



St Francis Xavier Primary School Geraldton WA



Kindergarten Information Booklet

School Vision

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School seeks to provide a welcoming environment wherein the development of each person and the education offered reflects gospel values.

Vision for Learning

At St Francis Xavier Primary School we are committed to providing an education that empowers all to become life-long learners.

Welcome to St Francis Xavier Kindergarten

At Saint Francis Xavier Kindergarten, we believe that all children are unique and special, with individual needs and interests. We understand that they all learn and develop in different ways and at varying rates, with appropriate time and support.

We acknowledge that parents and families are the first and most influential educators of children and play an integral part in their child's education.

We believe that play, both intentional and unstructured, is the fundamental tool through which all children learn and grow socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and academically.

All learning opportunities are designed in accordance with the Early Years Learning Framework and The National Quality Standard.

Kindergarten Attendance Times and Days

Kindergarten classes commence on the first Tuesday of the school term. Please check school calendar for up to date information.

Session Times for Kindergarten are as follows:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with gates opening at 8:30am for 8.45am start, ending at 2:50pm. Children are to be dropped off and picked up, from the Kindergarten by a parent or nominated adult (if you are using before or after school care, please give the class teacher the centre's name and contact number). Please notify the Kindergarten teacher in writing through the classroom checkin folder if alternative arrangements are made.

When dropping off and collecting your child please wait on the verandah until the classroom door opens. *Ensure you are on time arriving to school and collecting your child - a few minutes can seem like a long time if you're 4 or 5 years old.*

Parking is an important safety issue for all children. Please *do not* park in the staff car park. Parking is available at the Catholic Centre and the first two rows of the QEII Centre from 8.15-9.15am and 2.30-3.30pm. Please respect others and show consideration for those not using the school.

Morning Kiss and Drop Routine and Separating From Your Child

On arrival, the children will hang their bags on the hooks outside of the classroom and take their crunch & sip (water bottle and fruit or veg) out of their bag.

Please prepare your child before coming to school for Kiss and Drop. This means that you kiss goodbye on the verandah and when the doors open it's time to say goodbye. Our friendly staff will be there to support your child and yourself with this transition. They are to independently bring their crunch and sip into the classroom every morning and we will show them where it belongs and teach them the morning routine. If your child cries, we find it best to say goodbye quickly and leave them promptly with the Teacher or Education Assistant. The longer you prolong the separation, the harder it is for your child to settle. We will contact you by phone if your child does not settle.

Talk to your child about what to expect at school; bells ringing, playing inside/outside, Crunch and Sip time, story time, mat time, singing songs, lunch time. These will all be new to your child. Break the day into manageable parts for your child e.g. I'll take you to school after breakfast, you can have a play with your new friends and have your lunch and I'll pick you up this afternoon.

Medication

If your child has a medical condition (asthma, epilepsy, bee sting allergy, nut allergy etc) we request that a care plan is provided to the front office at the start of the year. If medication is to be taken at

school, either short or long term; medical forms are available from the school office and must be completed and returned to the office staff.

Please note that the Early Childhood Centre encourages parents to be aware of common allergies affecting children. A number of children have very severe allergic reactions (particularly to nuts) and we ask that no nut products be packed in your child's lunch box or brought in for special morning teas. This includes: peanut butter, nutella and muesli bars containing nuts.

*If your child is unwell keep them at home, they cannot learn properly and they may infect other children. **Please ensure you do not return your child to school until 24 hours after their symptoms have stopped.***

Children's Dress

To enable children to enter fully into all activities, comfortable clothes suitable for outdoor play are suggested. They may also get paint, glue, water and/or sand on their clothing during activities. Bike shorts are recommended for girls to wear under dresses and skirts for modesty and freedom of movement.

Please ensure that your child wears shoes they can manage independently. Shoes with velcro strips or slip-ons help them learn independence and to have success. Laces and very tight shoes are not recommended.

Children should be able to go to the toilet independently and wash and dry hands. Talk about the toilet with your child. They need to know they should not be afraid to use the toilet and it's alright to go at any time. Please dress them in clothes they can manage easily for toileting.

A hat is compulsory all year when playing outside.

The school has a policy of "No Hat, No Play in the Sun".

Please ensure your child has a spare set of labeled clothes, including underwear, in their bag at all times.

Fruit Time

We are a Crunch & Sip school and children will be required to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable in a separate container from their recess and lunch. Please ensure all containers and whole fruit (ie banana with their name written on it) are labelled clearly with your child's name, so that children can easily distinguish between their three meals.

To help make fruit time an enjoyable, interesting, healthy experience please bring fruit that is cut so that it is manageable for students. Choose fruit and vegetables which are in season and fresh, include your child in the process of choosing their fruit where possible.

Lunch at School

As children will be eating lunch at school each day it is important to make it manageable and interesting for them. Finger food is appealing and easy for young children, as are sandwiches cut into shapes, mini quiches, wraps, sushi and salads.

Please help us instill a healthy attitude towards food. Please avoid adding treats to your child's lunchbox, such as, chocolate, lollies, sweet biscuits and chips.

Please make sure that your child has a bottle (with water only) at school each day. In the warmer months, a cold ice brick packed with your child's lunch helps keep it cool as it remains in their school bag until lunch time.

The Kindy children will be breaking for lunch at 12:20pm, although the rest of the school eat lunch at a different time

To support your child in their journey to independence, observe their skills in managing their own bag and lunch box. Can they open their own containers and packets with ease? Can they pack it away without needing help?

Birthday Celebrations

We are happy to celebrate your child's birthday at Kindergarten. If you wish to send along a birthday treat please ensure these are small and individual and preferably all the same. There are other alternatives to food treats such as, bubbles, pencils and other party favours. Please keep in mind those children who may have severe allergies and see your child's classroom teacher if you are unsure.

Toys

Please ensure that your child's personal toys remain at home.

Our Classroom

Knowing the rules and routines of 'school' helps young children feel safe, more relaxed and in control. Rules will be developed around appropriate behaviour and safety. We will foster a commitment to the rules and an understanding of why we have them. We value a restorative approach for managing behaviour.

Communication

We use an app, Seesaw, to digitally communicate with families and share your child's learning journey through photos. Families will need to download the app and log in, information will be provided in the first week.

During the first few weeks of the school year, introductory meetings will take place between individual parents and the classroom teacher.

We value parents as the first educators and believe that working alongside, in partnership with you is paramount to a successful beginning of formal education.

What to Bring

Your child should bring the following each day clearly labelled with their name;

- A backpack, large enough to carry their fruit and lunch, a change of clothes, and large pieces of art and craft work
- A water bottle
- A hat (we have a "No Hat, Play in the Shade" policy)
- A spare set of clothing, including underwear (please check this regularly and restock as required)

And finally, we hope the coming year will be a happy and rewarding beginning for both you and your child in your association with our school.

We look forward to starting a wonderful year of fun and learning and having your child with us. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask on our Orientation day.

Kind Regards,

St Francis Xavier Kindergarten Teachers