

Aranmore Catholic Primary School Parent Handbook Pre-Primary 2022



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Our Motto

TRUST

This ideal is central to the relationship between teachers, parents and children. Aranmore 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 & 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 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

WELCOME

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

Miss Jodie Barton
Pre-Primary Red Teacher

Miss Aimee Vivante
Pre-Primary Green Teacher

Mrs Karen Krikstolaitis/Mrs Anna Drew
Teacher Assistants

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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. 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 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 whilst they are here at Pre-Primary. Our educational objectives complement our Catholic ethos of respect and love for one another and thus, develop the values of a Christian Community.

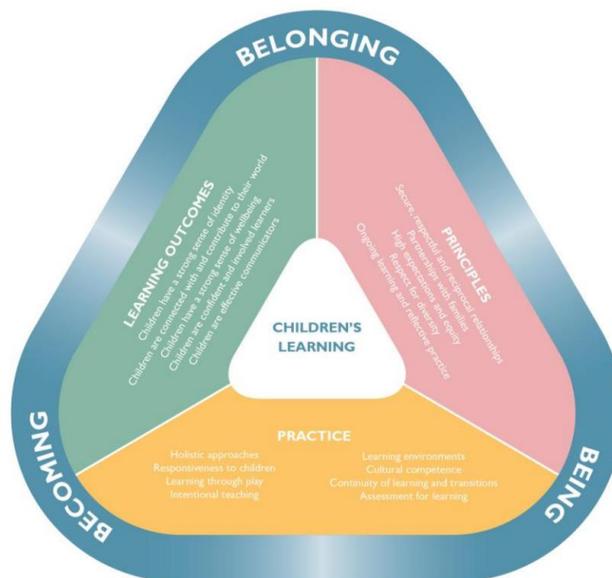
At Aranmore Catholic Primary School, we acknowledge that families are the most powerful influence on children's lives and that learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when educators work in partnership with families. The rich and diverse communities of which the children are a part are valued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

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) 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*.



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. 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

PRE-PRIMARY CURRICULUM

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 Western Australian Curriculum. Our early childhood teachers incorporate these outcomes and guidelines into the teaching and learning indoor and outdoor experiences. In this way we are able to achieve a successful balance between educationally play-based and structured learning for the children.

EYLF Learning Outcomes:

1. Have a strong sense of identity
2. Are confident and involved learners
3. Are connected with and contribute to their world
4. Have a strong sense of well-being
5. Are effective communicators

The EYLF Learning Outcomes, Principles and Practices are integrated across the learning areas of the Western Australian Curriculum.

In Pre-Primary your child will be taught:

- Religious Education
- Health and Physical Education
- English (South Australian Handwriting font)
- Humanities and Social Sciences (Geography, History)
- Mathematics
- The Arts (Visual, Music, Drama, Dance)
- Science
- LOTE (Italian)
- Technologies (Digital, Design)

<https://parent.scsa.wa.edu.au>

Assessment and Reporting Methods

- Parent –Teacher Meetings
- Semester 1 and 2 Report
- Portfolio – Work Samples

Religious Education

We nurture religious awareness through the children's learning experiences each day. Children are encouraged to wonder about their 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 takes 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. They participate in Whole School Liturgical Singing on Thursday's at 2.20pm

The Pre-Primary classes celebrate a Liturgy of the Word lead by Father Angelo. All parents and relatives are most welcome to join us. Dates are listed in the school calendar.

Assemblies

Assembly are held on a **Friday at 8:45am** in the School Hall. (See School Calendar.) If your child is receiving a Merit Award you will be notified by Thursday afternoon via email.

Library

The children will have an allocated time to borrow books from the Library. Please help your child to remember to bring their library bag on their designated day and return their borrowed book each week.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday, 8:30am - 3.00pm

8.30am	Classroom doors open
8.45am	Lessons begin
10:45am – 11:05am	Recess
12:45pm – 1:25pm	Lunch
3.00pm	School finishes

Attendance

Pre-Primary is the first official year of schooling. It is compulsory for all children to attend five days a week.

- 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.
- If your child arrives after 8.45am they must be signed in at the front office.
- If you need to collect your child early you must sign them out at the school office prior to collection.

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.
- **No children are to be playing on the Early Learning Centre equipment before or after school.**
- When the 8.30am bell goes the Early Learning Centre gates will be opened and the doors open into the Pre-Primary classroom.
- As you come into the classroom the Teacher and Teacher Assistant will greet you. Please feel free to sit down with your child and complete an activity with your child. When the bell is rung at 8.45am give your child a quick kiss, cuddle and then sit them on the mat to start our day. If your child is upset bring them to the teacher or assistant.
- Please be punctual when picking up your child. If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please inform the teacher.
- Pre-Primary Children will be walked to and supervised by Pre-Primary 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

- **School bag**
- **Library bag**
- **Homework folder**
- **Aranmore hat**
- **Lunch box (Recess and Lunch)** Aranmore Catholic Primary School promotes healthy eating. Please avoid packing lollies, unhealthy processed foods and foods high in sugar to help adhere to our healthy eating policy. Lunch can be ordered from the school canteen on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday.
- All items belonging to your child, i.e. bags, clothes, hats, bottles, lunch boxes, **must be clearly labeled with their name.**
- A spare change of clothes
- Personal toys are to be left at home as the loss or accidental damage to them can be upsetting for the child.

What to Wear

Our uniform is a sign of our community. Pre-Primary children are expected to be attired in correct and complete school uniform at all times. **Pre-Primary children wear the sports uniform all year round.**

Hats are part of the uniform and need to be worn every day – ‘No Hat, No Play’

Summer Uniform (Term 1 and Term 4)	Winter Uniform (Term 2 and Term 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aranmore blue sport shorts or skort• Aranmore polo shirt in faction colour (logo)• White sneakers or black sandals• White Aranmore socks• Aranmore school hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aranmore fleecy tracksuit (logo)• Aranmore polo shirts in faction colour (logo)• White sneakers• White Aranmore socks• Aranmore school hat

If some accident or problem prevents children from wearing their full uniform on any particular day, parents need to send a note of explanation. Nail polish and make-up is not permitted

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

Children are permitted to wear:

- A watch (no smartwatches)
- 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 necklace with a small Christian religious medallion or cross, kept tucked in shirt/dress.

If you are unsure of uniform requirements, please speak to one of the Assistant Principals.

HEALTH and WELL BEING

If your child is unwell **please keep them at home to rest and recover** otherwise 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 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 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 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. 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 (no sweets, lollies, chocolate etc). Please speak to the teacher or refer to the policy for suggested treats. The Healthy Eating Policy is available on our school website.

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

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. 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 via email at admin@aranmorecps.wa.edu.au

- Please ensure that you provide Administration with a current email address and phone number.
- Download the Aranmore Catholic Primary School App
- Have access to the School Website www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au
- Newsletters (Every Friday)
- Seesaw

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 coming to assist in Pre-Primary. Please write your name on the roster whenever you are available to come in and help us in the classroom. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite siblings into the classroom during this time.

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 prior to coming on roster

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

Laundry

We ask that parents share the weekly washing – towels, tea-towels and art smocks. A roster will be established. The washing is distributed on Friday to be laundered and returned the following Monday.

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.

