

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 17.7.2017

Preschools: 3688 Strathalbyn Kindergarten

3619 Strathalbyn Kindergarten: Outreach

1. General information

- **Centre name**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten and Outreach
- **Centre number**
3688 Strathalbyn Kindergarten (*open Monday to Friday inclusive*) and
3619 Strathalbyn Outreach Kindergarten (*open Wednesday, Thursday and alternate Fridays inclusive*)
- **Preschool Director**
Cathy Frost
- **Postal address**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten: 9 Coronation Road, Strathalbyn, 5255
Strathalbyn Outreach Kindergarten: 1A Burkett Drive, Strathalbyn, 5255
- **Location address**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten: 9 Coronation Road, Strathalbyn, 5255
Strathalbyn Outreach Kindergarten: 1A Burkett Drive, Strathalbyn, 5255
- **Telephone number(s)**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten: 8536 2078
Strathalbyn Outreach: 8536 4511
- **Fax number(s)**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten: 8536 2470
Strathalbyn Outreach: 8536 4246
- **Email address**
For both sites: dl.3688.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Web address**
For both sites: <http://www.strathkqn.sa.edu.au>
- **DECD Partnership**
Fleurieu Partnership
- **Geographical location** – ie road distance from GPO (km)
56 km
- **Enrolment/Attendance: Capacity**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten: **site capacity 45** (*includes 10 Occasional care places*)
Strathalbyn Outreach: **site capacity 27**
- **Co-located/stand-alone**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten: Coronation Rd - stand alone
Strathalbyn Outreach Kindergarten: Burkett Drive - Co-located with Strathalbyn Children's Centre.

- **Programs operating**

- Kindergarten** for eligible children

- At Coronation Rd we offer access of 30 hours a fortnight for 2 groups of children. Each group attends 2 full days plus alternative Friday mornings.

- At Outreach we offer access of 30 hours a fortnight for children over 2 full days (Wednesday's and Thursday's) and alternate Friday mornings.

- Occasional Care**

- 5 Funded Occasional Care sessions for over 2 year olds at Coronation Road only.

- Lunch/Full Day Program**

- All eligible preschool children access our lunch program. The program is inclusive of the 15 hours a week/ 30 hour fortnight access.

- Bilingual Support**

- Pending need we apply for extra funding to support bilingual support.

- Preschool Support**

- Offered at both sites.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities**

***Our vision** - Children, educators, families and the community will work together to provide a dynamic and natural environment where all members of the kindergarten community feel valued, safe and happy. Children are provided with opportunities to reach their full potential, develop a passion for learning and acquire life skills that will prepare them for an ever-changing world.*

Learning for life with families, in communities through play

***Our values** – Relationships, Well-being, Reflective practice, Communication, Respect, Inclusivity, Positive dispositions, Community, Environmental awareness*

***Dispositions** – Responsibility, Empowerment, Persistence, Problem solving, Optimism, Resilience, Creativity, Curiosity and Empathy*

The kindergarten completes a Quality Improvement Plan each year and an Annual Report at the end of each year summarises the outcomes.

The current priorities are stated in the Quality Improvement Plan and incorporate one or more of the 7 Quality Areas identified under the National Quality Framework. This is available to read on our website <http://www.strathkqn.sa.edu.au>

3. Curriculum

- *Belonging Being and Becoming*, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, underpins our program.

- **Core Values**

Educators work as a team across both sites to provide a play based program in a safe and nurturing environment where children develop a strong sense of 'belonging'. It is our aim that children will develop a positive self-concept in relation to themselves as learners as they explore, collaborate, investigate, create and enjoy the wonder of 'being'. Good communication with children, parents, staff and other service providers is established to ensure a collaborative approach that meets the needs of each child in 'becoming' a successful learner and community member.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**

All parents are asked to attend an Information Session where educators provide information regarding the kindergarten curriculum prior to their child commencing.

Each child's family is involved in sharing their child's interests, strengths, and plans for learning in the kindergartens play based learning environment through continuous feedback and interviews. Educators use this information to inform future directions for each child and the group as a whole.

Children's wellbeing is supported through programs such as [DECD Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum](#) & ['Say what you see'](#).

The [Respect, Reflect and Relate](#) document is used to drive improvement.

A learning journal is developed with each child during their time at kindergarten. This provides a collection of children's artwork, learning stories and observations, work samples, photographs and group experiences along with a **statement of learning** that is presented to the child and their family prior to commencing school. The parents and children have input into their child's statement of learning. This document is shared with the appropriate school.

Our program reflects strong commitment to developing early literacy/numeracy skills, sustainability, creativity, diversity, community involvement and nature play.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

Director: 1.0 Responsible for both sites

Teachers: One Teacher 1.0 time at Coronation Road.

One Teacher 0.5 at Coronation Road.

Two Teachers 0.5 at Outreach

ECW 1: 0.5 at Coronation Road.

ECW 2: 0.5 for Occasional Care at Coronation Road.

Additional ECWs are employed for lunch-care, support hours and administration backfill.

Performance Management Program

All educators participate in performance planning and review twice a year.

Access to special support staff

Our kindergarten has strong links with Partnership support staff and we meet each term to determine planning for children with special rights. Our speech pathologist screens children

who may need speech support during their transition to kindergarten to ensure support is available as soon as they begin kindergarten.

We liaise with the Community Development Officer at Goolwa Children's Centre and host 'Dad's and Kids Dinners' at the Coronation Rd. site twice a term.

