Sacred Heart College Kindergarten

Sacred Heart College Kindergarten is a place for children, families and educators to come together to celebrate the development of the whole child as they weave their own individual learning story. Our goal for each child is:

- to experience a safe, nurturing environment which is stimulating and challenging and in which the individual child’s cognitive, physical, social and emotional needs are met,
- to experience a program which is flexible and meets the child’s individual and group needs,
- to experience a stimulating environment which respects their differences, cultural influences and gender.

The staff at Sacred Heart College Kindergarten are committed to creating an environment where children feel respected, loved and valued. It is a place where childhood is celebrated and children are nurtured. We value kindness, cooperation, tolerance, and respect. Catholic education by its very nature challenges us to be a community and to build an atmosphere where children can be gradually made aware of God’s love for them and to understand their own unique place in the world.

At Sacred Heart College Kindergarten children are immersed in a rich learning environment, which supports their individual learning, where they are listened to and encouraged to express their ideas and where relationships are nurtured. We provide an integrated program which offers each child the opportunity and time to play, to discover and explore, to question and wonder.

We follow the Australian Early Years Learning Framework which conveys the highest expectations for children’s learning from birth to five years of age. The Kindergarten program is influenced by the educational philosophy which has been developed in Reggio Emilia as a way of developing children’s thinking and as a way for children to make sense of the world around them.

We value the importance of play as a tool for learning which enables children to develop at an appropriate pace through meaningful interactions with adults and with the world around them. We value the role of the natural environment in the lives of children and the development of an environmental identity.

Children will participate in weekly Music and Physical Education lessons which are conducted by specialist teachers. Children will also participate in our weekly Bush Kinder, Cooking and Gardening programs.
Curriculum

Belonging, Being and Becoming

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia is the foundation document for ensuring children in all early years settings experience quality teaching and learning. The EYLF recognizes the complex nature of young children’s learning and provides principles and practices to guide educators working with children birth to 5 years of age and has at its centre children’s learning. The EYLF has five learning outcomes:

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

When using the EYLF, we acknowledge that children learn in a myriad of ways and we provide quality learning environments (indoor and outdoor) that are inclusive of all children. Play is the tool by which we engage children in learning. We acknowledge that children are capable and powerful contributors to their own learning. Our aim is to foster a spirit of inquiry and a love for learning. We commence each day with investigation time where children freely engage with the materials at each of the classroom learning centres. There are opportunities for individual, whole group and small group learning throughout the day. The Kindergarten curriculum is integrated and encompasses all of the learning areas below.

English

We recognise the importance of oral language development as the foundation for written language. Children will have opportunities to talk to others, to listen to others and be listened to. Children will be immersed in a literacy environment where there are daily opportunities for story, songs and rhymes. Children will be encouraged to experiment with recording their ideas using a ‘thinking pencil’ and will be guided as they develop writing skills throughout the year. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 2 participate in the Letters and Sounds phonics program. In Kindergarten, the focus of Letters and Sounds is oral language development. [Letters and Sounds Phase 1 Introduction](#)
Mathematics
Children will develop mathematical concepts through investigating, experimenting and discovering. They will be given opportunities to develop concepts of number, space, measurement, pattern and algebra and data. Children will have a variety of experiences and opportunities to problem solve and explore concepts through construction and play with both commercial and natural materials as well as activities such as puzzles, cooperative and matching games, threading and blocks. Experiences will include exploration with loose parts such as timber offcuts, stones and reclaimed materials.

Religious Education
Children will develop an understanding of God as loving and caring. The children will also be introduced to the Church community by visiting the Church and participating in daily prayer.

Science, History, Arts
Children will be involved in the process of “inquiry”. This will develop from planned integrated inquiry units and from the children’s experiences. Children will be encouraged to express their own thinking and creativity by freely exploring materials and responding through drawing, construction, modelling, painting, music, movement and role play.

"Not all children are ready to learn the same thing at the same time in the same way."

Kathy Walker
Programs

Cooking

Each week children will participate in our Kindergarten cooking program. Where possible we use produce from our Kindergarten garden. We encourage children to sample fruits and vegetables and promote healthy food choices. We cater for the needs of all children including any cultural or special dietary requirements including allergies. The program encourages the routines of hygiene, promotes oral language and numeracy development and fine and gross motor skills.
Sustainability and Gardening

We encourage sustainability through recycling, composting and reusing materials. We also source construction and art materials from the tip shop and other recycling centres. Donations of materials for construction and craft are always appreciated.

