

# Bridgewater Kindergarten

87 Onkaparinga Rd, Bridgewater.

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## INFORMATION BOOKLET



Nature Play  
everyday!



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Kurna people who were the original custodians of our land. We live and play on their land.

We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

*Care for Country  
Love our land,  
Plants, birds and animals,  
Trees, sticks and leaves,  
Kurna and kindy land.*

## **Bridgewater Kindergarten's Philosophy 2022.**

At Bridgewater Kindergarten we ensure that every child feels safe, welcome, nurtured and respected.

We partner with families having shared conversations to develop meaningful connections with every child, their family, our staff team and the wider community. Together we develop an engaging, inclusive, enriched, play based learning programme.

Families and the community are encouraged to engage in the curriculum, sharing their culture, interests and skills.

We respect Australia's Indigenous peoples, culture and beliefs. Our children and adults are continually growing our knowledge and understandings about Australia's first peoples. We build relationships with Aboriginal Community members and engage in Aboriginal cultural learning to embed this understanding in our children and community.

We actively listen to each child's individual voice as their thoughts, ideas and opinions are important and their personal strengths must be encouraged and supported.

We have a strong connection with nature. We implement strong sustainable practices to help look after our environment and educate future generations. We see the outdoors as being a place of wonder, joy and discovery.

It is important to us that every child and adult have fun at kindergarten in a caring play based environment.

Our key values are trust, respect, kindness, fairness, honesty, diversity, responsibility, play and fun.

*Glenda Henderson, Deb Combridge, Suzy Hunt, Hannah Carson and Governing Council*

## Staff Team 2022



Director  
Glenda Henderson



Teacher  
Nell Ward



Hannah  
Early Childhood Worker



Suzy  
Teacher alternate Wednesdays

We have available to us a team of specialists in the area of child development education and family welfare. Included in this team are speech pathologists, psychologists and special education advisors. These are Department for Education staff and there is no cost to the family.

Should you have any concerns regarding your child's progress in any way or feel you would like access to a member of our specialist team, please consult with the director and if appropriate, a referral can be made. Early referral is recommended particularly for children who may present with speech / communication problems as waiting lists are very long.

### Session Times

#### Fulltime kindergarten-

Children born before May 1<sup>st</sup> start kindy the January before their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Children born on or after May 1<sup>st</sup> start kindy the January after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Tuesday 9.00 to 3.00

Wednesday 9-00 to 3-00

Thursday 9-00 to 12

The kindergarten doors will open at 8:55am.

#### Pre-entry

There will be two pre-entry visits in November/ December this year. These will be 2 hour visits.

#### Playgroup

Playgroup for babies, toddlers, 0-5 years old and parents.

Monday 9-30 to 11-30 during the school term.

Cost \$4-00 per family per week.

Playgroup is run by volunteer co-ordinators so please help out with caring for children and cleaning up.

#### Kindergarten Fees

Kindergarten full time fees are currently set at \$210 per term, (\$21.00 per week!).

Pre-entry fees are \$20/ session.

Fees are invoiced for the full year at the beginning of the year.

As well as these fees there will be charges for excursions, usually 2 a year.

Payments should be made promptly. Full payment is preferred, but arrangements can be made for weekly or monthly payments, if necessary. All fees must be paid by the 30<sup>th</sup> September, which is the end of term 3. Our preferred method of payment is through the **QKR app**. The kindergarten **does not have credit card facilities**, but fees can also be paid electronically-  
**Bridgewater Kindergarten BSB 105-079 ACC 305255840.**

If paying cash, when returning money to the kindergarten, please seal it in an envelope with the child's name, amount enclosed and what it is for and place it in the locked box on the wall opposite the front door. We do not keep money on the premises, so please bring the correct money.

### **Dropping off and collecting your child.**

It is important for children to arrive at kindergarten on time.

Children who arrive late often feel out of place and uncomfortable and miss learning opportunities. We are unable to provide a before or after school program but please see a staff member should you require some emergency assistance. If you are delayed in picking up your child please call us. If you will not be collecting your child from kindergarten you must note this in the diary on the communication cupboard. Your child will not be released to a stranger, so please remember to inform us of changes.

### **Out of School Hours Care**

We are unable to offer out of kindergarten hour's care, however Bridgewater Kindergarten children are able to access Out of School Hours Care at Bridgewater Primary School. Families will need to arrange transport from kindy to the school. This can often be arranged with families who have children both at kindy and school. Contact Camp Australia who run the BPS OHSC- [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au) Phone 1300105343. If you need help with this please speak to the Kindergarten Director, Glenda.

### **How can you be involved?**

Parents and volunteers are always most welcome to join in our kindergarten sessions. They can be involved by

- Helping with activities
- Telling or reading stories
- Preparing materials for activities
- Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Joining Governing Council
- Talking to your child about their time at kindergarten.

Adults who regularly assist at kindy must have a current Working With Children Check. The kindergarten can help organise this.

### **Governing Council**

The Governing Council consists of the Kindergarten Director, Kindergarten teacher, and elected parents. The Bridgewater Kindergarten Governing Council has the responsibility for ensuring effective governance of Bridgewater Kindergarten.

Governing Council helps govern the financial and property management of the kindergarten. They also assist in policy making, fundraising, social events and ensuring our visibility in the community. Being a part of the Governing Council is a valuable experience. The Annual General Meeting is held at the beginning of the kindergarten year.

We invite you to consider joining the Governing Council, which meets once a month at a time that is most suitable to members, usually in the evening. No special skills are needed.

Please ask a staff member or Governing Councillor for more information.

## Curriculum

Kindergartens use the national curriculum document – **Belonging, Being & Becoming**. This is the **Early Years Framework for Australia**.

