



St Joseph's School
BOULDER
FAITH • KINDNESS • RESPECT



Pre-Primary

Parent Handbook

2026

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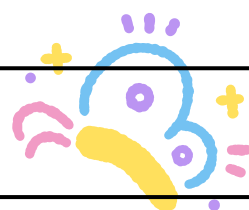
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Acknowledgement of Country

St Joseph's School, Boulder

We **gather** in stillness to **honour** the sacred land on which we gather — reflecting on those who have walked gently upon it for countless generations.

We acknowledge the deep **spiritual connection** of the Elders - past, present and those who will emerge in the future, to this country and thank them for the stories, wisdom, and care they have, and will, pass on through the ages.

We listen, like the First Peoples have always listened — to the land, to the seasons, and to one another.

We walk with **humility** and **respect**, committed to **reconciliation**, **justice**, and **peace**.

May our school be a place of **learning**, **truth**, and **unity**, where all are **welcomed** and all are **honoured**.

School Prayer

St Joseph, just as you love Mary,
and with fatherly care
you watched over Jesus,
we ask you through Jesus.
to continue to care
for us and our families
from your home in heaven.

Amen

A Message From The Principal

Welcome to St Joseph's School. Thank you for taking the time to explore our Early Childhood Program. St Joseph's has been meeting the educational, spiritual and pastoral needs of children in the Goldfields since 1898.

The Early Childhood Program aims to create an environment where children learn through free play, discovery, hands-on activities and teacher directed activities, which are appropriate to their developmental level.

Our school has a warm, intimate and friendly environment where all children are challenged to reach their potential in a Catholic context. At St Joseph's your child is in the care of our highly professional and dedicated staff.

In an increasingly complex and challenging world, the education of our students is grounded in Gospel values, and spiritual and faith growth is in synergy with academic achievement and development of social skills and confidence.

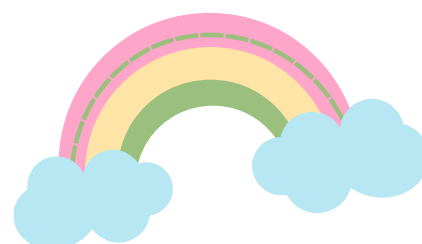
Positive and harmonious unity between students, parents and teachers and all members of our school community is promoted and nurtured through understanding, compassion, respect, love of others and a shared love of God.

I warmly invite you to discover more of how St Joseph's School makes education an enjoyable and richly rewarding experience for its students.



A yellow rounded rectangular box containing the handwritten signature 'T Stafford' in black ink.

Mrs Tanya Stafford
Principal



A Message From The Teachers

Dear Families,

Welcome to Pre-Primary. We trust that this year will be an exciting and rewarding experience for your child as they begin their first formal year of schooling.

Learning in Pre-Primary follows the Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Standards, the Western Australian Curriculum and St Joseph's Early Years Philosophy. These documents strongly emphasise play-based learning as a powerful motivator for young children, as it plays a crucial role in their cognitive, physical, language, social and emotional development.

Our Pre-Primary learning program continues to nurture the foundations established in Kindergarten, while supporting children as they develop greater independence, confidence and a growing sense of responsibility for their learning. The Walker Learning Approach implemented in Kindy and Pre-Primary allows children to engage in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that connect with their interests and real-world understanding.

In Pre-Primary, we believe it is important to provide children with an environment where they feel safe, respected and valued, enabling them to learn and thrive. Children are encouraged to 'have a go', to try new things, to learn from their mistakes, to take safe risks and to challenge themselves. Our program ensures a balanced and holistic approach to learning.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's growth, learning and development throughout this important year.

