Suncoast Prep Handbook
2014
Mission Statement

Suncoast Christian College exists to provide Christ-centred education that promotes life-long learning, develops excellence and Christian character, and fosters social responsibility.
Welcome to Prep

The early years of learning are among the most significant periods of growth for children. Experiences during this time not only affect cognitive, social and physical development, but deeply influence dispositions to learning and children’s views of themselves as learners.

‘Children are strong, rich and capable. All children have preparedness, potential, curiosity and interest in constructing their learning; negotiating with everything their environment brings them.’ Leila Gandina

We are very pleased to be partnering with you in the care and development of your precious child. If this is a new experience for you, please be assured that we are here to make your child’s Prep year both rewarding and enjoyable as they commence this first stage of their school journey. We are sure that this will be a fabulous year of growth, excitement and fun!

We are currently in a new phase of schooling with Australian Curriculum in the first stages of implementation Australia wide. 2012 saw the introduction of English, Mathematics and Science syllabuses across the whole Suncoast College. In 2014, we also implement the History curriculum following a trial year. These subjects are complimentary and provide a framework for the Early Years Curriculum learning areas of:

- Language learning and communication (oral language, reading and viewing, writing and shaping)
- Early mathematical understandings
- Active learning processes (including investigating natural environments, investigating environments, investigating technology, imagining and responding and thinking.

Other Early Years Curriculum areas are:

- Social and personal learning
- Health and physical learning (including fine motor, gross motor, making healthy choices)

These curriculum areas promote continuity between curriculum programs in Prep and Year 1 and link into the Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education (HPE), the Arts and Studies of Society and the Environment (SOSE) (to become History and Geography).

At Suncoast, our Christian World view underpins all areas of our curriculum and children also participate in an integrated Christian Studies program, devotion and Junior Primary Chapel.

This handbook contains information relevant to Prep at Suncoast Christian College. Please read the handbook and bring it along on Tuesday 28 January to the Orientation Day session for further discussion.
Items required for Prep in 2014

- Prep uniform - consisting of the College sport shorts/skort to be worn with the College sport polo shirt and the College sport socks. Girls can wear either the shorts or skort.

- The College tracksuit is recommended and can be worn on cold days and through the winter months together with the College jumper. Also, the tracktop by itself may be worn over the sports uniform. **Tights should not be worn under the skorts.** The College hat is to be worn to and from school and during all breaks.

- Sport shoes, which provide ankle and arch support are to be worn with the College sport socks. They should be predominantly white or match with the navy, red and white College uniform and have a non-marking sole. They may have shoe-laces or velcro closing. Black lace-up shoes are not worn until Year 1.

- College bag, available at the Uniform Shop. A large size is recommended to fit lunchbox, hat, homework bag and other items.

- College Homework Bag which is available for purchase at the Uniform Shop for transporting library books, home readers, homework and College student diary (which is provided).

- College Raincoat (to be kept in child’s school bag at all times). Umbrellas are not permitted.

- Spare uniform or casual clothes including underwear (to be kept in a named plastic bag in the Prep room).

- Morning tea, lunch and fruit snack.
Information to assist you

- **Jewellery** - Due to the active and exploratory nature of work in the Prep environment, no jewellery is permitted.

- **Toys** - Outside of nominated Show and Tell activities, personal toys should not come to school.

- **Medication** – should not be stored in your child’s bag. Should your child need to take any medication, please go to Primary Reception or see the class teacher to fill in the necessary form. Please ensure that medication has not expired and that it contains your child’s name and dosage on the label. Please refer to page 41 of the College Parent Handbook.

- **Sick Bay** - Please do not bring your child to school if they are unwell or overtired. A young child needs lots of extra attention and rest in these cases and can suffer significant distress being unwell in a different environment. Please refer to page 40 of the Parent Handbook for further information.

- **Allergies** - We have children in Junior Primary (Prep to Year 3), who have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts. This life threatening condition is becoming more prevalent, and as all students regularly sit in a common eating area, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. We request that no peanut products be brought to school in Junior Primary. This includes: peanuts, peanut butter and other products containing peanuts. It does not include: other nuts (almonds, cashews, etc), other nut products (e.g. Nutella) or products marked ‘may contain traces of nuts’. These latter products do not have nuts as an ingredient; food companies use this warning as blanket protection against litigation cases where nut particles are accidentally included in products as a consequence of using the same machinery for processing nuts. Please assist us in reminding your child of the importance of not sharing their food with others and washing their hands after eating.

- **Volunteers** – We believe that parents/guardians are partners in their child’s educational journey. As part of this partnership, we strongly value and welcome your input into the learning program. There are several ways in which you can be involved in the Prep experience:
  i) as a classroom helper
  ii) as a home volunteer
  iii) as an occasional assistant with specific activities.

Your availability can be indicated on the Prep Profile Form that you will receive at the beginning of the College year. Helpers in the classroom will begin after an initial settling in time of a few weeks. A Valued Volunteers 2014 Form will also need to be filled in on Launch Day as part of our requirement for volunteering at Suncoast Christian College. We also love to welcome extended family members, grandparents and guardians to participate in the program. A Blue Card Positive Notice is essential (other than for parents of Prep children) and forms can be obtained from Main Administration or online at http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/employment/
• **Morning Drop Off Supervision** - Teachers are on duty from 8:00am each morning in the H Upper (Junior Primary) playground. Students need to stay in this supervised area until teachers return from staff devotion around 8:20am. Please feel free to take your child in to the Prep Centre prior to 8:20am to put their bag in the bag rack and either wait with them for their teacher, or return them to the H Upper playground before you depart.

