

Parent Information Booklet



Pre-Primary

2018



ST JOHN BOSCO
COLLEGE



Pre-Primary Philosophy

The curriculum at St John Bosco College from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 5 will be based on the Western Australian Curriculum and the Early Years Learning Framework “Belonging, Being and Becoming”. There will be a balance between tasks based on the children’s interests and explicit teaching of the curriculum, with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Students will be provided with opportunities to develop their thinking skills by problem solving with real life situations using innovation, shared collaboration and digital technology.

The Early Childhood years are a significant and important period in a child’s development. They are the foundation from where we build a strong, resilient and positive member of the community. Every experience and every interaction acts as a base for future learning. In Pre-Primary, we will endeavor to make sure learning is rich, enquiry based and developmentally appropriate.

Image of the Child

In Pre-Primary we believe it is important to provide children with an environment in which they feel safe, respected and valued. The children will be encouraged to simply have a go, to try, to surprise themselves with their abilities, to learn from their mistakes, to take risks and to challenge themselves.

The Learning Process

In Pre-Primary we feel it is important to encourage children to be independent and learn the skills and values needed for lifelong learning.

Play is a crucial part of early childhood development and provides a meaningful context to assess children’s knowledge and abilities.

Collaborative learning is an important tool in teaching as it allows children to learn from each other by refining their language and thinking and developing positive relationships and social skills needed for life.

Environment

In Pre-Primary the classroom environment will be used as a learning tool and is carefully constructed to entice children into inquiry and exploration. Activities and experiences should be fun and exciting to intrinsically motivate the children’s desire to learn.

Partnerships

In Pre-Primary, we believe it is important to respect and value families. We acknowledge that as parents you are your child’s first educator and we aim to foster effective relationships between your family and the Pre-Primary classroom.

Community

In Pre-Primary we enjoy involving all members of the College Community into our learning program.

The children at St John Bosco College will be provided with a variety of materials to encourage rich learning experiences and interactions. The provision of such, in conjunction with the EYLF, will enable the child to excel and develop a high personal regard for their learning. In turn, these achievements will foster a sense of independence and individuality as the child’s learning highlights their unique abilities.



Everything you need to know about Pre-Primary

College Day

Studio opens:	8:30am
Start of College day:	8:40am
Recess:	10:40- 11:00 am
Lunch:	12:40- 1:20 pm
End of College day:	3:00pm

Attendance

If a student is to be absent from the College for any reason, a parent/guardian needs to email the College Administration on absentee@stjohnbosco.wa.edu.au before 9.00am on the day of absence.

If it is not possible to email, a telephone call to the College Administration is required before 9.00am but must be followed with an email. An SMS message to parents/guardians will be generated for all absences unexplained by **9.30am. If your child is ill please keep them at home to recover.** This will minimise the risk of infection to other children. If your child becomes ill at the College we will contact you or other emergency contacts that you have nominated for your child. Please ensure that all College records and the admin staff are kept up to date with any changes in contact details. We do require a written note or email either on return or prior to the day of absence.

Birthdays

Parents are advised not to send in any treat or party favours on their child's birthday. Rest assured we will certainly celebrate them and their special day in the classroom. In this way families are released of the cost of providing items for the whole class which can be an unnecessary cost and not affordable for all families.

Recess and Lunch

We are going **GREEN IN '18!**

This year at St John Bosco College we are focusing on the environment and your child's healthy eating habits. We would be most grateful for your support and participation in these initiatives. We have implemented a reduced bin environment and introduced a compost/worm farm recycling program. After students eat their recess and lunch, they will do the following:

Put in the compost/worm farm:

- Apple cores
- Banana peels
- Other fruit skins and peels
- Vegetable scraps

Place plastic wrappings and bags from sandwiches, or any other wrappings from packaged food, back into their lunchboxes to take home. In addition, citrus peels will not be able to be composted or added to worm farms.