Bush Kinder
Each Wednesday is ‘Bush Kinder’ where we visit a bush environment nearby at Clare Street Oval reserve. Children will need gumboots, coat, beanie and scarf and a change of clothes. During ‘Bush Kinder’, learning is self-directed and children have the opportunity to freely engage with the environment, collecting and sorting natural materials, exploring, discovering, building cubbies and climbing trees. They are developing important dispositions for learning such as curiosity, wonder, risk taking and resilience.
"The ‘extraordinary’ in children’s play is actually in the ordinary and the everyday.”

Marc Armitage

Music
The children will explore music through voice and movement. They improvise movements in response to beat and rhythmic patterns and use instruments and voices to make musical sequences.

Physical Education
The children will engage in a range of activities which combine gross and fine motor movement and balance to achieve increasingly complex patterns of movement. They will have opportunities to develop spatial awareness and learn to orient themselves, moving around and through their environment confidently and safely.

For information on Reggio Emilia follow the link Parents.
General Information

Days and Contacts
Sacred Heart College: Telephone 62 794090 email admin@shc.tas.edu.au
Website www.shc.tas.edu.au

Kindergarten Red:  Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8.45-2.45.
Teacher: Mrs Sandra Mazengarb smazengarb@shc.tas.edu.au
Teacher Assistants:
Ms Heather Priest hpriest@shc.tas.edu.au
Mrs Belinda Vinen bvinen@shc.tas.edu.au

Kindergarten White: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8.45-2.45.
Teacher: Mrs Sue Burrows sburrows@shc.tas.edu.au
Teacher Assistants:
Mrs Sue Eyles seyles@shc.tas.edu.au
Mrs Gail Harriss gharris@shc.tas.edu.au

Absences
If your child is unwell or absent please contact the College office by 9.00am. We are able to administer medication if required and forms for parental consent are available from the Kindergarten.

Banking
Banking at school is through the Catholic Development Fund or the Commonwealth Bank. Application forms will be sent home at the commencement of the school year together with information on banking days.

Before and After School
Discovery Learning Centre is situated in Peddar Street. Please contact them directly.

Booklist
Student booklists will be sent out in December. Student items which are brought to Kindergarten on the first day of school need to be clearly named.

Book Club
Scholastic Book Club order forms will be sent home once a month. The Kindergarten directly benefits from the purchases made and this is an excellent method of acquiring additional reading resources for our classroom.

Behaviour
“Behaviour Management at Sacred Heart College strives to help the individual student reach their full potential. In partnership with the home and students, the college strives to provide a safe, caring and supportive school environment which assists students towards the achievement of appropriate behaviours, fostering a sense of personal responsibility and self-discipline. The major focus of our policy are the C.A.R.E expectations, which is workshopped with every class group along with an understanding of the procedural flowchart of consequences that applies to different levels of behaviour.”

In Kindergarten, we focus on care and respect for ourselves and others, our belongings and our environment. We support and implement the Magic 1-2-3 & Emotion Coaching strategy to support young children in managing their own behaviour.

123 Magic! - Hobart — Site

Communication between School/Home
We welcome parental involvement in the Kindergarten. It is important to communicate anything which may be relevant to how your child may be feeling e.g. illness, bereavements, and changes in family circumstances so that we can work in partnership with you and your child. If you have a minor concern or question please do not hesitate to speak to us personally, usually before 9.00 am and at pick-up time is the most convenient or you may contact us via email. If you have a matter of importance to discuss, please do not hesitate to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time so that your concerns can be given our full attention.

Each week we will send home a summary of the Kindergarten Week in order to keep you up to date with events and activities as well as news of upcoming events and excursions. Notices informing you of Kindergarten excursions will be sent home via the clear plastic communication folder. It is important that the folders are returned each day and placed in the box provided in the classroom. We endeavour to provide at least a fortnight advance notice of excursions. Permission forms will need to be completed for excursions and returned as soon as possible via the plastic communication folder.

College Newsletter
The College Newsletter is published on the Sacred Heart College website once a fortnight on Thursdays. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy, please advise the main office. The newsletter is published under the tab ‘news and events’. Copies of all notices are also available on the College website. Please regularly update your email address with the College office as notices will also be sent via email.

College Portal
You will receive a password to access the College portal at the commencement of the year. You will be able to access your account details online. Online reporting to parents commences in the Prep year. This is accessed via the portal.