This curriculum is a guide for thinking about children's learning, for recognising and building on what they know and can do.

Expected learning outcomes for children birth to 5 years are

**Children have a strong sense of identity**  
**Children are connected and contribute to their world**  
**Children have a strong sense of well being**  
**Children are confident and involved learners**  
**Children are effective communicators**

These outcome are achieved through a play and nature based curriculum.

These outcomes guide our planning and learning. We plan our learning experiences with the children through **Learning Committee**, consisting of one adult and between 4 and 6 children. The children's learning ideas include topics, concerns, interests and activities. The children help to set up the activities for this learning in the ensuing fortnight.

Bridgewater Kindergarten has a Reconciliation Action Plan and our learning programme ensures that learning about Aboriginal Culture is woven through our days.

## Communication

The partnership between parents and staff is an important one so please feel welcome to ask for information about your child's progress or about any concerns you may have about any aspect of your child's development. We also wish to hear from you about things that happen away from kindy. This information is vital to help us to plan for and encourage learning with individual children.

One of our major tools for communication with families is the **Skoolbag App**. Skoolbag allows us to send push notifications, emails and alerts regarding upcoming events and other important information to our families. The Skoolbag app allows parents to reply, submit consent eforms and RSVP. It is free to download and use.



For curriculum information and daily happenings, we use the **Seesaw App**, also free to download. Here you will read about your child's kindergarten day and keep up to date with our learning programme. You will be able to respond to these events via the app or chatting to staff.

**Interviews** Please consult Glenda or Nell if you have any concerns. We are happy to have short conversations with you at the beginning and end of each session, but for longer chats please make an appointment. It is important that you let us know of any changes in routine, illnesses or family crises so that we can help your child through any difficult times.

You can follow some of our kindergarten happenings on our Bridgewater Kindergarten Facebook page.

## Snack / Lunch



Please send a **healthy** snack for your child each day. We recommend a piece of fruit, cheese, dry crackers etc. **Sweets, chips, muesli bars etc. are not acceptable for kindy snacks.**

Send a good lunch as well as a snack, as children can get quite hungry. Lunch and snack need to be in separate containers.

Children also need to bring a named drink bottle with water in it.

View our Healthy Food Policy on our website- [www.bridgewaterkqn.sa.edu.au](http://www.bridgewaterkqn.sa.edu.au)



## Birthdays

If you wish, you may send a healthy treat, balloon, bubbles or something similar to celebrate your child's birthday.

Be sure to check with staff for accurate numbers. In line with our healthy food policy we ask that you don't send sweet cakes.

## Illnesses and medication

Sick children must not be brought to kindergarten, even when they say they want to come.

**Please ring the kindergarten if your child is absent** for any reason and especially if your child has an infectious disease.

A form signed by the parent must be completed before staff can administer any medication. We can only administer prescription medication from its original container.

Please make sure that staff is aware of any allergies that your child may have and if necessary leave emergency medication with an official Health Care Plan at the centre.

## Immunisations

From August 2020, all children attending kindergarten must be immunised. Proof of immunisation must be given to the Director to keep on site. As your child's immunisations are updated you must inform the kindergarten.

## What should your child wear?

It is important to dress your child in comfortable clothes that are easy for him / her to manage. Old clothes are best so that children can participate in messy activities without fear of getting dirty. **Thongs, crocs, loose sandals are not safe for kindergarten.**

**Please name all items** of clothing that may be removed.

There should be a change of clothes in your child's kindy bag. Sometimes accidents happen or water or mud play gets vigorous!

**We are a Sun smart accredited centre.** A hat must be worn by children and adults while outside, in terms 1 and 4. Children will be supplied with a kindergarten hat when they start kindy

We ask that sunscreen be applied before kindergarten and we will re-apply it after lunch. The kindergarten has a supply of sunscreen. If your child is allergic to any particular brand, it is important that you let us know.

## Valuables

Children love to bring personal items to kindy to show and share with their friends. Please remind your child that there are lots of things to play with and explore at kindy. If they wish to bring something to show, we will look after it until and after they show it to keep it safe and allow them to engage fully in the kindy programme.

Sometimes they like to bring a cuddly toy for relaxation time. We ask that this toy stay in their bag until and after relaxation.

## Policies

We have a number of policies to ensure your child's wellbeing, including

Allergy aware, Asthma, Attendance, Child Safe Environment, Complaints, Healthy Food , Injury Management, Site Behaviour Code, Sunsmart, Water at Preschool, Assessment and Practise, Decision Making and Bushfire.

If you would like a copy of one of these policies please contact Glenda. When your child starts kindergarten you will receive a policy booklet.

Policies can also be found on our website, [www.bridgewaterkgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.bridgewaterkgn.sa.edu.au)

The Department for Education also have a number of policies that our centre adheres to these can be located at

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/>

## Bushfire Policy

Bridgewater Kindergarten is in an extreme bushfire area. In recent years the Department for Education has spent considerable money ensuring that we have a Safe Refuge.

### **CATASTROPHIC DAYS**

Our centre will be closed on days of catastrophic bushfire likelihood.

### **IN CASE OF BUSHFIRE**

Bridgewater Kindergarten is a designated Bushfire Safe Refuge for our students and educators.

Our first concern at all times is the safety of the children.

Procedures for educators and students are well documented and practice fire drills for both internal and external fires are held at kindergarten on a regular basis.

**Educators will stay with the children until they have all been collected by their parents or emergency contacts.**

Parents are welcome to view our Bushfire Action Plan on request.

Questions



If this booklet has left some questions unanswered, please ask a member of staff or Governing Council who will be only too happy to assist.

Further information can be found on our website- [www.bridgewaterkgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.bridgewaterkgn.sa.edu.au)