



COOLUM STATE SCHOOL

Prep Handbook



We educate..

We inspire ..

We make a difference..



“
Thank you for
providing the
best school
environment for
my child.

Parent

“
A school oozing with
community spirit
where all students are
welcomed.

Parent

From us all...

WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Prep at Coolum State School.

Choosing the ‘right’ school for your child is one of the most important decisions that you will make as a parent.

Coolum State School provides families with a high quality, public education. We focus on our students with energy, passion and commitment in providing them with the best possible opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Prep remains a distinctive community within our school, but children benefit from the outstanding facilities shared with the wider school population.

Our highly skilled teachers bring learning to life to ensure all of our children are provided with the opportunities, support and challenge needed to enable them to achieve their potential; academically, socially and creatively. This is complimented by the co-curricular program and we provide a wide range of opportunities for children to develop their own interests and skills.

We are immensely proud of our students and we celebrate their academic, sporting, artistic and musical achievements.

Please come and see for yourselves and feel the warmth and happiness of our school community, experience the joy of learning and discover why Coolum State School provides the perfect start to your child’s school life.

Karen Hatchman
Deputy Principal

Enrolling at **COOLUM STATE SCHOOL**

Our Prep enrolment process involves:

Completion and return of enrolment documents

Documentation to be provided to the school office includes:

- Enrolment Form
- Consent Forms
- Birth Certificate
- Proof of residence:

Proof of residence documents required:

- Lease Agreement (current) OR Rates Notice
- Utility bill e.g. electricity, gas (showing the same address and parent's name)

You are warmly invited to attend our Prep Orientation activities including:

Coolum State School Open Day

- Sunday, 23 August 2020 (8.30am – 10.30am)

“Get Set” for Prep Days

You and your child will join us at school. Parents will drop their child to our Prep classrooms and then attend an information session close by in the school hall...

- Friday 4 September 2020 (8.30am – 10am)
- Thursday 12 November 2020 (8.45am – 10.15am)

Please let us know if you have any questions along the way.



The “get set for prep” days provided great reassurance for us and our child.

Prep Parent





I like being with my friends all the time and learning new things.

Prep Student

JOINING *Outside School Hours Care*

The Outside School Hours Care Centre (OSHC) has been offering high quality care for children before school, after school and during school holidays since 1990. We are proudly owned and operated by the Coolum State School's P & C Association.

Our active and engaging care programs run from Monday to Friday and are for all school-aged children.

Prep children enrolling at Coolum State School for 2021 may enrol in:

- **Coolum Vacation Care from Monday 4 January 2021**
- **Before and After School Care from Wednesday 27 January 2021**

Please collect your 'Transition to OSHC' handbook from the OSHC office and come along to a welcome tour on:

- **Sunday 23 August 2020 (8.30am - 10.30am)**
- **Thursday 12 November 2020 (from 10.15am)**
- **By appointment: phone 5446 2026**

Coolum OSHC is located at the southern corner of the school, closest to the Yandina-Coolum Road roundabout.

WHY

Coolum State School?

Coolum State School has a compelling combination of an informal atmosphere filled with fun, blended with a rich academic curriculum.

Enjoyment is paramount to learning and in an environment where the school day is a fun adventure. Children at Coolum become absorbed in the diverse activities on offer, delight in discovery and eagerly look forward to each new experience.



My child has thrived in this welcoming, friendly school with outstanding teachers.

Parent

Your child is encouraged to discover and explore a variety of new challenges during their Prep year - challenging themselves to exceed their own expectations and surprise themselves.

In Prep our students are carefully guided through their first formal schooling year by our caring and experienced staff.

During this time the children thrive as they gain independence, establish lasting friendships and acquire an appetite for knowledge and new experiences that will not only prepare them for the next stage of the educational adventure, but will sustain them for their future years.

OUR *Commitment*

We encourage all of our students to be the best version of themselves and are committed to supporting their development by:

- cherishing individual differences
- helping them to learn, live and work cooperatively
- fostering and promoting positive self esteem

“
*At Coolum we do not
prepare your child for
one thing...
We help them to
prepare themselves for
anything.*



Our PHILOSOPHY

At Coolum we aim to guide and support children's development, shaping them for life as well as giving them the essential tools for learning. It is our belief that children are capable learners and come to us with a wealth of knowledge, experiences and skills.