Other

Strathalbyn Kindergarten staff work collaboratively across both sites to form a cohesive team of educators. Combined staff meetings are held every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 pm. (*After Hours*)

The Director spends time with all educators each week and communicates with families, educators and the governing council in person and via newsletter, phone, email and meetings.

The Director is responsible for leadership, management and support for kindergarten and occasional care educators at both sites as well as liaison and co-operation with the child care centre, local school leaders and Partnership colleagues. The Director also oversees and supports the kindergarten bus care supervisor and contract cleaner.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

Both centres are built on land owned by Alexandrina Council with a peppercorn lease.

Coronation Road

50 year old building, incorporating facilities for occasional care.

Large outdoor learning environment with ample shade facilities.

Burkett Drive

Co-located in the same building as a full time Child Care Centre. Kindergarten uses a third of the building with a shared rectangular shape back yard. The child-care staff room is accessed for tea/coffee etc. Kindergarten educators have their own office.

Both over 2 year old and kindergarten children share the same outdoor play-space. The under 2 year old children have a separate play area. The Long Day Child Care centre operates from 6.30am to 6.00pm and is licensed for 15 children under 2 and 45 over 2. Kindergarten children are brought and collected by child care educators if they are booked into childcare on kindergarten days.

- **Capacity**

Coronation Road Kindergarten is a full time Centre which offers up to 30 hours a fortnight of kindergarten. *i.e. 2 full days and alternate half day Fridays.*

Centre capacity which includes Occasional care children is 45.

Kindergarten children are divided into 2 groups:

(1) Group – operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays and alternate Friday mornings, with a priority of access given to families requiring the school bus to access kindergarten

(2) Group operates on Monday's and Wednesday's and alternate Fridays mornings.

Occasional Care offers 8 places for 5 sessions per week for children over 2 years to participate in an integrated program at Coronation Road Kindergarten. Currently there are 2 sessions Monday and Wednesday and 1 session Friday morning.

Outreach Kindergarten operates on 2 full days - Wednesday and Thursday and a half day on alternate Fridays.

Child attendance at Outreach is congruent with families requiring long day care.

- **Centre Ownership**

Department of Education and Child Development (**DECD**).

The Outreach Kindergarten and the Long Day Child Care service are managed by independent Governing Council / Management Committees.

- **Centre's financial position**

Fees are \$130 per term contribution. If a child has been accepted to use the school bus another \$30 per term is invoiced. The bus charge is to help offset the payment we make to our bus supervisor.

6. Local Community

- General characteristics:

Strathalbyn is situated approximately 56 km from Adelaide in the Fleurieu district. Farming, grape growing/wine making, hospitality and service industries are the main sources of employment. Some family members commute to Adelaide or nearby townships for work. Our location provides the benefits of a rural environment but also has limitations regarding service provision to the families of the district.

A bus service is provided for children in outlying areas to access kindergarten through the use of the Eastern Fleurieu School bus service. Children travel from Langhorne Creek, Milang, Clayton and other outlying townships.

Children

Prior to each child commencing in our kindergarten, conversations occur with each family in order to determine which group children will attend according to places available and the child and family's individual needs.

Coronation Road kindergarten offers **priority of access** to families who rely on the bus service. Outreach kindergarten offers **priority of access** to working families who use the Long Day Child Care Centre and rely on before and after kindergarten care. Consequently children from a majority of rural families attend Coronation Road kindergarten and children from a majority of families who work away from home attend Outreach kindergarten.

The kindergarten director consults with families to determine which centre will best meet the needs of children and their families.

Governing Council

There is one constitution for both kindergarten sites.

Strathalbyn Kindergarten has one Governing Council to oversee both sites, parents from both centres and occasional care are represented.

At the commencement of each year an Annual General Meeting is held to elect a new governing council, including office bearers. Members meet with the Director twice a term to discuss topics relevant to the running of the kindergarten and to be involved in decision-making. This includes improvement plans, philosophy, policies, curriculum, budget & fundraising.

Parent and community involvement in the preschool

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the kindergarten program at the level they can manage according to family demands. Families are invited to share their skills and help with the everyday operation and maintenance of the kindergarten. They are welcome to attend kindergarten at any time and participate in the educational play based program.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

The kindergarten works closely with the Eastern Fleurieu School to ensure co-operation exists in developing, encouraging and implementing transition for children and their families

between the kindergarten and school including the Strathalbyn, Milang, Ashbourne and Langhorne Creek school campuses.

Children also transfer to the Macclesfield Primary School, Tyndale – Strathalbyn and St Mark's Lutheran or St Francis de Sales in Mount Barker.

Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC

There is a community based Child Care Centre (co-located with the Outreach Kindergarten). The local Eastern Fleurieu school campus R-6 provides Out of School Hours Care.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Strathalbyn has two Supermarkets, a Post Office, three banks and a wide variety of general and exclusive shops.

Clipsal Industries, Terramin Mine and the Wine Industry are our biggest local employers.

Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational

There is a Hospital, Dental and Medical Clinic plus visiting medical providers - physio, OT, surgeon, CAFHS nurse. The nearest access to the Department of Community Services and Social Security is at Mt Barker.

Families also access Adelaide Hills Community Health Service for speech and occupational therapy, social work issues and family support etc in Mt Barker.

Availability of staff housing

There are rental or private purchase opportunities.

Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality

Many families need to travel to Adelaide for specialist services. A public bus service runs to and from Strathalbyn at the beginning and end of the day during the working week. Transport is an issue for families without a car.

Local Government body

Alexandrina Council telephone: 8855 2202.

Local Playgroup

We have various Playgroups in and around the Strathalbyn and surrounding communities. Contact details change at least annually and playgroup does not operate from our sites.