OUR LADY OF LOURDES KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes School, where we cater for children from Pre-Kindy to Year Six.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be a welcoming community of Many Minds and One Heart in Christ. Our strength is our committed and high quality staff with excellent connections and communication across your groups. This provides a whole school consistency of approach to learning and has led to our strong academic results and excellent reputation.

Our Mission

Our Lady of Lourdes is an expression of the life and pastoral care of the Church in the local community. With Christ as its inspiration and guided by Gospel values, the school strives to promote the education and development of the whole child. Our MISSION is to provide a high quality education that will inspire an ongoing love of God and embraces our Core Values.

We value:

**Integrity**

Developing your whole self to become your best, demonstrated by consistency between thoughts, judgements, choices and actions.

We show this by:
- Standing strong for what you believe
- Saying it, meaning it, doing it
- Telling the truth
- Being a leader inside and outside the classroom
- Making good choices and learning from your mistakes

**Compassion**

Having a deep concern for others, especially those who are suffering, shown through kind words and actions in an effort to lessen their suffering.

We show this by:
- Including others in games
- Caring for the school and yourself
- Forgiving others when they make mistakes
- Noticing when others seem sad or troubled and help them
- Finding the Spirit of Jesus in people we talk to
- Asking “how can I help?”

**Courage**

When facing difficult choices, choosing good actions, despite the possible consequences or the opinions of others.

We show this by:
- Asking for help
- Doing what is right even if it is difficult
- Going ahead even when you feel like giving up
- Saying sorry and owning up to your mistakes
- Trying new things

**Justice**

Endeavouring to give each person what is rightfully due to them, and treat them with fairness, because of the inherent dignity of each person.

We show this by:
- Standing up for yourself and others
- Treating everyone fairly
- Owning up to your mistakes and accept the consequences
- Sharing fairly with others

**Respect**

Valuing yourself and others because each person is made in the image of God.

We show this by:
- Treating others as you want to be treated
- Taking care of other people’s belongings
- Saying please and thank you and using people’s names
- Following the school rules
- Keeping the classroom and playground clean
Staff for 2020

Our Kindergarten teacher has an early childhood qualification and is supported by two education assistants.

Session Times
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8.45am – 3.05pm
Recess: 10.30am – 10.50am
Lunch: 12.30pm – 1.10pm

When your child is settled or when the bell rings, please say goodbye to your child and leave to avoid distress/distraction.

Some children will find their parents leaving difficult. Establishing a routine when they arrive at school, and telling your child you will return when school is over, will make the first few days easier.

- If your child experiences ANY difficulties as you leave we will let you know.
- In extreme cases, when a child does not settle, we will contact you by telephone.

Communication
Recognising parents as the first educators of their children, Kindergarten education seeks to build upon home learning. Please feel free to come and discuss your child’s development or any other concerns. It is also important that we know any background information, (eg prior speech therapy, allergies, ailments, etc) as soon as possible.

The teacher will conduct periodic parent interviews throughout the year to discuss your child’s progress or any problems, which may arise.

The newsletter and the Information Board will keep you in touch with what is happening in the centre and elsewhere in the school and community.

A school diary will be used to communicate daily messages, for example, if your child is catching the bus.
What will your child do at Kindy?
In a word ........*Play!*

Exploratory play, dramatic play, creative play, manipulative play, language play, constructive play, physically active play and cooperative play.

With blocks, paint, glue, dough, water, sand, jigsaws, books, dress-ups, games, balls, cubbies, swings, climbing frames, beams and slides.

The numerous types of play provide the children with opportunities for:

- Speaking and communicating
- Listening
- Observing
- Exploring
- Manipulating
- Discovery
- Achieving success
- Relating to the environment
- Sharing
- Developing creativity and initiative
- Trusting self and others
- Cooperating
- Socialising

Out of which grows the child’s

- Knowledge
- Understandings
- Conceptual development
- Personal development
- Sense of self
- Self esteem
- Attitudes, appreciation’s and values
- Skills and abilities
- Self expression
- Independence
- Fine/gross motor control
- A love of learning
What Will Come Home?

• Although most children love to paint, glue and create all manner of good things, we ask you to remember that it is the process rather than the product that is important. Try not to ask what your child has in his/her bag each day. He/she may have been just too busy learning through play to have made something to bring home.
• Of course, when creations do turn up in his/her bag, value his/her efforts and ask the what, how and why questions, helping him/her to recall that ever important process.
• Having said all that, the children are encouraged to take pride in their efforts and to do the very best that they can.

Rosters
We have Parent Help Roster and a Washing Roster. Your involvement in either roster would be most appreciated.

Parent Roster
All parents and grandparents are invited to be on parent help. The roster will commence in Term Two, to allow children time to settle into their new learning environment. Parent Rosters give you the opportunity to work and play alongside your child and to assist with preparation tasks. Please add your name to the Roster, which will be placed on the door.

It is appreciated that younger children may need to accompany rostered parents. They are most welcome to participate in the Kindergarten, although, they remain the responsibility of their parents.

Washing Roster
A small load of aprons, tea towels and hand towels are sent home at the end of the week. The roster will be displayed on the pin-up board if you wish to add your name.

What to Bring
Your child will need a backpack or similar, (large enough to fit A4 size work) for carrying to and from school.

Booklists
A booklist will be given to you prior to Kindergarten commencing.

Food and Drink
• A Healthy snack for morning tea in a small container, clearly labelled with the child’s name
• 1 sipper/drink bottle filled with water
• A packed lunch, e.g. Sandwich, drink and a piece of fruit, in a separate clearly labelled lunch box
Library
The children will attend the Library once a week. Each child needs a library bag. Each child must return his/her book before borrowing another book. We will let you know when we begin attending the Library.

