

Sacred Heart Catholic School Goomalling

Little Possums Early Learning Centre Information Booklet 2023



PO Box 86 Goomalling WA 6460
Hoddy St Goomalling WA 6460
Telephone 9629 1174
Email: admin@shcsgoom.wa.edu.au
www.shcsgoom.wa.edu.au

Welcome to Little Possums Early Learning Centre

We look forward to a rewarding year with you and your child. The experiences that your child has will lay the foundations for future learning. Our core belief is that God's presence is everywhere. Each day we provide opportunities for the children to experience the wonder and awe of God in their lives and the world around them. By working together, families and teachers ensure every child has a positive beginning at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

2021-2024 Strategic Plan

A four-year Strategic Plan has been developed for Sacred Heart Catholic School and the community is united around ensuring that our school continues to flourish. Central to this plan is the lantern of Nano Nagle which calls us all to be a light for one another at school as well as in the community. The strategic directions can be summarised using the illustration below:

At Sacred Heart we strive to:

Witness The Truth to one another and our community

Aspire to provide our children with the educational opportunities that nourish the whole person

Ensure we resource our school appropriately as a **R**ural community

eMpower the different members of this community to be the best they can be

We use the acronym of '**WARM**' to describe our future direction



We believe parents are the first educators of their children. Communication between the school and home is very important, therefore we will keep you informed of all Little Possums and school news through the use of notes (paper, SMS, email), newsletters and Seesaw. To enable us to do this, please ensure your contact details are always current and updated. We are always happy to talk with you about your child's development and progress.



Little Possums Early Learning Centre

At Sacred Heart, we are dedicated to creating a warm, friendly, and secure environment where children are encouraged to develop at their own pace.

Our programme is guided by the Catholic Education Early Years' Positional Statement, our Sacred Heart Early Years Charter, our Sacred Heart Vision for Learning, the Curriculum Guidelines, and practices stated in the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: BELONGING, BEING AND BECOMING.

Why send your child to Three Year Old Kindy?

Sending your child to school or day care for the first time is a big decision for parents and carers. The Little Possums Three Year Old Program is a unique program for the town of Goomalling and surrounding towns and over recent years has been increasingly popular with families in Goomalling and beyond.

Please find further information about the program below.

The Three Year Old Kindy Program which is part of the Little Possums Early Learning Centre at Sacred Heart Catholic School Goomalling is informed by the

guiding principles of belonging, being and becoming from The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia as guiding principles for the program.

The following aims developed by school staff for the program offered at Sacred Heart Catholic School Goomalling are based on the framework.

1. Three Year Old Kindy at Sacred Heart Catholic School is an opportunity for children to develop their independence, agency and social skills in a developmentally appropriate environment (manners, sharing, turn taking, dealing with problems appropriately, saying goodbye to parents and carers) with children of similar age.
2. Three Year Old Kindy at Sacred Heart exposes children to the routines of school (sounds of school, transitions, making choices) within a school setting.
3. School staff partner with parents and carers of children in Three Year Old Kindy to access early intervention if required.

'Meet n Greet' with the Principal

Before children commence school in the Little Possums Early Learning Centre, the school principal asks all children and families to come to school for a 'Meet n Greet'. This helps your child become familiar with the school and helps school staff become familiar with your child.

Early Years Charter

Please find to a link to our Early Years Charter which is located on our school website <https://www.shcsgoom.wa.edu.au/earlylearning.html>

The foundational principals found in this year taken from the Early years Learning Framework are outlined below.

BELONGING

We provide learning experiences that allow each child to know who they are in the context of their family, their classroom, and their community.

BEING

All children need time to 'Be', to seek and make meaning of the world around them.

BECOMING

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capacities, skills, and relationships change during childhood. 'Becoming' reflects this process of rapid and significant change that happens in the early years as young children learn and grow.



Developing the Whole Child

Our teaching and learning programs focus on developing the whole child in an environment which develops security, identity and respect embedded in a strong sense of belonging.

SPIRITUAL

Through natural, everyday experiences, we hope we will help the children to grow in awareness of the wonder of God and how great God's love is for them and the world in which they live.

SOCIAL

During play, children are provided with opportunities for social interaction with their peers. Children learn the importance of social rules and how to get along with others through play.

LANGUAGE

These skills develop and grow as children's experiences are extended. The natural play interaction encourages communication and expression and increases self-confidence.