Warm Regards,



Mrs Elly Hampton



Ms Mary Clark



Morning Routine

Pre-Primary operate Monday to Friday from 8.25am – 3.00pm. Supervision commences at 8.25am each day, when the classroom door is opened. Class begins at 8.35am. It is important that children arrive on time so they can settle comfortably into the morning routine without feeling rushed. This allows them to organise their belongings and begin the day calmly and positively. To ease the transition into Pre-Primary, please assist your child to become independent in:

- putting their water bottle in the trolley
 - putting on their hat for morning fitness days
 - applying sunscreen
 - putting their crunch and sip and lunchbox into the correct baskets
- 

Pre-Primary children must be accompanied by an adult to and from the classroom door. When you arrive, please stay with your child and spend a few minutes reading together or engaging in an activity until the bell rings. Children may choose from table activities, books or puzzles. Please supervise any younger siblings closely during this time. When the bell rings, please say goodbye promptly and remind your child who will be picking them up at the end of the day. If your child is feeling anxious or upset, staff will provide reassurance and support. Be assured that we will contact you if your child does not settle quickly or if there are any concerns.

Please ensure your child is collected promptly at 3.00pm. If someone else will be collecting your child, please contact the school office so the Pre-Primary staff can be informed. If you are running late or if you need to collect your child early, please sign them out/ in at the school's administration office before dropping/ sending your child to the classroom.

Please feel free to have a quick chat with us in the morning if needed. However, if you require a longer or more detailed discussion, we can arrange a meeting.

Our outdoor learning spaces are prepared each morning with equipment set up ready for the children's learning experiences. As part of the Early Childhood area also serves as a thoroughfare to the wider school, we kindly ask that all outdoor equipment remain untouched before and after school for everyone's safety.



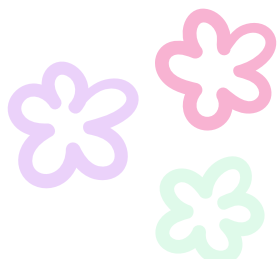
Communication

We consider communication between home and school to be very important, as our shared goal is the development of the happiness and wellbeing of your child. Should anything happen at home that may influence your child's day, we would appreciate you letting us know either through written or verbal communication.

Parent-teacher meetings will be held throughout the year as required. If there is anything you wish to discuss regarding your child's progress or any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

To ensure privacy and appropriate time for discussion, please arrange a meeting in advance via email, Seesaw, or in person, so that a convenient time can be organised. As a reminder, any confidential matters should not be discussed in front of the children or other families during arrival or departure times.

We have a filing system for parents to be able to access notes in the afternoon. Please check this file each day. Lost property is stored in the office to help parents find any items that may go missing. Always remember to clearly label hats, uniforms and any other belongings!



Absences

Pre-primary is a compulsory year of schooling and as such, all enrolled children are legally expected to attend, except in unavoidable circumstances. Parents must inform the school, or class teacher prior to the child being absent if it involves a previously arranged appointment. If parents have forgotten to do so, they must inform the school via the administration office before 9.15am on the day. Absentees must be done in a written format. This can be submitted via the 'Absent Note' located on our web page www.stjosephsboulder.wa.edu.au or by emailing the teacher and administration admin@stjosephsboulder.wa.edu.au

Parents running late must sign students in at the administration office on the Vistab system.

Information Board

Outside the classrooms there are boards which will provide details of upcoming events and any important information that you need to be aware of. Further information regarding important dates will be communicated via Seesaw. Our school Facebook page and newsletter have updates for further school information and what is happening within the school. It is also a good idea to read the messages together with your child, so they are also informed of the days event.



