



Sandhurst
Catholic Early
Childhood Education
& Care Ltd
Peace & Goodness

Enrolment Information

3-Year-Old Kindergarten 2023

St Mel's Kindergarten
Shepparton

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Application Timeline

The following timelines will be adhered to, however if you have any questions, please contact the enrolment officer at sceceenrolment@ceosand.catholic.edu.au or Mob: 0400 567 153.

MAY	Kindergarten applications OPEN
17 JUNE	FIRST ROUND applications close by 5.00 pm. All applications after this time will be considered in the 2 nd and subsequent round offers.
1 JULY	FIRST ROUND OFFERS sent to families.
15 JULY	FIRST ROUND OFFER LETTERS due back to kindergarten.
29 JULY	SECOND ROUND OFFERS sent to families
12 AUGUST	SECOND ROUND OFFER LETTERS due back to kindergarten.
26 AUGUST	THIRD ROUND OFFERS sent to families.
1 SEPTEMBER	THIRD ROUND OFFER LETTERS due back to kindergarten. All applications received after all offers and places are filled will be considered if kindergarten places become available.
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER	Families will receive information from their accepted kindergarten regarding commencement procedures, group allocation and orientation and interview days.

If you have provided an email address your letter of offer will be sent to you electronically. This is our preferred method, but if you have not provided an email address, please understand there could be delays for your offer to arrive in the post.

If you require any further information or assistance, please contact:

SCECE&C Enrolment Officer via Email: sceceenrolment@ceosand.catholic.edu.au or Mob: 0400 567 153.

Introduction

St Mel's Kindergarten has been in operation for more than 50 years. It was established in 1969 by the Daughters of Divine Zeal, an order of Italian Catholic nuns who set up the kindergarten to care and educate our youngest community members. In 1995 the kindergarten became fully integrated with the St Mel's organisation, giving 3- & 4-year-old children an opportunity to learn, play and grow in a safe and happy environment. The kindergarten building was upgraded in 2001 and a second room added in 2013 providing more space to run our programs.

St Mel's Kindergarten is governed by Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education and Care Limited who believe that children are competent, capable, and successful learners and are committed to creating positive early learning experiences where children are supported to become environmentally responsible and given opportunities to construct their own understandings, participate in decisions that affect them and contribute to the learning of others.

Our kindergarten programs are designed to extend your child in all areas of development allowing them to develop to their maximum potential.

In addition, we provide families with access to Support and assistance for children with additional needs, and resources and links to community support services.

Child Safe Standards

The health, safety of children and vulnerable people is of the utmost priority in all settings in the diocese. Policies and Protocols for Early Childhood Education & Care are developed in accordance with the 'Child Safe Standards' as determined by the Victorian Government.

Entry Age for Kindergarten Programs and Eligibility

To be eligible to attend a funded 3-year-old kindergarten program:

- children must be at least 3 years old by 30 April in their kindergarten year
- your child cannot start the kindergarten program until they have turned three
- children cannot attend 2 years of 3-year-old kindergarten
- please note children do not need to be toilet trained to attend kindergarten; however independent toileting skills are encouraged
- each child develops at their own rate and, although your child's age may make them eligible to start kindergarten, other factors may impact on their readiness for such an experience.

What are the benefits of 3-Year-Old Kindergarten?

Attending a kindergarten program is an important step for your child. It will help your child learn skills they will build on throughout life, strengthening their enthusiasm for learning. At kindergarten, your child will grow socially and emotionally. Their ability to think, use and recognise language and to use their motor skills will be developed through play, art, dance, music, movement, and interaction with others. They will develop their fine motor skills and various hand-eye coordination tasks. Your child will be learning to be an engaged and effective learner as they develop and extend their communication skills; begin to understand their place in their community and knowledge about their world; develop skills that assist with reading, writing and mathematics; learn to be creative; and build self-confidence.

Our high-quality program will nurture relationships among children, teachers, and parents. It will allow the child to spend time away from parents and build trusting relationships with other people. Children who attend 3-year-old kindergarten programs have better development in language, pre reading, early number concepts, independence, concentration, and social skills when they start school.

For more information visit website www.education.vic.gov.au and refer to the article “Two Years of Quality Kindergarten: What Does the Evidence Say?”

Priority of Access Guidelines

As part of the funding criteria for all Kindergarten access, the Department of Education (DET) sets a priority of access for the allocation of kindergarten places that must be adhered to.

The broad outline for priority of access criteria as stipulated by DET for Kindergarten access is as documented below. There are also additional definitions and criteria within each category.

- Children at risk of abuse or neglect or children in out of home care
- FAMILY IDENTIFIES THE CHILD AS AN ABORIGINAL AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
- CHILDREN OF ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE CHILDREN
- CHILDREN OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE A CONCESSION CARD OR FROM A MULTIPLE BIRTH
- CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS
- CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO SATISFY THE WORK / TRAINING / STUDY TEST
- CHILDREN WITH A COMMUNITY CONNECTION

For more information visit www.education.vic.gov.au

National Quality Framework

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) works with all governments to provide guidance, resources, and services to support the sector to improve outcomes for children. Funded Kindergarten Programs operate under the National Quality Framework where services are required to meet the requirements of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, the Educational and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and the National Quality Standards.