EMOTIONAL

It is during times of social interaction that children learn to express and control their emotions in appropriate ways and to resolve conflicts with others.

PHYSICAL

Young children's motor development becomes increasingly more advanced through the physical activity that play naturally provides.

CREATIVE

Through the mediums of art and craft, music, dance, drama and media, children learn to express their own thoughts and ideas using a variety of concepts and materials.



Little Possums Routines

The Little Possums Early Learning Centre is set up into areas which stimulate exploration and curiosity. We provide time for uninterrupted play in the learning centres. During the course of the day, children will have the opportunity to choose to engage in play situations individually or in small groups with an adult or with a group of children.



MAT SESSIONS

We come together each day for greeting time, prayer, stories, songs and rhymes, dance, class sharing and discussions.

INDOOR PLAY

Play based learning centres, such as blocks, puzzles, dramatic play, writing centre, arts and crafts centre, library and construction centres, all offer rich learning opportunities for the children.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Outdoor play is as important as indoor play. Movement is central to children's development and learning.

MORNING TEA AND LUNCH

Eating morning tea and lunch together encourages healthy eating habits, teaches children about nutrition and is a valuable social experience.

MINDFULNESS

We believe it is important that the children are able to develop the ability to quieten their body and mind for a short period.



Information Possums Early Learning Centre

SESSION TIMES

3 Year Olds

Tuesday 8.30am - 11.30am
Thursday 8.30am - 11.30am

Kindy

Monday 8.30am - 3.05pm
Wednesday 8.30am - 3.05pm
Friday 8.30am - 3.05pm

Pre-Primary

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 3.05pm

Each morning parents are encouraged to settle their child by reading a story, doing a puzzle or a table top activity. Children will gather on the mat when called, to begin the day.

Please try and be punctual in collecting your child at the end of the day. It can be distressing for a little person if they are not picked up on time. We understand that on occasions you may be delayed unavoidably. Wherever possible, please inform us of your delay by phone.

GOOMALLING GUMNUTS CHILD CARE CENTRE

Children in Three Year Old Kindy can be walked to Gumnuts by staff after Three Year Old Kindy has finished.

PARENT ROSTER

Once the children are settled into the routine, we will introduce a parent help roster. Parents, grandparents and extended family are invited to help in the classroom.

CLOTHING & UNIFORM

Little Possums is an exciting place to be, so when your child is experimenting with paints, glue, play dough etc, their clothing may get messy. We do provide aprons for many of the experiences your child is involved in, but messy accidents do happen!



For this reason, children should be dressed in clothes that will not inhibit them when playing by the fear of getting dirty.

Please mark all clothing with your child's name. A full spare set of clothing, suitable for the current season, is to be left in their bag, in case of "accidents".

We place great emphasis on Sun Smart behaviours, therefore the children are required to wear a school hat each day when playing outdoors.

Uniform requirements in the Little Possums Early Learning Centre are outlined below:

Three Year Old Kindy

Free dress. Little Possums 3YO Kindy T-shirt and school sports bottoms (Optional)

Four Year Old Kindy

Little Possums T-shirt. School sports shorts (Optional)

Pre-Primary

Little Possums T-shirt. School sports bottoms

TOILETING

At Sacred Heart Catholic School, we understand that toileting accidents may occur from time to time. Please speak to your child about going to the toilet at school and explain that the staff are there to assist. If an accident occurs, your child will be changed discreetly, and wet clothes will be put in a bag for you to wash at the end of the day. If your child is not yet completely toilet trained, we ask that they wear 'Pull-Ups' as this makes toilet training easier and encourages your child to develop independence. Also, should wipes and nappy bags be required, parents and carers are to supply these items to be placed in your child's school bag. We encourage all children to pack a change of clothes.

Upon enrolment, parents will be asked to sign the 'SHCS Toileting Consent Form' which outlines exactly the process we will follow if an accident does occur.

SUNSCREEN

We encourage all families to apply sunscreen to their child before school each day. This practice promotes sun safe behaviour.

MORNING TEA/LUNCH

Families are asked to provide their child with a bottle of water along with morning tea and lunch.

Your child's name should be clearly seen on their lunch box and water bottle. Children will have access to their water bottle at all times throughout the day. All food containers are to be easily opened and closed, as we encourage the children to be independent.