• **Travel** – Please notify us with a phone call to Primary Reception: 5451 3652 by 10:30am on the day, if travel arrangements alter so we are able to inform the children. Children travelling by bus in the afternoon will be escorted to the bus by a Prep Teacher Assistant.

• Children who travel to school on College buses in the morning can be allocated a bus buddy to escort them to Prep. Please advise the Transport Manager, Mr Brian Cook, if you require a bus buddy for your child and Director of Early Years, Ms Melanie Mitchell will allocate one and make the introductions.

• Your child’s safety is of paramount importance to us. Therefore, **please collect your children from the H Upper playground in the afternoon prior to 3:15pm**. Meeting them at the classroom is also encouraged. If you are running late, you can be assured that your children are supervised and accounted for.

• **After 3:15pm H Upper is not supervised** and parent/guardians then take responsibility for children in their care. Any children who have not been picked up are escorted to Main Administration and can be collected there.

• **Lost Property** – It is vital that **all** clothing and other belongings brought to school are **clearly named**.
Education is a partnership between the College and home. Good communication is vital to ensure that your child is gaining the greatest benefit from all aspects of their schooling. Please make yourself known to your child’s teacher/s and pop in whenever you can. Making regular use of our diary system and reading communication between the College and home will also help you in staying up-to-date. Your first point of call is always your child’s class teacher. Please also know that our Director of Early Years is also available to assist you.

We have an open door policy in Prep and welcome you as a parent assistant in any capacity. We would also love to see you at our class Chapel presentations occurring throughout the semester. A letter regarding these will be send home early in Term 1 2014.

Specialist Classes for Prep
Prep children will participate in the following lessons with specialist teachers:

- Junior Primary Chapel
- Library
- Music
- Physical Education
- Swimming – Swimming will occur in Term 1 for five weeks and in Term 4 for five weeks on Wednesdays. We love to have parent assistance with pool supervision and dressing.

Your child needs to bring:

- i) swimming togs
- ii) rash shirt for both boys and girls
- iii) towel
- iv) sunscreen
- v) goggles
- vi) swimming cap
- vii) slip on shoes

Please name all items and place them in a named bag separate to their College bag.


**Early Days**

Most children will feel a little apprehensive on commencing school, although they usually settle quickly and enjoy their day. Here are a few tips to assist with the settling process:

- Take a little time to let your child show you some things of interest in the room before you leave.
- Say ‘goodbye’ firmly and don’t prolong the farewell. Say “I am going now. I will see you at 3 o’clock” and then leave.
- Be cheerful. The children are very sensitive to your feelings. They need you to be confident that they will have a happy day as they will take their cues from you.
- As a rule, children settle quickly once involved with activities and peers. Be assured you can ring Primary Reception later to check if necessary on 5451 3652.
- Help your child be confident by practising self-care tasks such as using the toilet, handling their own clothing (buttons, laces etc), handling their lunch equipment (undoing wrap, lids, drink bottles etc), handling their bag (unpacking/packing, fasteners).
- Please be prompt with arrival and drop off times – class begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:00pm.
- Don’t be surprised if your child is exhausted. Each day will be a busy time for them. From Week 2, a 5 day week commences. However, if your child is feeling the strain adjusting to the physical demands of a full time program, you may decide it necessary and advantageous to your child to have a ‘home day’. We recommend that this occur on a Friday.
Let's Begin

Prep children will attend an Orientation Day session on Tuesday 28 January 2014 with one or both parents/guardians for a two hour session. The session involves:

- Meeting their teacher and each other.
- Time exploring the Prep environment.
- Children having time with our Teacher Assistants and becoming familiar with basic routines.
- Parents having a question/answer session with the teacher to familiarise themselves with the routines and requirements of the Prep classroom.
- **Please bring this handbook to your Orientation session.**
- **Please also bring a framed family photo to remain in the classroom during Term 1.**

The first official full day of Prep is Wednesday 29 January and runs for normal College hours – 8:30am to 3:00pm.

We are looking forward to sharing this exciting journey with you and your child this year. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to phone Primary Reception on 5451 3652, or talk to your child’s teacher.

Blessings

Melanie J Mitchell
Director of Early Years
(Pre-Kindy to Year 3)
Suncoast Christian College, established in 1979, is a dynamic co-educational independent institution which is committed to serving the needs of its students and their families.

Students from early childhood through to the Senior Years are immersed in comprehensive, relevant educational programs which foster excellence spiritually, academically, socially, culturally and physically. By operating from the same campus, the Primary together with Middle and Senior Years within the Secondary School facilitate a seamless curriculum which allows students to make the transition easily from one to the other.

Suncoast Christian College has accreditation status under the Education Act of 2001. The distinctly Christ-centred curriculum, developed from a biblical perspective and based on the current Queensland Studies Authority syllabuses, therefore, meets the requirements of State and Federal authorities. It is delivered by teachers of the highest calibre who actively model Christian values while offering an education aimed at developing excellent thinking strategies in an academically stimulating environment.