Uniform

- Pre-Primary children wear the green school polo throughout the year and their faction (house) polo shirt on sport day.
- Children are to wear black shorts, white socks and black shoes. Shoes should be manageable and comfortable to support independence and confidence. Velcro straps are preferable to laces. Children are permitted to go barefoot in the indoor and outdoor learning environments, as this supports movement, posture and sensory development.
- **Please label all clothing and belongings**, including shoes, hats, jumpers and spare clothes.
- Please ensure your child has a seasonally appropriate spare set of clothes and underwear in their bag for any necessary changes during the day.
- Pre-Primary can get messy! While every effort is made to protect clothing, children may come home with paint, playdough or dirt on their clothes. If this happens, soak items in cold water overnight, rub with a soap bar and wash as normal.
- We are a SunSmart school and have a “No Hat, No Sun” policy. Please ensure your child has their school hat at school each day; this will be kept in their pigeonhole and sent home at the end of each term for a wash.
- Students may wear small stud earrings, sleepers, or a religious necklace only.
- Hair past shoulder length should be tied back with hair accessories that are in the colours of the school or faction colours.
- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child before coming to school. Sunscreen is available in the classroom for re-application during the day.
- Please ensure you read the school uniform guidelines. Parents will be contacted if uniforms are not being worn correctly.
- The uniform shop is open every Wednesday between 2.45pm - 3.45pm during school terms.

Toileting



In the event of a toileting accident, wet clothing will be put in a plastic bag and into the school bag. If soiled, the child will be made as clean and comfortable as possible and, if necessary, parents will be contacted to pick up their child to shower at home before coming back to school. Please note, it can be normal for some children to regress with toileting when there has been a change in routine, environment or family situations.

Lunch



St Joseph's follows a Healthy Food and Drink Policy. Please try, where possible, to send nutritious, healthy foods for your child. Examples include fruit, vegetables, crackers, lean meats, homemade fruit muffins or slices, wraps, yoghurt, and sandwiches.

Children are required to bring lunch and morning tea plus a Crunch 'n Sip snack (fresh fruit or vegetables) in separate, clearly labelled containers. Each child should also bring a labelled **water** bottle to school every day.

St Joseph's is an allergy-aware school. Please do not send any food that contains nuts or traces of nuts, including products such as **Peanut Butter** or **Nutella**. If your child has any allergies or requires medication at school, please inform the teacher and complete the relevant forms at the school office.

The school canteen is open on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and orders can be placed through CDF. More information later in this booklet.



Birthdays

In Pre-Primary we will celebrate the children's birthdays. You are welcome to bring a treat for your child to share with their friends, but it is not essential. If you do want to bring something edible for a birthday you will need to refer to the Healthy Food and Drink Policy (which is on the school website) to determine what is appropriate. Please ensure these treats are individually portioned for easy distribution and there are no NUTS in them. We also encourage a small token that is non-food to be shared in place of a treat.

Parent Involvement



We welcome parents and family members to join classroom sessions, share special talents, and enjoy time with your child. All parents must sign in at the office using the Vistab system before coming in to the classroom.

A parent help roster will be displayed at the classroom entrance once routines are established, with a sign-up sheet at the classroom front door. Please keep all observations and information of other children from sessions confidential. Any concerns or incidents will be shared by the teacher, privately.

Teachers will ask parents to help with assisting with activities, such as making playdough (recipe provided) and supporting excursions. An invitation for playdough club will be sent in the beginning of the year. Once numbers are confirmed, a roster will be published on Seesaw.

If you have special skills that you can show us, please feel free to share your expertise to enrich student learning.

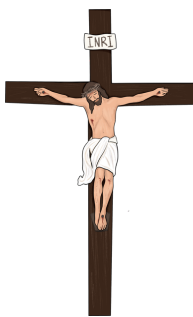
Pre-Primary Essentials



- A full sized backpack and a waterproof library bag.
- School hat.
- Raincoat and gumboots. We have a most-weather play policy and children will be able to explore and play outside in the rain and puddles. Some wet weather pants may also be useful to help keep pants dry.
- A **complete** change of clothes. This is necessary the full year-round. Please make sure the clothes are appropriate for the weather and **labelled**.
- A water bottle that is clearly labelled so that the children can help themselves during the day. Water only please, no juice, cordial or carbonated drinks.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable to eat during Crunch 'n Sip. This should be cut up (if necessary) in a container, or in a snap lock bag, ready for your child to eat.
- Please send your child with their own recess and lunch in the same lunch box each day. We recommend adding an icepack to keep lunches cold.

