism.

A Working with Children check is required by all regular helpers, except from parents. The Working with Children card will need to be presented to the front office.

### Communication

We acknowledge that parents know their children best. Please keep the staff informed of matters concerning your child's health, well-being and changes at home that could affect his/her participation. As Kindergarten 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 Kindergarten is a positive experience for your child.

There are opportunities for an informal chat with the classroom teacher before and after the Kindergarten 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 by emailing your child's teacher.

### Communication Tools

- Please ensure that you provide Administration with a current email address and phone number
- Download the Aranmore Catholic Primary School App (see page 13)
- Download Seesaw App
- Have access to the School Website [www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au](http://www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au)

# 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.

## 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.