



TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Prep Centre Handbook

*Welcome to our World*



## PREP PHILOSOPHY

Prep contributes to the continuing growth of young children's knowledge and understanding of themselves and the world around them.

The Prep programme follows the Australian Curriculum guidelines and is aligned with children's interests, which are continually extended and integrated through play, their strengths and stages of development.

The experiences provided help create an awareness of the changing world and foster positive personal and social attitudes. Opportunities are also provided for the development of healthy living habits and creativity. Through social interaction and participation in activities suited to their needs, children enhance their language and cognitive development.

Through the provision of a stimulating, positive and caring environment, children experience the joy of learning.

All students entering the Prep year must turn 5 by 30 June of that year.



## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN PREP

At Townsville Grammar School our Prep motto is “Progress Without Pressure”.

Children will enter Prep having gone through a whole range of experiences in their 0 - 4 years, whether that be through various child care services, at home with a parent, or coming through the Townsville Grammar School Pre-Prep Centre.

There is no academic criteria to enter Prep in January. Each child is allowed to progress at a pace appropriate to their development without pressure. Along the way, the development of their social and emotional skills, fine and gross motor skills, language and communication skills and sense of independence is vital. When the children have developed competencies in these areas, they are generally ready for the more formal year of Year 1. The children would be expected to complete simple reading, writing and numeracy tasks at the completion of their Prep year as highlighted by the Australian Curriculum.



In each of the Prep rooms at Townsville Grammar School, there is a teacher and full time Teacher Aide. These teachers are early childhood trained and understand child development. The classrooms are an inspiring and fun place for the children where learning is intrinsically linked to their natural curiosity and interests. The educational environment is caring and nurturing, where all children feel comfortable and safe. The students are encouraged to ask questions and become enquiry based learners.

Children learn through “doing” and our Prep programme reflects this. The children explore patterns and relationships while investigating and playing with materials, people and ideas. They learn when experiences are purposeful, integrated and relevant to each of their needs and abilities. They use their prior knowledge, skills and attitudes to build a new, more expanded bank of knowledge and skills that they can apply to new situations.

In our classrooms, children’s talk is encouraged, valued and supported in an environment where they can share ideas and learn from each other. In the first couple of weeks the classroom expectations are established and the teachers maintain a consistent application of these



standards. This ensures that the children recognise and understand the importance of rules and the process of establishing good classroom habits.

A fair and consistent approach is used when dealing with discipline. The best way to minimise misbehaviour is to employ a proactive and preventative approach to classroom management. In our classrooms, students are in a supportive environment where they actively engage in developmentally appropriate activities and have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. Acknowledgement and reinforcement of positive behaviour, to “catch children being good,” is an important practice for staff.

It is important that our teachers consistently model to students the fundamental values implicit to the ethos of the School in terms of dress, deportment and manner.

Our teachers explicitly teach the students the five core elements of Social and Emotional Competencies, Self Awareness, Relationship Skills, Self Management, Social Awareness and Decision Making. These elements align with the School’s Positive Education Programme (P-12). Positive Education focuses on developing the individual strengths of each student.

A thematic approach to learning is adopted for the implementation of the Prep programme. The core outcomes of these themes are adapted from the Australian Curriculum to ensure a strong foundation within these areas. We also explore the children’s knowledge, ideas and interests to further enhance what is covered within these themes.

We expose the children to a wide variety of literature. Throughout the year the children will actively participate in whole class, small group and one-to-one literacy experiences. These activities focus on the children’s ability to recognise letters, sounds and words as well as developing their ability to comprehend what is being read. When the children are ready they have the opportunity to borrow and take home reading books from our School Library.

In numeracy we have a strong focus on using hands-on material to develop an understanding and knowledge of numbers. Numeracy goes

beyond being able to identify and write the numerals correctly. It looks at the ever-present area of patterning and also builds in areas such as shape and measurement. Once again, the outcomes are linked directly to the expectations of the Australian Curriculum

## **SPECIALIST LESSONS**

In addition to standard Prep activities, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist lessons. These include Physical Education, Music, Library and Performing Arts.

In Term 4 children attend a swimming programme once a week during their Physical Education lesson. We transport students to a nearby pool by our own Grammar bus.



## **TRANSITION**

Via our integrated Transition Programme, the children are introduced to life in the 'Big School'. They attend Assembly, eat lunch on the Year 1 verandah, familiarise themselves with the Year 1 playground and spend some time in the Year 1 classrooms, familiarising themselves with the teachers and spaces. Much of this is done in Semester 2.

## UPPER SCHOOL BUDDIES

We have a Buddy Programme in place with older year levels, where our classes meet regularly, complete activities together and form strong friendships, which mean a great deal to the students, often for years to come. We share our knowledge and the work we have completed in our classrooms. We read to each other and complete a variety of activities and celebrate important events with each other.



## ORIENTATION MORNING

An orientation morning occurs in late Term 4 the year before your child enters Prep. Parents will receive a short questionnaire by mail that we will use to become acquainted with your child. A further orientation or 'staggered start' is held the day before school commences in late January. Parents will be notified as to your child's staggered start time. This time is yet another opportunity for your child to meet their teacher and familiarise themselves with their classroom environment prior to the official commencement of the School year.

In addition to the above, our 'Open Door Policy' of parental involvement in the early years is of great importance to us. We want you, as the prime role models and educators, to be engaged in your child's learning and development. Research shows that students do better and value education more when their parents take an interest and are actively engaged in their child's education.

Parental involvement means three things:

- Getting involved in the classroom activities;
- Coming to as many events as possible;
- Most importantly, talk to your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.



## TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

### ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES

Director of Enrolments  
Mrs Kristell Scott  
Phone: (07) 4722 4973  
Email: [kristell.scott@tgs.qld.edu.au](mailto:kristell.scott@tgs.qld.edu.au)

#### **ANNANDALE CAMPUS**

Pre-Prep to Year 6  
1 Brazier Drive  
ANNANDALE QLD 4814

#### **NORTH WARD CAMPUS**

Year 7 to Year 12  
45 Paxton Street  
NORTH WARD QLD 4810

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