Learning Areas

The Walker Learning Approach provides opportunities for meaningful integration across all learning areas. Children are encouraged to make choices about where they engage in their investigations, fostering independence and ownership of their learning. Each area within the classroom has been carefully designed and resourced to support specific learning intentions, which are communicated to families regularly. More information about the Walker Learning Approach can be found in the *“Walker Learning Approach at St Joseph’s Boulder” Handbook*.



Religious Education

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Boulder offers a comprehensive Religious Education program grounded in the Western Australian Bishops' curriculum. This program aims to deepen students' understanding of Catholic teachings and encourages reflection on the gifts God has provided, equipping them to live a Christian life based on sound moral choices. The curriculum is delivered in partnership with families, recognising parents as the primary educators in faith education. In addition to formal lessons, students participate in various religious activities such as prayer, attending Masses and liturgies and fundraising for religious organisations. These experiences aim to immerse students in the faith and help them understand that God is present in all aspects of life. By fostering a sense of belonging and community, the school nurtures students' spiritual growth and moral development. Throughout the year, Pre-Primary children will learn about: The Church, prayers, the foundations of sacraments and understanding Catholic celebrations.

Literacy



The Walker Learning Approach allows literacy education to be authentic and relevant to children. Children will be immersed in a rich oral language program, along with exposure to quality literature, in which the children will participate in a variety of opportunities that lay the foundation for literacy development. Through both play and explicit instruction, they will continue to build on the letter/sound knowledge learnt in Kindy which includes rhyming words, identifying initial sounds, syllables and orally blending words. Children will learn all letter sounds and learn to segment words and blend letters together to make simple words for spelling and reading. There is an important emphasis on comprehension and reading for enjoyment! Through songs and activities, they will build up a bank of vocabulary and will begin to read simple texts. Children will have fun with simple writing tasks that develop confidence and a willingness to 'have a go'. Home readers begin in term 3 and 4, or when each child is developmentally ready.

PLD (Promoting Literacy Development)

PLD's circular graphic can be useful to explain that academic success is dependent on developing the interlocking sets of skills: Literacy, Oral Language and Movement & Motor. Over the full school year children will develop literacy skills. Their vocabulary will grow along with their ability to express themselves and follow instructions, their fine and gross motor skills will improve and their letter formation and writing skills will develop.



Mathematics



Many fundamental mathematical skills will be addressed in the Pre-Primary program. The Western Australian Curriculum covers the areas of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Numeracy will be taught using hands-on, concrete materials, and where possible we relate the concept to real life experiences in order to enhance children's understanding.

Keeping Safe



The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum (KS:CPC) teaches children in age-appropriate ways about their right to be safe, recognising unsafe situations, and strategies to keep themselves and others safe. The curriculum also encourages children to seek support and report concerns and is delivered by trained educators in line with the Department for Education's child safety policy. The KS:CPC focuses on two key themes: that everyone has the right to be safe, and that children can help themselves stay safe by talking to trusted adults.



Humanities and Social Sciences



In Pre-Primary, HASS includes History and Geography. Children explore their sense of identity, belonging and place by investigating their family, community and environment. Through play, discussion and hands-on experiences, they learn about familiar places, how and why we care for them, and what makes them special. Children also begin to develop an understanding of the past and present, exploring family stories, traditions and cultures while discovering how life changes over time.

Science and Technology



In Pre-Primary, children are encouraged to explore and make sense of the world around them through hands-on discovery and play. Throughout the year, we explore Biological, Physical, Chemical, and Earth and Space Sciences. The environment and activities are set up so children develop curiosity, wonder and an early understanding of how things work. In Technologies, children learn to think creatively and solve problems through simple design and digital activities. We also enjoy STEAM challenges, where Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics come together in fun, practical investigations that encourage teamwork, creativity and critical thinking.

