

CONTEXT STATEMENT 2018

Bishop Kindergarten

Is a full time Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Category 2, stand alone Preschool with a 30 child per session capacity. Operates in a well maintained building which was purpose built approximately 48 years ago with street parking along Willison Street and George Street.

Is one of 9 Early Childhood Services (Preschools and Childcare Centres) in and close to Port Lincoln.

Port Lincoln is a seaside city with a population of approximately 15,000 people located on the southern point of Eyre Peninsula.

Works with the Preschool Community and the Port Lincoln Office for Education to support the placement of children into Preschool Programs.

Complying with the Preschool Enrolment Procedure.

Families come from diverse backgrounds and travel from within the city limits and outlying rural areas.

The diverse kindergarten community varies each year but usually includes Aboriginal, GOM's, English as a second language, single parent families, children with additional needs and FiFo.

Is managed by a group of volunteer parents / carers who are elected annually on to the Governing Council.

The Governing Council is supported by staff and DECD to manage the preschool's finances, participate in the planning and developing of policies and centre improvement priorities with guidelines established by DECD.

Has a warranted staff team of 2.5 equivalent full time staff i.e. 1.0 Director, 1.0 Teacher and 0.5 Early Childhood Worker (ECW).

The Director is the only permanent employee and has been at Bishop Kindergarten for 19 years. All other staff members have part time contracts and have been employed for periods of 7 years to less than 1 term.

Utilizes Support Services provided by DECD and the Port Lincoln Health Services to support children / families with additional needs.

An ECW is employed to implement individual programs e.g. supporting children with speech and language development.

Introduced Universal Access in 2012. i.e. Children who start their entitled year of Preschool can attend a maximum of 15 hours per week.

Since 2014 we have employed an additional 0.4 Teacher – utilizing the Universal Access staffing allowance. We continue to use our budget savings to pay for a 0.5 ECW so as to increase the warranted staffing from 0.5 to 1.0 thus maintaining a quality curriculum in a safe environment. This is supported by our Governing Council and Kindergarten families.

Introduced Same First Day in 2013 i.e. Children who turned 4 before the first of May are entitled to start at the beginning of the school year. A transition and orientation program is negotiated each year when a 'transition to school' provides spaces for new preschool children to begin a transition to preschool. Places children in 2 groups with a maximum of 30 after negotiating with families.

BLUE – BLUEFIN TUNA / FINS attend Monday and Wednesday 8.45a.m. – 3.00p.m. and Friday 8.45a.m. – 11.15a.m.

GREEN – LINCOLN PARROTS / FEATHERS attend Tuesday and Thursday 8.45a.m. – 3.00p.m. and Friday 12.30p.m. – 3.00p.m.

These groups stay the same so as to maximise continuity of relationships and involvement in the curriculum.

Provides before and after preschool care for working families who are juggling drop-off / pick-up times.

This is a written request and incurs a small fee.

Uses the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Belonging, Being and Becoming to facilitate children's play-based learning.

Staff implement an Early Years Planning Cycle where they collect and use data to question, plan, act and review.

Implements DECD priorities – Numeracy and Literacy- Intentionally setting up environments that will enable the children to show their knowledge, skills and dispositions.

Uses the National Quality Standards (NQS) to guide a yearly systematic self review.

The 7 Quality areas of the NQS enable us to enquire into all aspects of the Preschool's operations and helps to address questions on the quality and effectiveness of the Preschool's processes, outcomes and performance.