Clothing and Footwear
- Children come to Kindy to play and be creative which can be very messy. Please dress them in comfortable play clothes. Aprons are provided, but may not stop all paint, glue, etc.
- A spare set of clothes in your child’s bag is recommended in case of emergencies.
- Please dress your child in clothing that they can manage to remove for toileting. Overalls and buckles can cause difficulty.
- Hats are a must for outside play and are to be brought to every session.
- For comfort and safety, we often go barefoot, so shoes which your child can manage to put on and take off are recommended.
- Please ensure that your child’s belongings are all labelled with their name.

Birthdays
Birthdays are exciting! In Kindy, we celebrate by giving each child a birthday certificate or sticker and singing “Happy Birthday”. Children often like to bring a treat to share with their classmates on this special day. We prefer small individual cakes or biscuits.

Please be mindful that we are an allergy aware school, so nuts in cakes.

How can Parents Assist?
- Discuss with us any information which may help us to understand your child better
- Ensure that your child has adequate sleep
- Show an interest in what your child does at Kindy
- Encourage your child to be independent and try new things
- Praise your child’s efforts
- Use lower case letters from the NSW Foundation Font Chart provided when writing your child’s name

What to Save
We can use all your scraps:
Clean empty boxes, bottle tops, scraps of material, buttons, corks, old Christmas and Birthday cards, Easter egg foil, gladwrap rolls, ice-cream or yoghurt containers and anything else that might be useful. 
Don’t think you’re getting rid of all of this – it will come back reformed into some masterpiece one day!
Anaphylaxis

Your child’s health and safety is of utmost importance to us. At Our Lady of Lourdes School, we have several students who have allergies to foods, with which exposure could place their lives at risk. Exposure to these allergens could cause an anaphylactic reaction. Parents need to be aware that we are NOT dealing with a mild allergy that will result in some discomfort and a rash. **We have students who are highly anaphylactic and exposure to nuts, eggs or shellfish will be life-threatening and necessitate emergency treatment and hospitalisation.**

Exposure to nuts and shellfish pose the most serious risk and so are not permitted in the school area. Nuts are included in many processed products. Examples are muesli bars, some chocolate bars, some biscuits, and foods cooked in peanut oil, but there are many more. Shellfish include crab, crayfish, oysters, mussels, and prawns and may be included in foods such as fried rice products (as shrimps/prawns). Please read labels very carefully and do not send your child to school with any product that states it contains nuts or shellfish (labelled crustacea).

In addition to this, some products are labelled with “May contain traces of nuts and/or crustacea”, or “Processed on equipment that also processes nuts and/or crustacea”. These products are also a risk for an anaphylactic child, but possibly not as immediate or extreme as direct exposure. Ongoing exposure however, can lead to a child becoming more sensitive to these foods over time. We prefer you look for alternatives to foods labelled in this way, which we understand is difficult. Even the content of a product can vary across different brands, so it is imperative that labels are read carefully.

It is important that we are all working as a team to ensure the welfare of our students, and we thank all parents for respecting our desire to do all we can to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Health Issues

- If your child is not well, it is important that they be kept at home for his/her comfort and in consideration of the other children at the centre.
- In the event of your child falling ill or being injured, you will be contacted immediately. In serious cases, if you or the emergency contact nominated by you, are unavailable, your child will be taken to the hospital after the School Principal has been notified that this is necessary.
- Immunisation is encouraged.
- Please observe the Health Department guidelines in cases of contagious illness.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

Children are excluded from attending Kindy during the following illnesses:

**Chicken Pox:** 14 day incubation period. Return when crusts have separated from blisters (5 – 6 days)

**Conjunctivitis:** Excluded until the treatment is complete

**Diarrhoea:** Excluded until bowel actions return to normal

**Head Lice:** Excluded until effective treatment has been given and hair is free of nits and lice

**High Temperature:** Advisable to keep your child home at least 24 hours after any illness involving a high temperature, to ensure the illness has abated.

**Infectious Hepatitis:** 14-60 day incubation period. Excluded until a medical certificate is produced.

**Measles:** 10-14 day incubation. Excluded four days from the appearance of the rash.

**Meningitis:** Excluded until a medical certificate is produced

**Mumps:** 18 day incubation period. Excluded until symptoms have subsided.

**Rubella (German Measles):** 14-21 day incubation period. Excluded for at least five days after the appearance of the rash.

**Scabies:** Excluded until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.

**Scarlet Fever:** Excluded until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.

**School Sores:** Excluded until sores have healed.

**Upper Respiratory Tract Infection:** Probably the most common condition suffered by young children. Exclude until symptoms subside.

**Vomiting:** Exclude until symptoms subside

**Whooping Cough:** 7-14 day incubation period. Excluded for four weeks or until medical certificate is produced.
TERM DATES FOR 2020

Semester One

Term One
Students Commence: Staggered Start
Tuesday 4th or Thursday 6th February
Students Finish: Thursday 9th April

Term Two
Students Commence: Tuesday 28th April
Students Finish: Friday 3rd July

Semester Two

Term Three
Students Commence: Tuesday 21st July
Students Finish: Friday 25th September

Term Four
Students Commence: Tuesday 13th October
Students Finish: Friday 11th December (TBC)
Dear Lord,

Thank you for our families, who show us love and care.

Thank you for our friends, because they are always there.

Thank you for our teachers, who always help us learn.

Thank you Lord for everything, you always show concern.

Help us always listen, to what others have to say.

Help us share with everyone, each and every day.

Help us always try our best in all that we do.

Help us Lord in everything, to become more like you.

Amen