Please note that we are an 'allergy aware' school.

SCHOOL BAG

Your child will need a middle to large sized backpack to ensure it can hold a lunchbox, drink bottle, change of clothes and your child's paintings, gluing etc.

BIRTHDAYS

Feel free to bring in small cupcakes or small treats for your child to share with classmates on their special day. Please check with staff if there are any students with allergies before bringing in treats.

PERSONAL TOYS

We would appreciate it if your child's personal toys remain at home. Please check your child's bag each day to avoid this happening.

ALLERGIES

Please inform us in writing if your child is allergic or intolerant of any particular food. This is not only relevant for fruit and lunch time, but also for when we do cooking.

ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

If your child appears unwell in the morning, please do not send them to school. This keeps our class a happy and healthy place for everyone.

Please inform the school if your child has an infectious condition (E.g. Chicken Pox or Measles)

If your child is ill with any of the following symptoms, please keep them at home until they are better or until they have seen a doctor for medical treatment.

- High temperature
- Ear/eye discharge
- Severe nasal discharge
- Abnormal temperature
- Infected sores
- Diarrhoea/vomiting
- Head lice
- Any communicable disease
- (E.g. Chicken Pox or Measles)

If a child becomes ill or suffers a serious injury while at school, parents will be contacted.

ABSENTEES

It is school policy that the class teacher or the office is contacted to notify us if your child will not be attending on any day. Alternatively, let us know the day before if your child has an appointment to attend. We also ask that you send a brief note to school explaining your child's absence upon their return.

CHILDRENS TRAYS AND SATCHELS

Newsletters notes and your child's work are sent home with your child. They are encouraged to check their own trays and collect all notes.

THINGS WE NEED

We are always in need of 'junk' materials for our project works. We would be most grateful for the following donations:

- Clean boxes (all shapes/sizes)
- Clean egg cartons
- Cylinders (eg cling wrap but no toilet rolls)
- Any interesting fabric off cuts, ribbon, lace, sequins, beads, buttons
- Unwanted scarves
- Old jewellery
- Clean meat trays
- Corks, bottle tops
- Kitchen utensils, old pots and pans
- Pinecones, gumnuts, seeds, pebbles, shells, bark, wood cuts etc
- Clean plastic containers with lids

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

In addition to helping us on roster, we invite you to be involved in the program by:

- Sharing skills or hobbies you or other family members may have, for example pottery, music, carpentry, art, cooking, gardening.
- Talking to the children about your work, for example police officer, nurse, hairdresser etc.
- Washing dress-up clothes at the end of each term.
- Assisting us with cleaning and disinfecting toys and equipment at the end of each term.

CHILD/PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

We understand and respect that you know your child best and therefore we invite you to share your invaluable knowledge of your child with us so we are able to get to know them as quickly as possible. For this to happen we will be asking you to communicate any questions, concerns or relevant information about your child and his/ her progress in a timely matter.

LEARNING JOURNEY THROUGH SEESAW

Your child will bring home a parent letter to welcome you to sign up for the Seesaw App. This is an interactive journal that will contain a collection of the learning your child has done throughout the weeks and over their school year. The App is user friendly and will allow you access to message the teacher directly if you prefer.

EARLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY

During the year, the children are exposed to and explicitly taught early Literacy and Numeracy skills that will build a solid foundation for further development.

These skills are introduced to the children as they are ready and primarily through an informal, play based context.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Little Possums participate in specialist Music, Art, Physical Education, Science and Library. Our Three Year Old children are involved in specialist Art and Music only.

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

To help your child to feel positive about starting school, we offer you the following tips:

- Drive by the school often and talk positively to your child about the teachers, the classroom and the outdoor play area.
- Let your child practise getting ready for school by packing their lunchbox, water bottle and hat into their school bag. Check that your child can open and close their school bag, lunch box and drink bottle. This will all take some practise; please be assured that staff will assist children where needed.
- Make sure your child can manage things such as taking jumpers and shoes off and putting them back on.
- Make sure your child can go to the toilet independently or talk with us about how to manage toilet problems.
- Check that your child can wash and dry their own hands and blow their nose.
- Encourage your child to recognise and be responsible for their own belongings.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need any more information regarding your child starting in 2023. We will be very happy to help you.

admin@schcsgoom.wa.edu.au

