



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 15/8/2018



Strathalbyn Kindergarten (3688) Strathalbyn Kindergarten: Outreach (3619)

1. General information

- **Preschool Director:** Mandy Smith
- **Postal address:**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten 9 Coronation Road, Strathalbyn, 5255
Strathalbyn Kindergarten Outreach 1A Burkett Drive, Strathalbyn, 5255
- **Location address:**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten 9 Coronation Road, Strathalbyn, 5255
Strathalbyn Kindergarten Outreach 1A Burkett Drive, Strathalbyn, 5255
- **Department Partnership:** Fleurieu
- **Geographical locations:** 56km from the Adelaide GPO
- **Telephone number:**
Coronation Road (08) 8536 2078
Burkett Drive (08) 8536 4511
- **Fax number:**
Coronation Road (08) 8536 2470
Burkett Drive (08) 8536 4246
- **Preschool website address:** <http://www.strathkgn.sa.edu.au>
- **Preschool e-mail address:** dl.3688.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Enrolment/Attendance:**
Coronation Road **Site capacity 45**
(including 10 Occasional Care Places)
Burkett Drive **Site capacity 27**
- **Co-located/stand-alone:**
Coronation Road Stand-alone
Burkett Drive Co-located
(with Strathalbyn Children's Centre)

Programs operating at the preschool

- ❖ **Sessional Kindergarten** for eligible children – we offer 30 hours per week for children (including Universal Access). All eligible preschool children access our lunch program on their full days as the program is inclusive of the 30 hour per fortnight access. Families provide all food.

Coronation Road

Possum Group Monday and Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm
Friday (even weeks) 8:30am to 12:00pm

Koala Group Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm
Friday (odd weeks) 8:30am to 12:00pm

Burkett Drive

Platypus Group Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm
Friday (odd weeks) 8:30am to 12:00pm

- ❖ **Occasional Care** - Funded – 5 sessions per week offered as respite for families with children 2 years and over. Coronation Road location only.
- ❖ **Transition** – Programs are in place to ensure a gradual and positive transition to kindergarten and to Junior Primary for each child and family.
- ❖ **Preschool and Bilingual Support** – is provided at each site according to individual need.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities:**

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>

- **Policies and Procedures:**

Key site policies and procedures are available on our website. A complete set of our current policies and procedures is available to view at the kindergarten.

- **Philosophy Statement**

Learning for life with families, in communities, through play.

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.

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

3. Curriculum

- **Frameworks used:**

- ❖ National Quality Framework
- ❖ Belonging Being Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- ❖ Preschool Indicators of Numeracy and Literacy

- ❖ **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**

- ❖ 1 x Director (1.0) – Responsible for both sites.
- ❖ Coronation Road – 1 x Teacher (1.0); 1 x Teacher (0.5); 1 x ECW1 (1.0); 1 x Occasional Care ECW2 (0.5).
- ❖ Burkett Drive – 2 x Teachers (0.5)
- ❖ Additional staff (ECWs) are employed for curriculum support.
- ❖ Regular Relief Staff

- **Performance Management Program**

Performance reviews, aligned to the site's Quality Improvement Plan and individual educators' personal goals, are conducted bi-annually.

- **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 is a full-time Centre that 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.

- ❖ **Possum Group** operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Fridays mornings (odd weeks of Term).

- ❖ **Koala Group** – operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Friday mornings, (even weeks of Term), with a priority of access given to families requiring the school bus to access kindergarten

- ❖ **Occasional Care** offers 8 places in each of 5 sessions per week for children over 2 years to participate in an integrated program at Coronation Road Kindergarten. Currently there are 2 sessions Tuesdays and Wednesdays, with 1 session Friday mornings. The purpose is to provide respite and emergency care for families in our broader community.

Burkett Drive is a half-time Centre that offers up to 30 hours a fortnight of kindergarten. *i.e.* 2 full days and alternate half day Fridays.

- ❖ Centre capacity is 27.
- ❖ **Platypus Group** operates on Wednesdays, Thursdays and alternate Fridays mornings (odd weeks of Term).
- ❖ Child attendance at Outreach is congruent with families requiring long day care.

- **Centre Ownership**

The Department for Education.

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

- **Centre's financial position**

Fees are \$120 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.

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**

Facilities and equipment ensuring access for those with disabilities are provided on a case-by-case basis according to individual identified needs.

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.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**

Parents are encouraged to become actively involved in their child's learning. Families are welcome to attend the kindergarten at any time to participate in the educational play-based program. We encourage families to share their culture, skills, hobbies or interests with the children.

- **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.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**

Children come to our kindergarten from nearby townships. The majority will attend Eastern Fleurieu School. 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 typically transfer to the Macclesfield Primary School or Tyndale in Strathalbyn, and St Mark's Lutheran or St Francis de Sales in Mount Barker.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

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, two 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**

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**
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**
Alexandrina Council telephone: 8855 2202.
- **Local playgroup**
There are various Playgroups in and around the Strathalbyn and surrounding communities. Contact details change at least annually and playgroup does not operate from our sites.

7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**
Strathalbyn Kindergarten and Outreach is a member of the Fleurieu Partnership of the Department for Education. We work in close partnership with other preschools and schools within our partnership.