Language (Auslan)



At St Joseph's, our chosen language is Auslan (Australian Sign Language). In Pre-Primary, children are introduced to Auslan through songs, games, stories and everyday interactions. Learning Auslan helps develop children's communication skills, memory, and awareness of diversity within our community. It also encourages respect and inclusion by helping children understand that people communicate in different ways.

Health and Physical Education



In Pre-Primary, the Health & Physical Education program follows the new 2025 curriculum from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) and is organised into two interrelated strands: "Personal, Social and Community Health" and "Movement and Physical Activity". Through engaging, play-based experiences children will develop fundamental movement skills, begin to make choices that support their health and wellbeing, explore how their bodies move and how to stay safe, as well as learn how to interact positively with others.

The Arts



In Pre-Primary, children engage in both Visual Arts and Performing Arts, as set out in the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) curriculum. They will explore and experiment with materials, colours, lines and textures to create original artworks, and take part in role-play, music and movement activities to express ideas and feelings. Through these experiences, children begin to see themselves as artists and performers, develop creativity, and learn to share their work with others.

Personal Belongings

The children are asked not to bring toys or personal belongings to school as items lost or broken often cause the children undue stress.

Health and Medication

- Please do not send your child to school if he/she is unwell. This is **very** important not only for your child but the health of all children and staff. If your child falls ill or is injured while at school, you will be contacted. Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date with the office and the classroom staff.
- If your child has any medical conditions or allergies (especially to food) it is essential that you advise the school and the classroom staff. In some cases, a management plan from your child's GP may be requested, e.g. for children with asthma or severe allergy.
- No medication can be administered to any child unless parents have completed authorisation forms. Most medication is kept in separate containers in the administration building.
- Every effort will be made to contact parents if a medical emergency arises. However, the children will be treated in case of medical emergency by staff and if necessary, an ambulance will be called.
- Please ensure that all information pertaining to health, emergency contacts, and the name and telephone number of your medical practitioner on your child's enrolment is up to date.
- Please ensure the administration office and your teacher is kept up to date with this information.
- Parents are requested to inform the school if a child has a communicable/infectious disease and are required to observe the exclusion from school period. Public Health Department recommendations for most common infectious diseases are listed on their website. Also see infectious diseases on the following pages.

Infectious Diseases

If your child has the following infectious diseases, he or she must be excluded from school. Please let the staff know if your child has one of the following diseases:

Chicken Pox

Exclude from school. Child may return 5 days after the rash appear and the rash has formed crusts, or on the presentation of a Medical Certificate that the child is no longer infectious.

Gastro

Exclude child from school until vomiting and/or diarrhoea has subsided for **48 hrs.**

Infectious Hepatitis

Exclude child from school until certified well by a Medical Practitioner.

Measles and Rubella (German Measles)

Exclude child from school. Re-admit on Medical Certificate of recovery or 4 days from appearance of rash if well.

Mumps

Exclude child from school. Re-admit on Medical Certificate of recovery or 9 days from onset of symptoms if well.

Whooping Cough

Exclude child from school. Re-admit on Medical Certificate of recovery or 2 weeks from onset or 5 days after starting antibiotics.

Ringworm (Impetigo or School Sore)

Exclude child from school. Re-admit when anti-fungal treatment has been administered for 24 hours and sores/lesions are covered.