Our curriculum is supported by:

- an in-depth knowledge of how children learn and develop
- learning programs that are child-centred in an environment that is supportive, safe and conducive to life-long learning
- the provision of a wide variety of learning experiences and teaching approaches to cater and enhance the development of all children, assisting each and every student to reach their potential



“
There is so much
on offer for my
children.
Parent

School CALENDAR - 2021

Monday 18 - Friday 22 January:

School Office open for information and payments. Uniform shop is open.

Term Dates 2021

- Term 1:** Wednesday 27 January – Thursday 1 April
- Term 2:** Monday 19 April - Friday 25 June
- Term 3:** Monday 12 July - Friday 17 September
- Term 4:** Tuesday 5 October - Friday 10 December

Student Free Day for 2021

Friday 3 September

Public Holidays 2021

Australia Day - 26 January; ANZAC Day - Monday 26 April; Labour Day - 3 May
Queen’s Birthday - 4 October



Successful LEARNERS

Children come to our school with a diversity of understandings, capabilities and dispositions that have developed as part of their social and cultural experiences since birth. These provide a rich and valuable tapestry for learning in school.

At Coolum, we are proud to offer an inclusive and welcoming environment to all children. We work hard to get to know every child in our care and do everything possible to support children's individual learning needs.

As well as being supported by outstanding classroom practice and quality teaching, we run a range of specific, targeted and effective interventions. We have the highest expectations of all children be they talented in a curriculum area or require support for learning needs.



A close partnership with parents is central to the school ethos and we actively encourage all parents to become involved in all aspects of school life.



Well done to the amazing team that makes Coolum State School so great!

Parent

Family INVOLVEMENT

Our Prep classrooms are vibrant, lively, dynamic and ever-changing. Within these classrooms you will find passionate professionals and actively engaged children who will work together to produce a year of fun-filled and exciting education.

The team at Coolum look forward to building a positive partnership with your family as we strive to promote a three-way working relationship between school, parents and children.



An Inspiring **CURRICULUM**

During the Prep Year at Coolum, our highly skilled, early years teachers plan for student learning using the Foundation level of the Australian Curriculum.

The curriculum is ambitious and designed to give all of our learners the knowledge and cultural capital needed to be the best they can be.



Our Prep focus is on the development of:

- independence
- social learning
- health and physical development
- foundation literacy & numeracy
- ability to think and solve problems
 - imagination and creativity
 - a positive approach to learning



We continually strive to find the sparks, hooks and springboards that engage enthusiasm and imagination which leads to progress and fulfilment.

Head of Curriculum



Our well resourced classrooms inspire a thirst for learning through:

- play
- investigating
- real life situations
- routines and transitions
- focussed learning and teaching

EARLY Foundations

Our teaching team guide and support children's development, shaping students for life as well as giving them the essential tools for learning. The foundation of our quality early years education is built on children having the opportunity to solve problems and to be creative as well as thriving in a safe, supportive, stimulating environment. We recognise the importance of the first year of school and strive to inspire children to be life long learners through fun, interactive and stimulating lessons both indoors and outdoors.

Our focus is on developing:

Cooperation

- ability to take on responsibilities
- respect for other people
- co-operation with others
- development of oral language

Life skills

- make sensible choices
- development of physical skills
- learn about their environment

Problem solving

- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use imagination and creativity
- develop early literacy and numeracy understandings

Positive self-knowledge and self-esteem

- independence
- resilience
- cooperation



We work closely with parents to ensure that each child's individual needs are met. This approach results in children settling easily and happily.

Prep Teacher



School

UNIFORM

Our students proudly wear their school uniform that is endorsed by our school community. Prep students wear a uniform just like the rest of our student population. Uniforms are available in person at the school's Uniform Shop, online via www.coolumss.eq.edu.au or by phone - 5471 9371.

