Early Learning Programme

Launceston Church Grammar School

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Welcome

We welcome you and your child to the Launceston Church Grammar School Early Learning Programme.

We provide a safe and caring environment for your child to grow and learn in. When children begin school, they are making the journey from family centred life into the world of children. They are keen to make new friends, learn new things and flourish in their new environment. Throughout this process there will be many wonderful experiences for children to enjoy and share with their parents. Your child is our focus. We cater for their educational, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs. We encourage children to develop independence, a love of learning and a desire to be active and caring members of the school community and the community at large.

We wish you many happy years at Launceston Grammar, where your child will form many lasting friendships and become a lifelong learner.
How and what **will my child learn?**

Your child will learn through play and activities planned by the teacher and by socialising with other children. Fine motor, gross motor, early literacy and numeracy skills will all be developed through the many and varied activities provided. Our aim is to develop independence, confidence and self-esteem in a nurturing, happy and supportive environment. We also encourage the children’s development of social skills which include co-operation, sharing, taking turns, using manners and consideration for others. Children’s strengths, abilities and interests will be valued and built on.
Why is *play* important?

Play helps children to make sense of their world. Play is an important part of your child’s first years of life. It shapes the structure of the brain in diverse ways. It links social, creative and cognitive skills.

“Play provides numerous opportunities for children to actively learn through discovery, creation and imagination. As children play with other children they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other’s thinking, ask questions, solve problems, engage in critical thinking and build new understandings.” (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009).

Our Early Learning Programme fosters quality play which means your child will be deeply involved, learning, developing and practicing skills.

Play allows children to:

- Develop awareness of themselves and others
- Explore, investigate and experiment
- Draw and test conclusions
- Develop self confidence
- Express ideas and feelings in a range of ways
- Imagine...
- Be quiet, solitary, reflective

- Collaborate with others
- Take initiative (on own terms)
- Develop relationships
- Practice skills
- Consolidate previous learning
- Be challenged ‘in’ new learning.
Getting ready for school

Here are a few suggestions of ways in which you can help your child prepare for school:

• Attend an Early Years Programme (playgroup) with your child.
• Build a positive feeling about beginning school; discuss all the wonderful activities and experiences they will encounter. i.e., new friends, games, painting, construction.
• Familiarise your child with the School’s location and the journey to and from school.
• Have a trial run at wearing the uniform, especially school shoes which sometimes need to be worn-in!
• Clearly label all school uniform and possessions.
• Bring your child to orientation day.
• From day one, aim to be punctual in getting your child to and from school.
• Make sure your child is aware of where the toilets are. Encourage children to be independent in their toilet routine.
• Spend a little time in the classroom with your child in the morning. Don’t be in a rush to go. Do a puzzle together or read a story.
• Let your child know who will be picking them up at the end of the day.
Helpful information

Early Learning School Hours
School hours are from 9.00am until 3.00pm. However, the classroom will be open from 8.30am onwards. Children need to be brought to and collected from the classroom.

Before School Care
This service operates between 7.30am and 8.30am in the Kindergarten building.

After School Care
This service operates from 3.00pm until 6.00pm, Monday to Friday in the Kindergarten building. Please let your teacher know if your child requires After School Care each day.

How often can my child attend school?
Children can attend school for a minimum of 3 days and a maximum of 5 days. If your child begins with the minimum number of days they can often increase days in preparation for the following year if vacancies exist. (Please note that minimum number of days for 3 year olds is 2 days).

What will my child need to bring?
Children need to bring:
• A small cushion (to rest with).
• A roll-on sunscreen.
• A waterproof smock.
• A waterproof coat to be left at school.
Do I need to provide stationery?
Your child will be charged a book levy to cover all the costs of stationery required for the year.

Banking
School banking is carried out with Bass and Equitable (B&E). If you would like your child to have a bank account let your teacher know and they will arrange the appropriate forms.

Lunches
We are a ‘Move Well, Eat Well’ school. This means we encourage children to eat healthy food and drink water. Your child is required to eat 2 small pieces of fruit for morning tea. For lunch we recommend items such as sandwiches, wraps, small rolls, yoghurt, cheese and biscuits, dip and carrot sticks, pasta, rice, soup etc. Please do not include sweets. All bags, containers and drink bottles need to be named. It is a good idea to include an icepack in your child’s lunch box to keep food cold.

Parking
Parking outside the Early Learning area is limited. We finish school 10 minutes earlier than the rest of the school to allow easy pick-up for Early Learning parents. Please be on time to collect your child so they don’t become anxious. Please wait outside the classroom door until the children are dismissed. Please note the parking directly outside Kinder is a drop-off/pick-up zone and cars are not to be left unattended in this area.

Medication and Allergies
Medication can only be given at school with parental written permission. Parents must complete an ‘Authorisation for the Administration of Medication’ form which will be made available to you in the classroom. If children have any allergies please notify the staff. Never leave medication in your child’s bag.
Parent Involvement
We rely heavily on parent help to run our Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP) each week. If you are available to help at any time please complete the PMP forms when issued. Sometimes we ask parents to help on excursions or in the classroom for special projects.

Extra-Curricular Activities
Children will participate in various specialist lessons throughout the week. These include PMP (Perceptual Motor Programme), music, Indonesian and library. During the year, children will also have the opportunity to participate in excursions, dress-up days, performances, special visitors and buddies with older class groups.

At the end of the day...
It is important to discuss with your child their school day. Often children have difficulties recalling the events of the day. Don’t be alarmed if they are reluctant to retell their day. Open-ended questions such as, ‘what was your favourite part of the day?’ ‘What made you feel happy today?’ are types of questions which encourage positive thoughts in your child.