

AT WHAT AGE WILL MY CHILD START SCHOOL?

South Port Primary School follows Department for Education (DfE) policy and admits children at the beginning of the year a child turns 5 if their birthday is before May 1st. Children born on or after this date will start school in the following year.

Although the great majority of children begin school soon after their fifth birthday they are not required to do so until the age of 6.

If you believe your child may benefit from starting school closer to her/his sixth birthday, please discuss your concerns with staff at your pre-school.

CAN MY CHILD BEGIN SCHOOL EARLY?

No. However, if your child has been recognised as a student with high intellectual potential by relevant authorities, s/he can be admitted prior to the Same First Day ruling.

There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to the above arrangement so please be sure that your pre-school entry matches our admissions dates.

WHEN DO I ENROL MY CHILD?

As we have high demand for Reception places we need your enrolment as soon as your child begins pre-school.

Teachers are appointed to schools according to the number of students enrolled for a particular year.

AM I WELCOME TO VISIT THE SCHOOL BEFORE I ENROL MY CHILD?

Yes.

This includes a tour and an information session.

DOES MY CHILD ATTEND FULL TIME?

Yes:

From Term 1 the expectation is that all children attend school full time. If you have concerns please discuss these with Leadership.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES?

Parents/carers are asked to accept the invite from Class Dojo as soon as they can in Week 1 so communication can begin straight away.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for parents and carers to meet with teachers from 3 Way Conferences to Reading Information sessions.

Reporting to parents happens twice a year.

The mid-year report provides information about how your child has settled into their first terms at school. It builds on the report received from your child's preschool and uses the **Early Years Learning Framework** to provide a framework for teachers to make judgements about your child's progress at school so far.

The **Approaches to Learning** section of the report gives information about the progress your child is making towards achieving the foundation "5 Keys to Success": **Confidence, Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along and Resilience.**

Their next written report will include curriculum areas.

More information will be provided to parents at the time reports go home.



WILL MY CHILD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE SCHOOL BEFORE S/HE ACTUALLY STARTS IN RECEPTION?

Yes. All children are encouraged to take part in the school's Starting School program.

Children have an orientation / transition visit, on selected mornings prior to commencing school.

The date will be included in the Starting School letter sent to parents during the term prior to their child commencing school.

The Starting School program will be as follows:

When your child attends school for the transition visits in Term 4 they will spend time with the Reception team and have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of school activities.

If your child attends South Port Preschool then transition starts early as the preschool visit the school regularly.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD START SCHOOL?

- * Talk to your child about starting school, making new friends and learning new skills.
- * Listen to your child (this helps children at every stage of their schooling).
- * Help your child to learn to tie shoelaces, manage clothes, pack their school bags etc.
- * Ensure your child can use the toilet and wash their hands independently. Discuss any concerns about this with teachers prior to beginning school.
- * Put your child's full name on *all* things that are brought to school.
- * Help your child to recognise her/his full name.
- * Help your child to develop responsibility, initiative and independence by giving her/him little duties to perform which require one to two verbal instructions.
- * Give your child the opportunity to play with other children, as well as use scissors, cut, paste and paint.
- * Allow your child time away from you so that s/he accepts that you will not always be present.
- * Teach your child to be safe by knowing first and last names, address, phone number and family member's names.
- * Discuss any concerns about school before the first day. Reassure your child. Do all you can to make your child happy and confident about entering the school world.
- * On the first day leave cheerfully. Don't linger unless your child's teacher suggests that you stay. Let your child know you will be back at the end of the day.
- * Encourage your child to openly discuss her/his feelings about school and meet with the teachers if you have any concerns. Our teachers care about how families and children feel.

STARTING SCHOOL

RECEPTION CHILDREN

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