Please support us by sending your child to the College with healthy, nutritious snacks and lunches. Foods that we would like to see at the College to encourage this program include:

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Yoghurt/Fruit cups
- Cheese
- Pikelets
- Plain crackers
- Sandwich or wrap
- Left-overs or homemade meals
- Dips
- Lean meats

Drink bottles with **WATER ONLY** are still encouraged with students' lunches.

Please refrain from sending any of the following

items in lunchboxes:

- Packets of chips or other types such as Twisties etc.
- Chocolate – in any form (bars, cakes, biscuits) Juice boxes or cordials
- Flavoured milk
- Nut products (including Nutella, bags of nuts or nut bars)

We would appreciate it if all treats were saved for after the College day or at home, so the students can see benefits of these initiatives.

*** Please ensure that if your child has special dietary requirements the necessary staff are aware of this.**

Hat

Please ensure that your child has their College hat each day. During the summer months, please apply sunscreen to your child's arms, legs and face before school. We are a Sun Smart College and have a 'No Hat, No Sun' policy.

Children's Property

Please ensure that your child comes to the College in the correct College uniform each day and that all of their property is clearly labelled with your child's first and last name, to avoid any lost property. Pre-Primary children are required to wear white Predominately white sport shoes and the College sport uniform each day.

Independence

Please encourage your child to develop independence and responsibility for themselves in Pre-Primary by making sure that they:

- Carry their own College bag.
- Organise their belongings each day on their arrival into the classroom.

Pre-Primary Times and Collection of Children

Pre-Primary children must be accompanied by an adult to and from the classroom. Supervision commences at **8.30am** each day when the doors are opened and class begins at **8:40am**. It is important that children arrive on time so they settle comfortably into routines without feeling rushed; this will allow children to organise their belongings in a timely manner and creates a positive start to the day. Please stay with your child and spend time reading with them or doing an activity until 8:40am.

If you arrive after **8:40am**, you must enter through the Administration and then come to class.

Children are dismissed from Pre-Primary at **3:00pm** and must be collected at the classroom door. Children can become upset and anxious if they arrive late to the College or if parents arrive late to collect them, so please make every effort to be on time.

Please inform us in writing with the names of other family members or friends who will be regularly collecting your child. A Communication Book is placed just near the door for any messages regarding child collection for staff to be kept informed. It is important to fill this out or send an email to the classroom teacher if someone different will be picking up your child on a particular day as we will not send children with anyone other than their parent unless advised in writing.

Classroom Management

Positive reinforcement is a strategy that will be implemented in our classrooms to encourage desired behaviours. All children will be treated with fairness and equality. Our classroom rules will be clear and consistent. The rules are to ensure the safety and well being of all children in the class.

Classroom rules will be developed with the children during the first week of the school year. This allows children to take responsibility for their own behaviour and choices. We believe in positive reinforcement, which includes verbal praise, and small rewards such

as stickers etc.

Inappropriate behaviour is acted upon calmly, respectfully, consistently and immediately. At St John Bosco College we teach positive behaviours and redirect incorrect behaviours. We ask children to reflect upon their choices. In doing so, we implement and integrate the 'Fruits of the Holy Spirit' within the classroom and the playground. Ongoing behavioural problems or issues of concern will be discussed privately and confidentially with parents.

Religion

Religious Education is the first learning area in the Catholic school curriculum. There are twelve Religious Education Units of Work that will be covered throughout the year. At St John Bosco College we are building upon the example of how Jesus lived using 'The Fruits of the Holy Spirit'.

Literacy

Children will be immersed in a rich oral language program along with exposure to quality literature. The program will assist children to explore a variety of opportunities that lay the foundation for early literacy development. Through play and direct instruction, we will continue to build on the letter sound knowledge learnt in Kindy. We will learn to segment words and blend letters together to make simple words. Through songs and activities, we will build up a bank of sight words and we will begin to read simple texts. Children will have fun with simple writing tasks that develop confidence and a willingness to 'have a go'.