Prior to the commencement of school in 2021, the Uniform Shop's hours are:

Monday 18 January	9 am – 4 pm
Tuesday 19 January	9 am – 4 pm
Wednesday 20 January	9 am – 4 pm
Thursday 21 January	9 am – 6 pm
Friday 22 January	9 am – 4 pm



SCHOOL SHOES *At Coolum*


Coolum State School has an incredible ability to reward the personal efforts and achievements of their children. This is such a positive trait for a primary school.

Parent


Such a lovely atmosphere.

Parent

To keep our children safe, footwear must be worn at all times including to and from school. Enclosed footwear such as sneakers are required.

To support your child's independence, shoes that are easily put on and taken off by the children are recommended, as there will be times/activities when shoes are removed.

Velcro tab shoes are simple and time efficient if your child is challenged by the mastery of tying laces.

Preparing for **PREP**

Many parents ask how best to prepare their child to be “ready” for school. Here are some simple tips:

TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD:

The best gift you can give your child is to further develop their oral language. Being able to use language to express and communicate ideas is central to learning. It helps children to communicate with adults and children to learn and interact with their environment. Providing your child with many, many hours of practise speaking in a range of different situations and modelling language cannot be under estimated.



SAFETY FOR YOUR CHILD:

Your child should know and be able to answer the following using a clear voice:

- ✓ Name – first and surname
- ✓ How they will get home and where to wait if being collected by an adult/sibling
- ✓ Traffic rules e.g. crossing the road using the crossing, wearing a helmet if riding or scooting
- ✓ Discuss protective behaviours with your child i.e. who to go to for help; appropriate touching

To support the safety of your child, we ask that an adult collect them from the classroom each day. OSHC provides this service to all Prep students attending the Coolum OSHC facility.



The first day **A CHECKLIST...**

There is a lot to remember when preparing for the first day of school.

Here is a quick checklist to ensure you are on track:

- Purchase all items on the stationery list for Prep. Library bag, clipboard, scissors, USB and whiteboard should be named.
- Purchase your child's school uniform.
- Practise eating lunch. Have your child test out their new lunch box, drink bottles and yoghurt containers. Also provide opportunities for your child to open plastic wrappers and unwrap lunch items independently. For summer months, pack your child's lunch with a freezer brick.
- At school our children must eat their healthy food items first e.g. sandwiches and yoghurt and save treats until later. Please encourage this routine with your child.
- Provide fresh fruit or vegetables for "Fruit Break".
- Ensure that your child's school bag is large enough to accommodate all items required each day.
- Name all items of clothing – hats, jumpers, shoes, school & library bags etc.
- Discuss travel/pick up arrangements.
- Talk about the excitement of coming to school and be positive about this stage in their life. Highlight the fun and interesting things that they will do, such as making friends, learning new things.
- Discuss problem solving skills to help social interactions/conflicts with other students.

A healthy **LUNCHBOX**

Healthy food gives young minds and bodies the fuel they need to learn and grow.

Here are some nutritious choices to help you get inspired:

- vegetable sticks like capsicum, celery, cucumber and carrot paired with a vegetable-based dip (such as guacamole, hummus, eggplant and salsa or cottage cheese)
- a fresh, colourful salad (cut to finger size for easy eating)
- wraps (filled with diced chicken, turkey slices, cheese or tinned fish or egg and plenty of salad vegetables)
- sushi rolls or rice-paper rolls
- home-made muffins or slices with added fruit or vegetables
- cubed cheese or cheese sticks
- air-popped popcorn
- pikelets – sweet or savoury are good
- hard-boiled egg
- baked beans
- a tub of yoghurt or custard
- a full water bottle to be packed daily

Coolum State School has a fruit break each morning. Please pack a piece of fresh fruit (or vegetable) to eat for their re-energising break.

When packing your child's lunch, include an ice-brick or frozen drink to keep items fresh until they are ready to eat.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Attendance at school

Prep is full time from Monday to Friday 8:30am to 2:40pm which is the same time as the other year levels at school.

Every day counts in Prep because going to school every day....

