



Transition to School Policy

Ridgehaven Primary School

Ratified:

Issue Number: 4 (June 2013)

Review Date: August 2016

Rationale

Safe and effective schools have strong transition programs to ensure that students develop a readiness to enter their new environment, to reduce anxiety and to increase resilience. This will build the foundation for a successful and rewarding school experience.

Context

Ridgehaven Primary School caters for students Preschool to Year 7. There are approximately 300 students enrolled at Ridgehaven. The classes are organised in a variety of ways depending on enrolment numbers, circumstances and teachers. We generally have composite classes, eg. Reception/Year 1, Year 1 and 2, Year 6 and 7 classes, etc.

Admission

If your child turns five before May 1, they will start **school** on the first day of Term One in that year. If your child turns five on or after May 1, they will start **school** on the first day of Term One the following year. The new start date will mean that all children will have four terms of preschool and four terms of Reception.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students can access four sessions of preschool two years prior to beginning school.

Terms in Junior Primary

All school children will have at least 12 terms in Junior Primary Classes.

Transition

At Ridgehaven Primary School we endeavour to have children transitioning into the class in which they will be placed. However, in 4th term this is not always possible due to staff changes and staffing for the following year.

The transition visits begin in the term prior to your child beginning school to give them ample time to experience school life and routines.

Details of the transition program and dates will be forwarded via your child's preschool or via mail.

Beginning school is an important event. Children are usually excited and eager to begin school as they have heard about it from preschool teachers, parents, siblings and friends.

To support your child with transition to school we provide a comprehensive series of visits, gradually building in length of time over the term.

Overview of Transition visits:

Six visits will occur in the latter part of each term. Letters go home at least two weeks prior to commencement of transition, informing parents of times and transition dates. There is a parent meeting held prior to the commencement of transition with the Principal or member/s of the Leadership team, for parents to hear about the school and its educational program and to discuss ways you can support your child's learning at home. Parents will receive an enrolment package at this meeting.

Transition visits begin with a short visit for a story then visits build up to include staying for recess, then staying for lunch and eventually a visit when they spend the day at school. Classroom teachers visit the preschool prior to children beginning transition. This allows them to meet the children in a familiar environment and to discuss your child's development with preschool staff.

Children who attend Ridgehaven preschool have lots of opportunities to be involved with school activities such as assembly, performances, special events and playing in the Early Years playground at a recess time once a week. These experiences also form part of transition to school.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed with students, parents and community input as part of the school's review cycle.