



# MODBURY SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



# PARENT HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO  
MODBURY SOUTH PRE-SCHOOL

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# OUR STAFF



**Denise Squire**  
*Principal*



**Kristen Angus**  
*Wellbeing and  
Inclusion Leader*



**Ursula Browne**  
*Finance Officer*



**Anna Votino**  
*Admin Officer*



**Melanie Cook**  
*Teacher - Preschool*



**Kasumi Ebisawa**  
*Teacher - Preschool*



**Karen Williams**  
*SSO - Preschool*

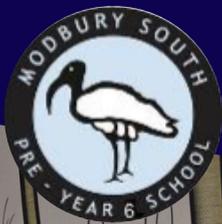


**Vicki Lack**  
*ACEO*



**Lynette Beattie**  
*SSO/Librarian*

**Omna Bakshi**  
*Bilingual SSO*



# STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

At Modbury South Preschool we believe children learn best through play in an environment that is welcoming and fosters a sense of belonging. A learning space that is warm and inviting for children and their families, where cultural diversity is celebrated and valued. Families are respected as children's first teachers, and we work collaboratively to build respectful, inclusive and supportive relationships.

Our Preschool programme is child centred. Educators recognise and support the diverse needs and interests of children through regular critical reflection. The programme emerges through interests and experiences including social interactions between peers and educators which provides meaningful learning opportunities where children are encouraged to develop positive dispositions for learning to become:

Decisions makers, curious, collaborative, respectful, purposeful, persistent, risk takers, reflective and accepting.

Authentic opportunities that promote sustainable thinking and living are encouraged through the use of community facilities and knowledgeable partners. We embrace nature play and engage in hands on experiences that stimulate inquiry-based learning. Educators are lifelong learners reflecting on current educational research, supporting each other and working as a team. This assists to inform and enrich decision making to improve learning outcomes for children.

Strong connections to the on-site School and local community are maintained to build children's knowledge and understanding of their world.

(In consultation with the families, community and school – November 2019)





# WELCOME

A very warm welcome is extended to you and your child. We trust that your time at Modbury South Preschool will be an enjoyable and valuable learning experience.

Modbury South Preschool provides a safe and secure environment where children have the opportunity to develop

- academically
- socially
- emotionally

We develop confident, eager, and enthusiastic life-long learners.

Modbury South offers a warm and welcoming open space. Your child will have lots of fun and develop friendships with children their own age.

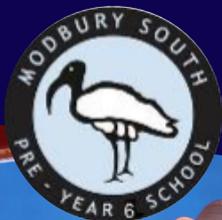
We have a range of policies and procedures to promote the health, safety, wellbeing and development of all children. These are located at the front office for you to view – please see Anna if you have any questions.

Through our whole school, Social Skills Program children are encouraged to manage their emotions effectively in order to be effective problem solvers and powerful learners.

Modbury South Preschool boasts a carefully planned program providing the perfect balance between intentional teaching moments and uninterrupted play times. Your child will explore and experiment, and develop their skills in problem solving, communicating and socializing. They will also develop self-esteem, confidence, and the foundations for future learning.



# ENROLMENT INFORMATION



## FULL-TIME PRESCHOOL

From 2023, children who turn 4 years old:

- before 1 May are eligible to start preschool at the beginning of the year
- on 1 May to 31 October can commence preschool through the mid-year intake at the start of term 3 of that year
- after 31 October will be eligible to commence preschool at the start of the following year.

All preschool children will receive 600 hours of preschool across 4 terms.

Children starting preschool in a mid-year intake will complete terms 3 and 4 plus terms 1 and 2 of the following year. They will then start Reception in term 3.

Upon enrolment, parents/carers need to provide appropriate documentation confirming the date of birth of the child being enrolled. Acceptable documentation includes:

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Official Centrelink documentation stating the child's name and date of birth

Parents/carers also need to provide documentation confirming appropriate vaccination evidence.

Children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders or Guardians of the Minister can attend some sessions at Kindergarten from 3 years of age.

