St Philip's Preschool Kindergarten
Philosophy Statement

The St Philip's Preschool kindergarten is a place where adults and children work together to create a learning environment which is responsive to the needs of the children in the context of their community.

We believe that by working together we will be able to create the type of environment that will encourage and enhance each child’s learning. This environment is one where children will be:

- actively involved and engaged in their learning through a play-based curriculum.
- offered a variety of concrete experiences & challenges they can explore & discover.
- able to feel happy, safe, secure and accepted.
- able to work independently and as a part of a team with children and adults.
- able to discover the pleasure of learning and have fun in the process.
- involved in developmentally appropriate activities.
- free to express themselves and their needs.

We program for children using the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) as the broad curriculum for children. We provide a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum that allows for access and participation by all children.

We consider a wide range of factors in our planning including:

- Identifying outcomes for children’s learning and development.
- Supporting, challenging and extending children’s knowledge.
- Building on what children know, their family experiences, and their uniqueness.
- Their developmental levels, skills and knowledge.
- Differences in learning styles.
- The individual is as important as the group and community.
- Shared responsibility between parents and staff.
- Respect for children’s rights, values, beliefs and voice.
- Celebrating the diversity of cultures in the community.
- Antibias, gender equity and Child Protection advocacy.
- An understanding of technology in all forms.
- A safe physical and emotional environment.

We believe that learning for children is promoted when families and staff work in partnership.

It is important that families:

- Feel their individual culture and values are respected.
- Feel welcome and comfortable.
- Share information that may affect children’s learning and participation.
- Inform us of family situations that may impact on a child (this information is treated confidentially).
- Are able to choose the level of involvement that best suits them.
- Know there is open communication.
- Are able to help and participate in the running of the kindergarten.
- Are encouraged to take an active part in the kindergarten program.
- Are encouraged to be part of the review of children’s progress and record keeping procedures.
- Enjoy a collaborative partnership with the Governing Council in the interest of children and families.
As a staff team we believe that to best meet the educational needs of the children we need to:

- Have respect for individual differences, strengths and needs amongst the members of staff.
- Have open communication and be responsive to colleagues ideas and needs.
- Share roles and responsibilities and work as a co-operative and supportive team.
- Constantly re-evaluate what we teach and how we teach.
- Seek professional challenges and take up opportunities for career development and increased professional knowledge through Training and Development and other forums.
- Improve the facilities, resources and the program in the centre and allow individual staff the flexibility to pursue interests that will be of benefit to a quality program.
- Actively participate in evaluation, discussion and implementation of DECS policy development and initiatives.

We believe that a quality education facility is one where a child centred curriculum is valued and one where adults have and open and positive attitude. Research indicates that children’s success in learning is achieved by children having a positive sense of self, respect and support from others in an environment that is interesting and empowering.

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