

Kindergartens on Catholic School Sites



Catholic education is committed to supporting the State government's aim of ensuring every Queensland child has the opportunity to enjoy the lifelong benefits that a kindergarten program provides.

14 new kindergarten services will open on Catholic school sites in Queensland from the beginning of the 2013 school year.



The kindergarten program

The kindergarten program provides opportunities for children to engage in purposeful, play-based experiences that nurture learning across the intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual dimensions.

Flexible and supportive learning experiences and spaces encourage children to communicate, observe, investigate, explore, and express their creativity in a program that builds upon the individual abilities, interests and needs of each child.

Kindergarten programs offered on Catholic school sites are based on the accredited Kindergarten Learning Guideline developed by the Queensland Studies Authority which aligns with the National Early Years Learning Framework.

Kindergarten programs are delivered by fully qualified early childhood teachers for 600 hours per year (usually 15 hours per week for 40 weeks).

Kindergartens on Catholic school sites will operate as approved kindergarten program providers to receive funding under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme.



Spiritual development

Kindergartens on Catholic school sites will include a spiritual development dimension in the learning program they deliver.

This will be based on a Framework for Early Years Spiritual Development in the Catholic Tradition developed by the Queensland Catholic Education Commission Pre-prep taskforce in collaboration with the Australian Catholic University.

Drawing on the latest research, this framework provides educators with the principles, characteristics and capabilities for nurturing young children's spiritual development.



Partnership with families

Catholic schools have a proud tradition of working in close partnership with parents and families. Kindergartens will continue this commendable work by creating warm and welcoming environments where children and families are respected for their diverse history, culture, language and tradition.

Collaborative partnerships with families and communities is one of the seven quality areas that kindergarten services will be assessed against under a National Quality Standard.

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Who is eligible to enrol in kindergarten on a Catholic school site?

All families are welcome to apply for enrolment in a kindergarten on a Catholic school site.

Children should enrol in a kindergarten program in the year prior to starting Prep.

This means children should attend a kindergarten program in the year they turn 4 years old by 30 June. If they turn four years old after 30 June they will be eligible to enrol in a program the following year.

CHILD BORN	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008	Kindy	Prep	Year 1		
1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009		Kindy	Prep	Year 1	
1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010			Kindy	Prep	Year 1
1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011				Kindy	Prep
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012					Kindy

- *The kindergarten enrolment process is separate from the adjoining Catholic school's enrolment processes for Prep.*
- *Kindergarten is now available at low or no cost for Health Care Card Holders.*

The 14 new kindergarten services are:

Centacare Child Care Services - Archdiocese of Brisbane

- Emmaus College, Jimboomba* (double service)
- St Anthony's School, Alexandra Hills
- St Francis Xavier School, Goodna
- St Kevin's School, Benowa
- St Mary's School, Beaudesert
- Xavier College, Hervey Bay

Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton

- Emmanuel Catholic Primary School, Mackay
- St Joseph's School, North Rockhampton

Catholic Education - Diocese of Toowoomba

- St Mary's School, Warwick

Catholic Education - Diocese of Townsville

- St Joseph's School, Mt Isa
- St Anthony's Catholic College, Deeragun
- St Clare's Catholic School, Burdell
- Ryan Catholic College, Kirwan

NB: In addition to the new kindergarten services listed above, a number of Catholic agencies in Queensland currently provide kindergarten programs.



A message from the Director

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission is proud to support the Queensland government's commitment to providing kindergarten services for all children and is appreciative of the capital funding provided

to the Catholic sector to assist in this endeavour.

Research shows that the quality of a child's early experiences - intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual - has a profound impact on their future health, development and wellbeing.

The operation of kindergartens is a relatively new endeavour for Catholic authorities. However, a commitment to lifelong learning has always been at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education.

Kindergartens on Catholic schools sites also present a wonderful opportunity to engage young children and families in the life of the Catholic school, parish and community.

Catholic agencies are now delighted to offer these opportunities for families in this critical kindergarten phase of their children's development.

Mike Byrne
QCEC Executive Director

For further information please visit the relevant diocesan website:

- Archdiocese of Brisbane www.bne.catholic.edu.au
- Diocese of Rockhampton www.rok.catholic.edu.au
- Diocese of Toowoomba www.twb.catholic.edu.au
- Diocese of Townsville www.tsv.catholic.edu.au

More information is also available by calling the Queensland Government Kindy Hotline on **1800 454 639** or visiting www.qld.gov.au/kindy



Queensland Catholic Education Commission

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