## SESSION TIMES

Mondays and Tuesdays 8:45am-2:45pm

Wednesdays 8:45am-11:45am



# OUR PROGRAM

We work under the umbrella of the National Quality Framework which includes the National Quality Standards and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The EYLF provides the basis of the Preschool curriculum. It is a guide for all Australian early childhood educators who work with children aged from Birth to Age 5.

We plan and implement a Preschool program that supports children's individual needs and interests, prepares them for school, and lays the foundation for life-long learning. Our learning program will support and stimulate children's growth in the development of:

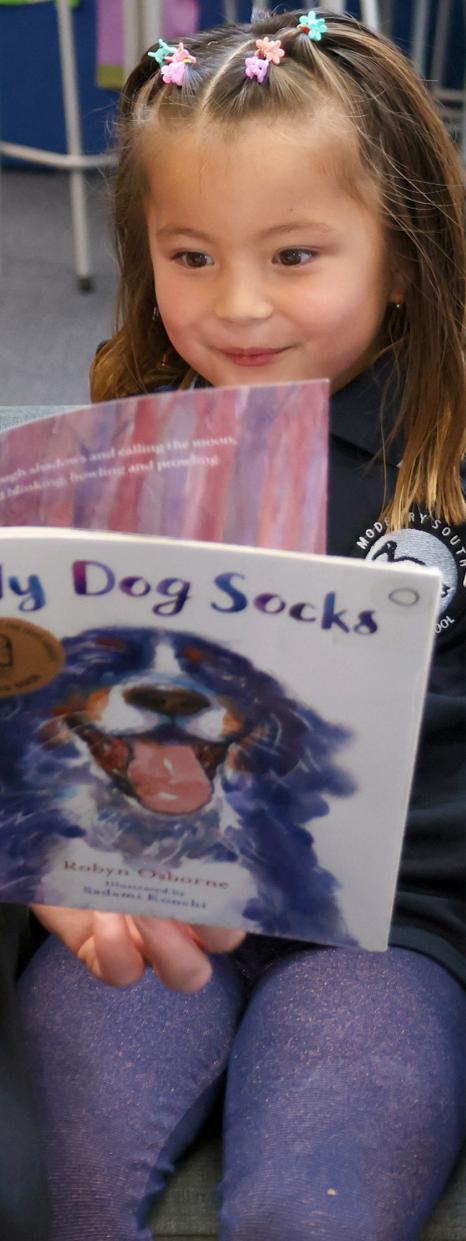
- A strong sense of their identity
- Connections with their world
- A strong sense of wellbeing
- Confidence and involvement in their learning
- Effective communication skills

We offer a carefully planned program providing the perfect balance between intentional teaching moments and uninterrupted play. Play is a child's natural way of learning; it is a process by which children learn life skills. The process is the most important element of play.

Your child will explore and experiment, and develop their skills in problem solving, communicating, and socialising. They will also develop self-esteem, confidence, and the foundations for their formal learning.

Staff will consult and share information with parents and colleagues, and monitor, evaluate and adapt the program to promote positive and equitable learning outcomes for all children.

We are always available to meet with families. Please feel free to make time to discuss any aspects of the preschool program or your child's development.





# WHAT TO BRING

## EVERYDAY

Please bring a backpack, water bottle (water only), lunchbox, hat, and spare clothing each day, Include a plastic bag or reusable swim bag for wet clothing. Each day help your child by taking out the drink bottle and lunchbox which are stored inside. Hats can go into trays ready for play. If your child is sensitive to sunscreen please bring your own and keep it in your child's tray. Bags are hung on labeled hooks under the verandah each day.

## SUN PROTECTION

We have a Sun Protection Policy which requires children to wear a suitable hat that effectively covers the head, ears, and neck areas from the sun's rays (bucket style). Hats are kept in children's trays until they are required for outdoor play. You can leave them for the term and take them home to wash as needed. Please remember to name your child's hat.

During Terms 1 and 4 we strongly urge parents to apply sunscreen on their children for maximum sun protection before arriving at preschool. Educators will apply sunscreen at lunch time before venturing back outside in the afternoons. Clothing must cover the shoulders NO singlet tops or tank tops.

## WET WEATHER

Please bring along a raincoat and boots as we would like to explore nature in all kinds of weather! During winter feel free to leave these here in their trays!