Pediculosis (Nits or Eggs of Head Lice)

This is a recurrent and common problem to which no stigma should be attached. It is best tackled at the home level. Parents should check frequently and take the necessary action when required. The school will notify the parents of infected children so treatment may be commenced without delay to help control this problem. The co-operation of all parents is requested in dealing with the issue. There are various products available to prevent and treat the problem. Exclude child from school until lice and eggs are killed.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

This is a common viral illness in infants and children. Symptoms are mild fever, poor appetite and frequently a sore throat. One or two days after the fever begins, sores develop in the mouth. The sores begin as small red spots that blister and then often become ulcers. The skin rash develops over 1 – 2 days with flat or raised red spots that often come with blisters. The rash does not itch and is usually located on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. HFMD occurs mainly in children under 10 years of age, but adults may also be a risk. It is not the same disease as animal foot and mouth disease.

- Incubation: Usually 3 to 7 days.
- Infectious period: While blisters are present. Faeces remain infectious for several weeks. HFMD is not transmitted to or from pets or other animals.
- Exclusion: Exclude until all blisters have healed (dried).
- Treatment: No specific treatment is available for this infection. Paracetamol may be used for fever and discomfort. Thorough hand washing is recommended for a minimum of 15 seconds after toileting or changing nappies, to reduce risk of transmission.



Early Intervention

Our school nurse has screened all children who attended Kindergarten at St. Joseph's School Boulder. Please let your child's teacher know if any new concerns arise, for example squinting, poor posture, changes in sleep habits, etc. New children enrolled will be seen by the school nurse after the permission form is returned. The school nurse will screen and refer children in need of extra support. This may be for speech, occupational therapy or physiotherapy.



“Working With Children” Safeguard Legislation

The ‘Working with Children’ Act is aimed at limiting the risk of harm to children from adults entrusted with their care. Criminal record checks must be done by all staff and school volunteers. Volunteers who are parents in the school are not required to provide Working With Children Clearances unless they are going on an overnight camp. Volunteers over the age of 18 years who are not parents or legal guardians of children in the school will need to have a WWC Clearance - e.g. relations and friends. WWC Clearances are valid for 3 years. Forms are available from the school's administration office or from Australia Post.



Parents and Friends Group

Members of the P & F play an important role in supporting our principal, school leaders and teachers and serve the vital function of providing local and contextual support for schools. They provide social and fun events for the students and family as well as fundraising to support our school. If you would like to become a member of the P & F, please see Mrs Maroni in the front office for a form. New members are always welcome, and it is a great way to meet other families within our school community. There is also a school P&F Facebook page that you can join.



St Joseph's Boulder is now using the new CDFpay app for online canteen ordering, uniform shop, events, fundraising and over-the-counter purchases at our school.

You will not be able to use your old CDFpay credentials to log in to the new CDFpay mobile app. You will need to follow these steps to create a new CDFpay account (you can use the same email address if desired)

How to register a CDFpay account

1. Search "**CDFpay**" on the App Store (Apple) or Google Play Store, download the app, then click "**Sign up now**".
Alternatively, scan the QR code or enter the following link in your web browser:
<https://user.cdfpay.flexischools.com.au/register>
2. Enter and confirm your email address, then click "**Sign up**".
3. Check your email inbox and follow the prompts to complete your account registration (check junk/ spam if lost).



After you have registered and entered your child's details, you can:

- Add your child's student card number to enable over-the-counter purchases.
- Top up your parent wallet and set daily spend limits for your child.
- To avoid surcharges, top up \$50 or more using a debit card or bank transfer any value.
- Order and pay in seconds!

Have questions? Visit <https://flexischools.zendesk.com/hc/en-au/> for detailed FAQs or chat to the Flexischools Digital Assistant. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please complete the online Contact Form and Flexischools will get back to you directly.



First Day of Pre-Primary Checklist

- ☐ Green Polo School Shirt
- ☐ School Faction Uniform
- ☐ School Library Bag
- ☐ School Bag
- ☐ School Hats
- ☐ Water Bottle (**Water only**)
- ☐ Crunch 'n' Sip (cut up fruits and Veg)
- ☐ Recess and Lunch in the same box
- ☐ Complete change of clothes (**Labelled**)
- ☐ A Smile 

Notes



Notes



Notes





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