

Kimba is an isolated town in the centre of Eyre Peninsula, 460 kilometres from Adelaide and 70 kilometres from the next nearest town, Cleve. Whyalla is the nearest major town and is 120 km away (about 1 and a half hours by road).

The Kimba district is a rural farming community with many self-employed farmers. Other employment is found in rural support services, education, health services, local government, mining, retail and hospitality.

Kimba Community Kindergarten is situated centrally within the town, as a standalone site. It is a rural and remote Category 2 site with a physical capacity of 30. Preschool and Occasional Care run concurrently, with integration of children for play but separation for mat time and some activities. Playgroup runs on Friday when there are no Preschool or Occasional Care services operating.

Approximately, 70% of the children travel daily by bus, some from as far away as 70 kilometres. The population has a sound birth rate at present so our numbers remain reasonably stable from year to year. The Regional Director, Rowena Fox, has approved the 'Exceeding of Physical Capacity' by 7 children to accommodate the Preschool and Occasional Care services running concurrently which is a model that fits the needs of the families and community.

Preschool Staff members include the Director, a teacher and an ECW working 0.5 for preschool, with an additional 0.1 for Universal Access. The Director has a further 0.1 for Occasional Care together with 2 ECW's working a combined total of 19 hours also for Occasional Care. The Occasional Care ECW and the Preschool ECW are permanent and other staff employed by contract. The preschool ECW is also engaged for preschool support and other activities to supplement children's programs. A finance officer is employed to manage the centre finances.

The preschool children transfer to our local Department for Education school, Kimba Area School, for their schooling, unless they are moving away from the town or if travelling long distances may choose Distance Education/ School of the Air.

Pre-entry transition/orientation takes place through our Playgroup and Occasional Care programs with children becoming familiar with the centre, staff and routines over time. Then more formally in term 4 each year, three transition-to-kindy visits are arranged to coincide with the preschool children taking part in their transition to school visits.

Preschool children visit the school throughout the year, starting in the first term and increasing to longer and more formal transition visits in term 4.

Parents are involved in our centre in a multitude of ways and in accordance with their individual needs and circumstances including the Governing Council, our grounds development/planning, fund raising and special activities throughout the year and are welcome at our centre at all times. We have a strong focus on connecting with the wider community – drawing on wider expertise and skills to enrich and add value to our program. Our centre at times, also provides work placements for students completing Children's Services Studies through TAFE.

Kimba Community Kindergarten is part of the Central Eyre 1 DECD Partnership. The Central Eyre 1 DECD Partnership spans the middle of the Eyre Peninsula and the shared vision owned by all preschool/school leaders is:

*To work collaboratively to provide excellent educational opportunities, outcomes and advocacy for children, families and communities.*

*To build capacity by facilitating shared leadership, professionals learning communities, collaborative opportunities and innovation.*

Kimba Community Kindergarten is a vibrant part of the Kimba community.