

# Angaston Primary School/Angaston Kindergarten

## Preschool to School Transition Policy

### Rationale

Successful transition from kindergarten to school is vital to each young child's social, emotional and intellectual development throughout their schooling and beyond.

In this way our policy endeavours to reduce anxiety for both families and children, recognising each child's strengths and abilities as a means of becoming engaged, imaginative, positive and successful learners in their own right and as a group member.

We recognise that each child's culture, development, socio economic and family backgrounds forms the basis of how they as individuals become successful learners in their own unique ways.

### Principles

Transition is **intentionally planned** so that children can be supported, and their **wellbeing enhanced** through early **engagement** in the school setting through both formal and informal experiences.

School and local prior-to-school- educators **work together** and with families to **support ongoing learning and development**.

Build on the EYLF using the Australian Curriculum to intentionally plan for and **create active learning environments**.

**Formal transition** visits from kindergarten to school will occur in term 4 with children participating in weekly visits over a four week period.

### Admission

If your child turns five before May 1st, they will start school on the first day of term 1 in that year. If your child turns five on or after May 1<sup>st</sup>, they will start school on the first day of term 1 the following year.

Families not attending Angaston Kindergarten are able to enrol their child at any time during their preschool year but preferably before the end of term 3 to ensure access to formal transition visits in term 4.

### Guidelines:

1. Kindergarten and school staff meets in **Term 1** of the school year to plan experiences/visits for kindergarten students at the school and for new receptions to visit the kindergarten. The school will also invite where practicable, kindergarten students to participate in significant events/celebrations such as Reconciliation, Book Week activities, Harmony Day etc. The kindergarten will make this information available to families.
2. Early **Term 3** the Preschool Director and school Principal and/or Deputy Principal will meet to discuss enrolling students, including any additional needs during formal transition visits and beyond.
3. **Transition packs** are made available to the Preschool by the end of **Week 6 Term 3** for distribution to families. The Transition Pack contains important information about the school as well as an enrolment

form which needs to be filled out and returned to the school at the **Preschool Transition Meeting** for families. A **'Parents as Partners'** form is also included for discussion during the **Week 5 Term 4 Transition visit**. As per Department for Education policy, the following documentation needs to be sighted by the school when you return your child's enrolment form to the front office:

- Proof of residence e.g. a bill with your address on it.
- Proof of birthdate e.g. a birth certificate or the 'blue' book.
- Custody Order (if applicable to your child)
- Health Care Plan (if applicable to your child)
- Both biological parents are required to give permission for their child to enrol at a DECD school. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about this

4. **Week 2 Term 4 Preschool Transition Information Meetings** held at the school for families of enrolling students. This is an opportunity to hear from the Principal, meet teaching staff and tour the school. Children are welcome to attend.

5. **Week 5, 6,7 & 8 Term 4 Formal Preschool Transition visits:** Preschool children arrive at their classroom (details in Transition Pack letter) at 8.50am and are collected at designated time by parents/caregivers. Children need to bring a small bag with a hat, a water bottle (no juice please), a piece of fruit to share and recess and/or lunch. Parents/caregivers are invited to stay for a coffee during the first visit and chat with Leadership. Children will stay longer each time they visit, with the last visit finishing at 2.30pm. Children will be supervised during play time and restricted to the Junior Primary Playgrounds.

**During the formal visits children will become more familiar with the following:**

- School boundaries
- School and class routines
- Getting to know other children
- Working in a classroom environment
- School values and classroom expectations
- Class teachers, specialist teachers and other school staff.