Excursions
Excursions form an integral part of the Kindergarten Program. Parents will be advised of each excursion prior to the event. Parents and family members are most welcome to join us on excursions. A Registration for Volunteers in a Catholic School application and online training module will need to be completed as part of our compliance regulations prior to volunteering. Information is provided on the College website.
**ICT**

“Increasingly, ICT permeates every area of our society and lives. Students need to be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to use ICT to support contemporary learning and living. ICT affords the opportunities to personalise learning and to learn both within and out of school.” – ACARA Website. In Kindergarten children will have access to iPads apps which support Literacy and Numeracy. Children will use iPads to photograph and record.

**Kindergarten Development Check**

The Kindergarten Development Check is a check for appropriate development and takes place in the first part of the Kindergarten year and again at a later date. The check highlights the importance of the Kindergarten year in the K to 12 continuums of teaching and learning. The Kindergarten Development Check is not a teaching guide but it is used to provide basic information about a child’s development through teacher observations and to highlight those children who may need additional support or referral. [Pages - KDC](#)

**Nut Minimisation Guidelines**

Sacred Heart College Kindergarten is committed to providing a safe environment that meets the special needs of our students. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. Some students at Sacred Heart College
Kindergarten have severe anaphylactic allergies triggered by peanuts. The key to preventing an anaphylactic reaction is to avoid exposure to the trigger.

It is possible to minimise the risk factors within the school environment with parent/carer assistance in adopting the following strategies:

- Please do not send nuts or peanuts to school. There is an increased risk of other food allergies in peanut allergic children and because of the risk of cross contamination it is usually recommended that peanut allergic people avoid all nuts.
- Please do not send foods containing nuts or peanuts to school. In particular peanut butter, hazelnut spread (Nutella), certain muesli bars, chocolate bars and biscuits containing nuts. This applies to items with nuts as a listed ingredient, but does not apply to those foods labelled ‘may contain traces of nuts’.
- No nut oils such as peanut oil.
- Please avoid nuts and peanuts in birthday cakes or treats that may be brought to school.
- Please encourage thorough washing of hands and face with a damp cloth if children have eaten these foods before coming to school.
- Provide drink containers and lunch boxes which are clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.
- Continue vigilance when there is a change from usual routines e.g. excursions, family picnic days at school, sports carnivals or discos.

**Nutrition and Lunch Boxes**

It is a policy of the College to support the development of healthy eating habits and we encourage healthy choices in regard to lunch and morning tea. Fruit is an essential part of our Healthy Eating Policy. Sacred Heart New Town is an accredited Move Well Eat Well School. We will be sharing fruit each day at morning tea as well as having something from our lunch boxes; we encourage all children to drink water.

We love to celebrate children’s birthdays; we do however ask that if you are going to bring something to share could it please be manageable by the children, i.e. cupcakes or Freddo Frogs. In support of the Move Well Eat Well program and our emphasis on sustainability, we are encouraging package free lunch boxes. In Kindergarten we will recycle as much as we can by composting, feeding our worm farms and re-using plastic containers. We encourage the use of reusable containers rather than packages and cling wrap.

**Parent/Guardian Help**

Parent/Guardians are always welcome in the classroom and on excursions. You may wish to help on a regular basis by becoming part of the help roster or just pop in if you have a spare moment. Details regarding parent help will be provided after the first few weeks of settling in. *A Registration for Volunteers in a Catholic School* application and online training module will need to be completed as part of our compliance regulations prior to volunteering. Information is provided on the College website.
Reporting/Ongoing Assessment
Kindergarten reporting focuses on fostering communication between families, the child and school. It is visible through Journals, Portfolios and Newsletters. Assessment is ongoing throughout the year, which recognises the individual learning pathway of each child. Parent/Teacher discussion is part of this reporting process. There are two formal opportunities for Parent/Teacher discussions, however ongoing communication is also a vital part of this process.

Transition
Childhood is a significant time in the life of a child. We value the importance of getting to know your child and their particular needs. We encourage all families to meet with us prior to entering Kindergarten. This will take place as part of the enrolment process. We also encourage all families to attend the pre-Kinder five week program which takes place in Term 4. This is an important opportunity to establish early routines and to make connections with your child.

Uniform
All Kindergarten children wear the College sports uniform. Please name all items of clothing. To assist us with enabling children to become responsible for their own belongings, it would be helpful if each child could recognise their own name label on each item.

What to bring each day:
Fruit for sharing
Communication folder
Drink bottle of water
Lunch box with morning snack and lunch
Change of underwear
During Term 1 and 4 sunhats are compulsory
On Wednesdays remember appropriate clothing for Bush Kinder – hats/coats/gumboots