Education and care services will be assessed and rated, with a focus on seven key quality areas of the National Quality Standards. These ratings will help parents make more informed choices about the education and care of their child.

The Department of Education and Training is responsible for regulating Education and Care Services on behalf of ACECQA. All education and care services in Victoria are required to ensure that children are educated and cared for in an environment that is safe, meets their learning and development needs, and supports their health and wellbeing.

Services are required to employ educators with appropriate qualifications and provide educational programs based on children's abilities, interests, and experiences.

Education and care services will be assessed and rated, with a focus on seven key quality areas of the National Quality Standards. These ratings will help parents make more informed choices about the education and care of their child.

For more information visit:

<https://education.gov.au/national-quality-framework-early-childhood-education-and-care>

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework

The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework describes the Principles, Practices and Outcomes essential to advance young children's learning from birth to eight years of age.

The Framework supports and guides Early Childhood Professionals to work together, with children and with families to achieve the best outcomes for children. The Framework identifies five learning outcomes for children from birth to eight years, targeted to develop the knowledge and skills children need to be confident and happy throughout their life:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

Enrolling a Child in an Approved Children’s Service

The person(s) who has lawful authority for a child (parent(s), legal guardian(s) or guardian(s)) can enrol a child at a children’s service, complete the enrolment form and sign the relevant authorisations in accordance with regulations 160, 161 and 162. If there are any court orders in place relating to the powers, duties, responsibilities, or authorities of any person(s) in relation to the child or access to the child, the Nominated Supervisor or the Responsible Person in Charge must ensure the details of the court order are recorded in the child’s enrolment record pursuant to regulation 160(c) and (d) for licensed children’s services. The Educators should be familiar with any court orders and abide by them as they relate to the provision of care and education of the child at the service.

No Jab No Play

Under the legislation, before your child can be enrolled for kindergarten, you will need to provide proof that your child is fully immunised for their age, on a vaccine catch-up program, unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons or eligible for the 16 weeks grace period.

‘Conscientious Objection’ is not an exemption under the ‘No Jab, No Play’ legislation.

For more information, view the immunisation schedule for vaccines available under the National Immunisation Program and when they should be received.

Legislation is currently in effect, parents/carers need to provide the kindergarten with an immunisation history certificate. This statement shows the vaccines your child has received. The statements can be obtained from Medicare or your MyGov account. Please refer to attached sample.

Some children may be exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated on medical grounds. Parents or carers who think their child may require a medical exemption should contact their doctor (GP). If your child has a medical reason for not being vaccinated, a GP needs to complete and sign an ‘Immunisation Medical Exemption’ form.

As at: 01 June 2019
For: ARMANDO D BOWERS
Date of birth: 01 Nov 2017
Immunisation status: up to date

Schedule	Immunisation	Date given	Brand name given	Provider type
Birth	Hepatitis B	01 Nov 2017	Engerix-B	Hospital
2 months	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hepatitis B Polio Hib Pneumococcal Rotavirus	01 Jan 2018	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 RotaTeq	GP
4 months	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hepatitis B Polio Hib Pneumococcal Rotavirus	01 Mar 2018	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 RotaTeq	GP
6 months	Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Hepatitis B Polio Hib Pneumococcal Rotavirus	01 May 2018	Infanrix Hexa Prevenar 13 RotaTeq	GP
12 months	Measles Mumps Rubella Meningococcal C Hib	01 Nov 2018	MMR II Menitorix	GP
18 months	Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	01 May 2019	Protekt-Tetra	GP

Next immunisation's due: Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis Poliovirus
Date due: 01 Nov 2020

Kindergarten Certificate

A Kindergarten certificate is displayed at the entrance of St Mel's Kindergarten showing that the kindergarten program receives Victorian Government funding and is delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher.



Kindergarten Fees

Victorian Government funding contributes to the cost of our service providing Kindergarten programs. Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education and Care set the fees annually when the Department of Education funding rates have been provided. St Mel's Kindergarten will invoice parents the full year fee at the beginning of the year. Fees can be paid via regular direct debits, eftpos /credit card or directly depositing into our bank account. Payment plans are also available.

A copy of the fee policy is available on our website for your information.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

The Victorian Government kindergarten fee subsidy provides eligible families to access kindergarten at lower or no cost.

Parents can access this subsidy if:

- Your child is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Your child is a multiple birth (triplet or quadruplet) attending kindergarten in the same year.

Or, if your child has a parent or guardian who holds one of the following:

- A Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or White Card
- An Asylum Seeker Bridging Visa A–F
- A Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785, or 786
- A Refugee and Special Humanitarian Visa 200–217
- A Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa, Class CD, Subclass 851

Find out more at www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK)

Early Start Kindergarten provides eligible 3-Year-Old children with access to kindergarten for up to 15 hours per week for free. It is available for 3-Year-Old children identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, refugee and/or asylum seeker and children known to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Child Protection or Child FIRST/Orange Door.

Children must be at least 3 years of age by 30 April in the year they attend.

Assistance for Children with Additional Needs

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering an inclusive early childhood and school system that ensures that all families and their children have access to quality services and support to meet their needs – no matter what your family’s circumstances or background. This includes families whose children have diagnosed disabilities and developmental delays, or refugee and asylum-seeker families. The following programs respect your family’s individuality and help develop connections with the community that will encourage your child’s learning, development, and wellbeing in the early years.