

# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated 13/3/20

**Centre number:** 4603

**Centre name:** Athelstone Kindergarten

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director: Stacy Pastro
- Centre name: Athelstone Kindergarten
- Postal address: 338 Gorge Rd. Athelstone 5076
- Location address: 338 Gorge Rd. Athelstone 5076
- DECS District: Campbell Partnership
- Geographical location – The preschool is located at the back of the carpark behind the Marchant Community Centre.
- Telephone number: 8337 5493
- Fax number: 8365 5738
- E-mail address: dl.4603.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Web address: <https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/athelstone-preschool>
- Enrolment/Attendance: 30 sessional (average per year)
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone
- Programs operating
  - Transition Visits: Two visits per child offered in term 4 each year.
  - Full Day Program- Monday to Friday 9am - 3pm
  - Bilingual Support
  - Preschool Support

## 2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose:**

At Athelstone Preschool we provide a rich play based curriculum which aims to foster children's creativity, resilience, social skills, problem-solving and social justice. Attention to improvement in the teaching programme, and an awareness of individual children's needs is a priority; improvement to facilities, particularly the outdoors teaching environment – are in keeping with the values of the surrounding community.

- **Current Priorities**

For children to develop and strengthen their oral language skills in order to become effective communicators of their learning throughout all learning areas.

- **Families**

We encourage all family members to feel a valued informed and welcome part of our kindergarten family network.

We investigate and improve ways of communicating our fortnightly and daily programme to the parent/caregiver who cannot access the kindergarten regularly. We share information with parents about the kindergarten programme and their child's educational development through regular newsletters, displays and flexible parent discussion opportunities.

We acknowledge our varied cultures in our community, and invite contributions from these families to our kindergarten programme.

### **Governing Council**

Athelstone Preschool has a strong Governing Council of parent and staff representatives It:

- Inputs into the pre-schools policies and activities.
- Manages the Preschool assets and finances according to the present budget and evaluates and monitors the accuracy of the predicted income and expenditure.

## **3. Curriculum**

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework.

We believe that children's love for learning is enriched by strong relationships between home and kindergarten. We encourage parents to actively participate in their children's learning. At Athelstone Preschool staff work in collaboration with the parents and broader community to create a strong leaning community.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

## **4. Centre Based Staff**

### **Centre Based Staff**

- Staff Profile

- Director 1.0
- Teachers 2 X 0.5 (Permanent), 0.4 (Universal Access)
- ECW 0.5 (Permanent) 0.2 (Contract)
- Performance Management Program

All staff create an annual Performance and Development Plan which is reviewed and discussed throughout the year.

- Access to special support staff

Staff work closely with DECD support staff and with private providers.

## 5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds:

The preschool was built in 1969. The centre is spacious with a variety of rooms such as parent communication room, library, store rooms and office. The centre has been well maintained by DECD and the Campbelltown Council. The outdoor learning environment is spacious and well shaded. There are two storage sheds.

- Capacity: 55 children
- Centre Ownership: Council lease agreement
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Disabled access to the preschool via a ramp.
- Other

## 6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

General characteristics:

The centre is located in a residential suburb.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool:

Parents are involved in a variety of ways such as helping at special events, fundraising, yard cleaning, washing roster etc.

We have an active and supportive Governing Council

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

Athelstone School

Thorndon Park Primary School

St Francis of Assisi School- Newton

East Marden Primary School

St Joseph's School

Stradbroke School

Paradise Primary School

- Other local care and educational facilities,

Goodstart-Gorge Road

Emali Early Learning

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

- Other local facilities:

The centre is located close to a range of medical centres and services. Thorndon Park is close to the preschool.

The Marchant Community Centre is located next door.

#### Accessibility

Public transport is available with a bus stop directly in front of the preschool.

- Local Government

Campbelltown City Council

## **7. Further Comments**

#### Partnership arrangements with other groups

The preschool is part of the Campbell Partnership. We have close working relationships with local schools and preschools through this partnership.

A close link between the Campbelltown City Council exists through the OPAL program which promotes healthy eating and active lifestyles.