

CHANGES TO PRINCE OF PEACE KINDERGARTEN IN 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What model of operation will the Kindergarten have IN 2017?

Kindergartens can operate under a 'sessional' or a 'long day care' model. Prince of Peace Kindergarten will operate as an Approved Kindergarten Program within extended hour's model. The Kindergarten will receive State Government Kindergarten Funding to assist with the cost of the Early Childhood Teacher.

2. What does extended model mean?

Sessional Kindergarten's provide sessional education programs for children with specified attendance hours and days per week. Extended hours provides part time or full time care and education, often better catering for parents who are working or studying or need more flexible hours. Families will be able to select the days their children will attend. This means children can attend 3, 4 or 5 days per week. This provides continuity for children and allows development of strong peer relationships. An Early Childhood Teacher-directed program will operate for a minimum 40 weeks per year which is State School Term times.

3. Are consecutive days better from my child's development?

As stated above families can select how many and what days their child attends. Traditionally, children have attended each day with the same group of children. This does assist with the development of good social relationships. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that if it meets your family needs consecutive days like Monday Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday Thursday and Friday is encouraged. However, any combination of days to meet each family needs will be accommodated.

4. What are the opening hours of the Kindergarten?

The Kindergarten will be open from 6:30am until 6:00pm Monday to Friday for 48 weeks per year, excluding public holidays. The service will close for 4 weeks during the Christmas and New Year period.

5. What is an Approved Kindergarten Program?

An Approved Kindergarten Program is a service that complies with the following:

- Holds a current **Service Approval** (Licence) under the new National Law.
- Holds Public Liability insurance of at least \$10 million.
- Offers a learning program for children who are at least four years of age by 30 June in the year they attend; for a minimum of 15 hours per week, 40 weeks per year.
- Offers a learning program delivered by a four-year trained early childhood education teacher who is approved by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).
- Offers a learning program based on the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines which is aligned with the principles of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).
- Helps prepare children for school

Prince of Peace Kindergarten meets all these requirements.

6. What age group will the Kindergarten take?

- The Service Approval (Licence) for the Kindergarten will be for children who are between the ages of 3 and 5 years.
- Priority will be given to children who are age-eligible for Kindergarten; that is, children born between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 for the 2017 intake.

7. What will the Fees be?

The daily fee will be \$70 per day.

The Australian Government provides families with two types of financial assistance to help cover the cost of approved child care: the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR). CCR covers up to 50% of out-of-pocket costs for eligible families and is not income tested. CCB is based on family income and covers a percentage of out-of-pocket costs as decided through the Department of Human Services:

(<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit>)

Families who are eligible will receive an additional Health Care Card Subsidy.

8. Does my child need to attend during holiday times?

For families to receive CCB and CCR rebates the Kindergarten needs to be open for 48 weeks a year and at least 8 hours a day. Qualified early childhood educator will deliver a Kindergarten holiday program. These educators will be familiar to the children as they will also be working through-out the term. Fees will be charged for all holiday periods excluding the 4 week close down period. If families select not to attend during these holiday times fees must still be paid.

9. How can I apply for a place for my child at the Kindergarten?

Attached is an enrolment form. On the front of the Enrolment Form on the right hand side please tick which days you would like your child to attend in 2017. The completed Enrolment Form and Child Profile Form should be returned on the Kindergarten.

Prince of Peace Kindergarten
Attention: Lyn Jackson
20 Rogers Parade West
Everton Park QLD 4020

Or emailed to princeofpeace.kgt@qlecs.org.au

10. What is the enrolment policy for the Kindergarten?

The Kindergarten is required to follow the priority of access guidelines set out by the Federal Government. When filling vacant places, a service must fill them according to the following priorities:

Priority 1: a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect

Priority 2: a child of a single parent who satisfies, or of parents who both satisfy the work, training or study test.

Priority 3: any other child

Within these main Priority categories, priority should also be given to children in:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Families that include a disabled person
- Families on lower incomes
- Families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Socially isolated families
- Single parent families

Alongside the Priority of Access, places will be offered according to the date received and the age of the child. Priority age group will be children who turn 4 by the 30th June in the year they commence at the Kindergarten.

11. When will we know if our child has a place at the Kindergarten?

Places will be offered when enrolment forms are returned to the kindergarten. A confirmation email will be sent to each family from the Director confirming the requested days.

12. How can parents be involved?

Parents will be encouraged to be involved within the Kindergarten in a variety of ways: The Advisory Group will continue in order to assist with various activities of the Kindergarten. The ways parents can contribute include, but are not limited to:

- Fundraising
- Organising social events
- Reviewing policies
- Book covering, inventory compliance and equipment maintenance
- Providing feedback and generally supporting the staff

13. Who will be the Approved Provider?

The Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District (LCAQD) will be the Approved Provider for the Kindergarten as it is the legal entity for the Church. Congregations, Colleges, Schools and Early Childhood and School Aged Care Services sit under the umbrella of the LCAQD.

14. What is Queensland Lutheran Early Childhood Services Branch (QLECS):

- QLECS is a Branch of Lutheran Education Queensland (LEQ). QLECS holds the delegated authority of the Approved Provider and acts on behalf of the Approved Provider (LCAQD). The QLECS Branch has oversight of all services within this District.
- QLECS works to promote best practice and quality within each service. Each service also provides opportunity for ministry and mission for the Church – an outreach for the local congregation, College or School.

15. How can we find out more information about the Kindergarten?

An information session will be held at the Kindergarten in term 4 this year. Further information will be sent to all families later in term 3.

16. When will my child commence Kindergarten in 2017?

Children commence kindergarten from Monday 9th January 2017.

17. Who do I call for more information?

For further information contact

1. Lyn Jackson, Service Leader, Prince of Peace Kindergarten email:
princeofpeace.kgt@qlecs.org.au

Or

2. Carolynne Noonan, Children's Services Manager email:
carolynne.noonan@qlecs.org.au