- will make sure your child gets the most out of their important first year of school
 - will make your child's transition into Year 1 easier
 - improves your child's reading, writing and maths
 - builds a positive approach to learning
 - strengthens your child's independence and confidence



My daughter loves to come to school every day to see her friends and teachers.

Parent



8.25am First bell to advise children to proceed to their class areas.

8:30am Children should be in class and ready to commence work.

8.30am - 10.30am Morning session

10.30am - 10.45am Eating time

10.45am - 11.05am Play time

11.10am - 12.40pm Middle session

12.40pm - 12.50pm Eating time

12.50pm - 1.15pm Play time

1.20pm - 2.40pm Afternoon session

Our school
DAY

BUILDING *Relationships*

Making friends and settling into new social settings is an important part of starting school. Families can support their child in many ways including:

Following their interests

Enjoying others' company will come more naturally when a child is doing something they are genuinely interested in.

Learn to ask questions

Having positive conversations with others can be supported by children asking questions. This is a simple way to find out about others and form connections.



*I like it when my
Year 6 buddy
comes to visit me at
school. We talk and
play together.*

Prep Student



Role-play and pretend play

Pretend-play with both younger and older children, is another great way for children to actively engage with others.

Know your child's limits

Some children are simply more social than others. A child who is quiet natured should not be expected to interact in the same way as a child who is naturally outgoing.

Be a good role model

It's important for us to be consciously aware of how we interact with others when our child is watching. Children constantly watch the adults in their lives and model their behaviour on what they observe.



Successful LEARNERS

WRITING - THE BEGINNER'S ALPHABET

Learning to write is one of the foundation skills developed in Prep. We encourage you to use these letters to write whenever you are modelling writing or writing your child's name.

Using all capitals for name writing is discouraged as it is a most difficult habit for your child to break once it is mastered.

aA bB cC dD eE

fF gG hH iI jJ kK

lL mM nN oO pP

qQ rR sS tT uU

vV wW xX yY zZ

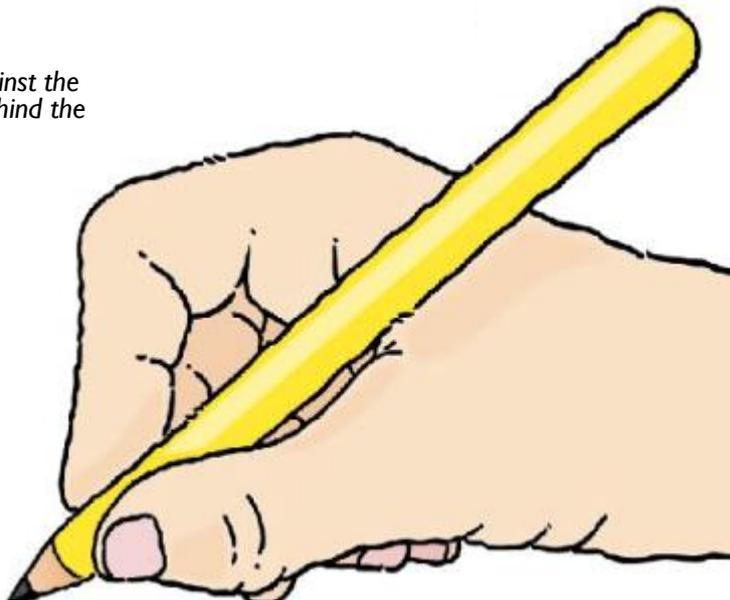
NUMERALS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

PENCIL GRIP

Pencil should not rest in the web between the thumb and index finger.

Pencil should be held against the index finger on or just behind the first knuckle.



The little finger and the side of the hand become the support point.

Pencil rests on the middle finger on the nail fold.

Support the pencil between the thumb and index finger. Try to use the tip of the thumb not the 'pad' underneath.



A school oozing with community spirit where all students are welcomed.

Parent





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School Road
Coolum Beach Qld 4573

T: 07 54719 300

E: info@coolumss.eq.edu.au

W: coolumss.eq.edu.au

Coolum Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

T: 07 5446 2026

E: admin@coolumafterschoolcare.com.au

W: coolumafterschoolcare.com.au