## LIBRARY BAGS

Children visit the Resource Centre (library) on a regular basis where they have an opportunity to hear a story and borrow a book. All children require a library bag (with their name) to carry books home.





# WHAT TO BRING

## LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Each child needs to bring a named lunch box and water bottle every day

- Snack time: We encourage healthy options such as a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks, yogurt, cheese etc. We discourage foods such as cakes, sweet biscuits, chocolate as this is part of our healthy eating plan and education program
- Lunch: Sandwiches, rice, wraps etc

A freezer block is recommended to help keep lunches cool, we are not able to heat food for your children.

Please ensure that NO NUTS are brought to Preschool (eg: Peanut Butter, Nutella etc.) as we have children with allergies.

## CLOTHING

Comfortable play clothes (no 'Sunday best') for climbing and exploring are required, especially those with easily managed fastenings etc. Pull on track pants/comfortable shorts and tops (according to season) are ideal. A warm jacket for outside play during the colder weather is recommended. You can purchase school uniforms and hats if you choose from the front office – these are not compulsory for preschool. Please remember to label all items.

We provide smocks for children to wear at Preschool while they are participating in activities such as painting. In wet weather, we encourage gumboots and a raincoat.

## FOOTWEAR

Sturdy shoes, sandals, or sneakers are ideal. NO thongs or crocs as they are not safe for running or climbing activities on the playground equipment.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Please escort your child right into the Preschool when arriving in the morning so that an educator knows your child is present. The preschool session starts at 8:45am and doors are open at this time. Please feel free to chat with other families, check the notice board, and read stories in our outdoor lounge area while you wait for us to prepare for the day ahead. At the end of the session, we ask that parents/caregivers wait under the preschool veranda until the session is finished. Children will be farewelled by a preschool educator from the inside mat.

Please let staff know if someone else is to collect your child from Preschool. Children cannot be released without their parent's consent. Written consent to staff is preferred, but if this is not possible, please make arrangements with staff for alternative "pick-up" procedures. We also require a phone call if your arrangements change unexpectedly. We then can reassure your child. If your child will be absent from Preschool, a phone call on the morning of their absence is also appreciated.

## PARENT NOTICE BOARD

On the veranda there is a parent notice board – we ask that you read this each day to be familiar with upcoming events. This includes Closure day notices, special events, and a variety of activities by the school and the local community.

## PARENT INFORMATION POCKETS

Each child has their own named pocket where staff put important information such as newsletters, receipts, lost property, children's work etc. Please check these daily.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## TOYS

We kindly ask that children's personal toys be kept at home, except for special program activities as requested by the teacher. It can be very disappointing and upsetting for children when toys are lost or broken. Opportunities for sharing are included throughout the year.

## NEWSLETTERS

The School Newsletter is sent home every fortnight with the eldest child in the family.

A Preschool newsletter is also circulated on a regular basis throughout each term advising on program activities, diary dates, and specific reminders and information. These will be emailed unless you request a paper copy.

## SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

During the end of the year and for special occasions the preschool children join in with the primary school students to participate in whole School Assemblies. They are held in the school gym and families are most welcome to attend and participate.





# TRANSITION INFORMATION

## TRANSITION TO RECEPTION

There are some great advantages to being at a School based Preschool.

We offer an extended Transition to School program. This allows the children to meet the Reception teachers and classmates, become familiar with the classroom routines and ensure that the transition to school is a happy and natural process.

Our friendly reception class teacher also meets with new parents, helping to prepare you for that big 'first day'.

We maintain close links with the school through participation in whole school events such as buddy class activities, fortnightly assemblies, Sports Days, excursions, concerts, and performances. This level of participation prepares our students for involvement in the wider school environment. For children attending other schools, the school of your choice will make contact with you as required.

## LEARNING STATEMENT

As children progress from Preschool to school, they are provided with a written Statement of Learning. A copy of this is passed on to your child's Reception teacher. The learning statement is developed to help families, children, and staff in both the Preschool and school to work together to support children's learning and development.

Children are also presented with their portfolios at the Graduation Ceremony in the last week of Preschool. This is a folder with a collection of your child's work and photographs of them engaged in the Preschool program.

