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Glendowie Christian Kindergarten Information

Welcome to Glendowie Christian Kindergarten!

We provide quality care and education for your child in the context of Christian principles. We provide a programme of learning through play, designed to encourage your child to gain the most from their early childhood years in a fun, safe, warm and caring environment. Your child can begin at GCK between 2½ and 3 years of age, subject to availability of places. We now have nappy change facilities and can accept children in nappies subject to availability. They may then stay with us until they start primary school. We offer a specially designed 'Focus Fun Club' mat time programme for children over 4. GCK offers your child the opportunity to take their first steps towards independence in a safe and supportive environment, whilst learning about friendship and companionship with others. We have 3 teachers each day, who are fully trained and registered. We operate a teacher/child ratio of 1:10.

Parents who wish to spend time settling their children are always welcome. We appreciate parent helpers whenever they are available, and we plan family get-togethers on a termly basis as part of our social activities.

Parents are asked to share their aspirations for their child and this is used as part of the center planning. Parents can be part of the program by offering ideas, coming in and sharing a special resource or idea or giving feedback about what is happening at home for their child. Parents are asked to complete an annual feedback form and can give feedback through discussion with the teachers at any time. We appreciate feedback on our current policies which we review often and parents can volunteer to help out with their particular skills at any time.

Your child will have a portfolio, both a hardcopy and on our Storypark platform. This is a collection of documentation of your child's learning at Kindy. Please feel free to read it, share it and comment on it online. We share a daily communication with families on Storypark as to what is happening that day and we share termly newsletters on the mail chimp platform. Your feedback is always appreciated. Your enquiries will be dealt with professionally and confidentially. We look forward to a long and happy relationship with you and your child.

Kindergarten Hours:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 8.45 am - 2.45 pm Bring morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea in separate labelled containers please.

4 Year old programme: Dedicated mat times with specific interest based and age appropriate activities/projects designed for preparing children for life and school.

Fees

Hourly Discretionary fee - all children	\$ 2.50 (No GST)
Enrolment Fee	\$92.00 to be paid on acceptance of a place.
Under 3 year olds	\$5.75 per hour (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri)

An hourly rate of \$5.75 for each hour in excess of 20 hours per week.

GCK - A brief history

Glendowie Christian kindergarten was established in 1996 by a group of visionaries in order to provide high quality early childhood education and care within a Christian environment. Today it is a happy and busy centre where children benefit from the small group sizes and high teacher/child ratios, ensuring maximum direct contact time with adults, and minimum competition for resources and time. All of these factors together ensure that children attending this centre, receive a quality early childhood education.



Initial Familiarisation

Your child will settle best if the transition from home to Kindergarten is gradual. We suggest that you take the time to visit the Kindergarten for an hour or two with your child **before** their first day here. Talk to them in an excited and positive way about the Kindergarten experience they are going to have—it can be a little daunting for them. If your child finds it hard to settle, trust the staff to know how to handle them. If they continue to be distraught after you have left, we will contact you if you wish and ask you to return.

Please talk to staff about any anxieties you may have- we are here to help.

Social competence

Children are encouraged to be caring towards each other and the environment. Staff model caring and positive interactions. Should behaviour require addressing, staff will adopt a gentle and positive approach of redirection.

Health & Safety

All qualified staff are trained in First Aid. In the event of an accident, appropriate steps will be taken, including the calling of an ambulance if required. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible.

Children who are sick with any infectious or contagious illness, including such illnesses as

conjunctivitis, diarrhoea and vomiting or a heavy cold (green nose, chesty cough) should not attend Kindergarten. Parents are asked to contact us before **9am** if possible to advise us of any absence. Children on antibiotics should spend at least **one day** at home before returning.

Medication

This must not be left in children's bags but should be given to staff with clear instructions for its use and parents must sign an authority for staff to administer it. Staff will sign a record to indicate when medication has been given.

The Education Review Office (ERO) visited GCK in March 2020.

They said...

"Teachers are positive and responsive in their relationships with children. They encourage, accept and respect each child's uniqueness and contribution. Teachers are genuinely interested in the children. They know and care for them. Children respond positively in their relationships with adults and peers, creating a calm atmosphere.

The programme promotes positive outcomes for children. Creatively designed and thoughtfully presented indoor and outdoor areas prompt children's inquiry and investigation. Literacy, mathematical and science learning opportunities are integrated into the programme. Children settle quickly into each session and show confidence when playing independently and in group situations. They show initiative, ask questions, and capably explore their environment.

Parents share with teachers about their children's home and community experiences. Parents who spoke to ERO value the way teachers know their children and are highly satisfied with the kindergarten. They appreciate teachers' care and approachability, and the way they support each child's wellbeing and development.

Teachers use good questions to prompt children's problem solving and independent thinking. Children and teachers share information and ideas, work together and learn alongside each other. Children choose their play from a wide range of resources easily accessible to them. They have opportunities to extend their learning and to revisit prior learning.

The diverse cultures of children and families that attend the kindergarten are recognised and celebrated. Teachers include children's home languages when presenting and interacting with groups. The environment is inclusive, catering for additional needs, cultural diversity, and the special dispositions of individual children.

Teachers are skilled at capturing children's participation at play and identifying for parents the learning outcomes. The daily programme features children's interests, the coverage of special occasions and celebrations, and includes good links to the local community. Learning stories in individual portfolios are focused mainly on group events. A rebalance towards individual learning stories would better capture each child's learning journey at the kindergarten and celebrate their uniqueness."

Philosophy, policies and procedures

Our Parent Handbook which is situated in the parent library contains our Philosophy, policies and procedures. Please make yourself acquainted with its contents. On the parents' notice board we also display the philosophy, fee structure, complaints procedure, latest ERO report, staff profile and registration status as well as our Certificate of Licence. As we review our policies, we will inform you through newsletters for you to read and comment on. The details of expenditure of any Ministry of Education funding received is available on the Charities website.

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