Handwriting

The NSW Foundation font will be used throughout the College. A copy of this font will be in a handout for you. Please reinforce these letter and number formations when writing with your child at home.

Numeracy

Many fundamental mathematical skills will be

addressed in the Pre-Primary program. Skills include; recognising and writing numbers to twenty and beyond, counting and understanding the concept of one-to-one correspondence, adding small collections along with consolidating our understanding of measurement, shape, colour and pattern.

Technology

Pre-Primary will have access to iPads and the Apple TV in class to support learning across all the curriculum areas. We look forward to using these in the classroom in new and exciting ways!

Purposeful Practice

At St John Bosco College we believe in children being involved in purposeful practice at home where they revise literacy and mathematics skills that have been focused on in class in a 'hands on' and interactive manner. In Pre-Primary parents are encouraged to share a book with their child each day and play games that will reinforce literacy and mathematics concepts.

Note Folder

Each child will be given a note folder that will need to come to and from the College every day. These note folders will contain their reading books and any other activities that need to be completed each week. Please check these every night for any notes that may come home as well. To help build independence, remind your child to place their note folder in their bag each day.

Assessment

Students will be assessed with a variety of formal and informal assessment tools. Self and peer assessment tools will also be employed. Not all work that the children complete is for assessment purposes and because of this some work may look as though it has not been corrected. This is not the case. All work is seen and usually anecdotal notes are taken.

Formal assessments for Literacy and Numeracy will

be completed in Term 1. The results of these tests will be discussed with you during our Parent meetings.

Communication

Communication is a vital part of your child's education. It is important that parents and teachers maintain regular and open dialogue about the educational and social needs of your child. We encourage you to make an appointment to discuss progress or any concerns regarding your child throughout the year. Any issues or confidential information should not be discussed in front of the child or other families. A respectful demeanour is encouraged at all times. Parent interviews will be held throughout the year as needed. We will make time to meet with each parent on more than one occasion throughout the year. Email is usually the most effective way of contacting your child's classroom teacher.

We can be contacted via our College email addresses:

Pre-Primary Purple:

rebecca.catchpole@cewa.edu.au

Pre-Primary Teal:

vanessa.byrne@cewa.edu.au

Please understand that teachers have time constraints during the College day and that issues are best dealt with when uninterrupted time and attention can be given to them. Therefore, parents and guardians should allow time for a reply to any communication.

Seesaw

This year we will be integrating the Seesaw app into our Pre-Primary classes. This program empowers students to independently document their learning by uploading photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links. It also gives families an immediate and personalised window into their child's learning each day. Seesaw is also a very important communication tool between teachers and parents. Please ensure you check Seesaw daily to ensure you do not miss important information.

Parent Roster

Parent roster is very much appreciated, by teachers and students alike. An integral part of inquiry learning is seeking information and collaborating, so please share your skills and areas of expertise or employment with us. A parent roster will be placed on the classroom doors and on Seesaw. We will also be inviting parents to be involved in our play dough club.

Confidentiality is of utmost importance whilst you are on parent roster.

Personal Items and Toys

No toys or treasured items are to be brought in to the College, unless asked by the teacher to avoid the distress of loss or damage.

Clothing

Pre-Primary can get messy and although all precautions are taken to avoid children getting their clothes dirty they still may get covered in playdough, paint and all types of goo! If your child does come home with paint on their clothing it can be best removed by first soaking in COLD water overnight, then rubbing with a soap bar and continue washing as normal. Hot water will result in a permanent stain.

Please ensure there is always a labelled a spare set of clothes in your child's bag. Children are permitted to take their shoes off in Pre-Primary. Bare feet in the outdoor and indoor learning environments enhance movement, posture and sensory development.

We look forward to sharing this year with you and your children and creating an environment where children will experience 'Joy in Learning' as they will be encouraged to 'have a go'!