



**Catholic  
Education**  
Diocese of Cairns

*Learning with Faith and Vision*

Explore a

# World-Class Education for your child in Prep





## What is Prep?

Prep is the first compulsory year of school and provides the foundation for your child's education. It is a full-time program held in primary schools. Children attend Monday-Friday for the full school day. Prep teachers use the Foundation Year of the Australian Curriculum to guide children's learning. For further information visit the Australian Curriculum Website at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

All Queensland children are eligible to attend full-time Prep from the beginning of the school year in which they will reach the age of 5 years by 30 June.

When children start Prep they move to a more structured learning environment, but they continue to learn through hands-on investigation. Children make decisions, solve problems, develop thinking and teamwork skills, communicate and develop a positive sense of themselves.

## The Catholic school difference

Families starting their child's schooling in the Catholic tradition know that Catholic schools are committed to the growth of the whole child by offering developmentally appropriate programs which address children's needs – spiritual, intellectual, physical, cultural, social and emotional. Faith, spiritual and values development is

integrated into the Prep curriculum in keeping with the ethos and values of Catholic education.

The Prep program promotes the development of independence and acknowledges that children arrive at school as competent and capable learners who have been learning since birth. The year builds on your child's learning at home and in other places like kindergarten and child care.

## What will my child learn?

In Prep, children learn through a structured curriculum, indoor and outdoor play and hands on investigation. Prep makes connections between school and what your child learns at home and in early childhood education and care.

Prep helps your child develop:

- A positive approach to learning
- Independence and confidence
- Thinking and problem-solving skills
- Language skills
- Early literacy and numeracy
- Physical abilities

## What pre-Prep skills should my child have?

- The ability to follow a series of instructions
- The ability to hold a pencil and scissors
- Independent toileting and dressing
- Social skills and emotional regulation
- Early number and letter recognition

## When is my child eligible for Prep?

Under the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017*, a child is eligible for enrolment in the Prep year if they will turn 5 years of age by 30 June in the proposed year of attendance at school.

Birth date	Eligible for Prep Year in:
1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020	2025
1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021	2026
1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	2027
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	2028

## What if my child isn't ready for Prep?

Parents may delay their child's entry to Prep if they feel that the child is not ready to start school. For example, the child is not ready to cope with the social and emotional demands of schooling, or has delayed development.

Children must be enrolled in Prep from the beginning of the the school year in which they will reach the age of 6 years by June 30.

No formal documentation or approval is required for delayed entry to Prep.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's readiness for Prep you can speak with your child's Kindergarten teacher or the Principal of the school where you plan to enrol your child for Prep.

**"Attending a Catholic primary school for Prep was an easy choice. As soon as I walked into the gates I was personally greeted by the Principal and Prep teachers. The spirit of the school is ingrained in all teachers, and staff, nurturing our little students to do their best, be kind, caring, respectful and also welcoming to new students and other cultures".**

- Parent, Good Counsel Primary School, Innisfail

## Can my child start Prep early?

Section 17 of the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017* allows early entry to Prep for a child who: EITHER

- will be 5 on or before 31 July AND
- is considered school-ready

OR

- had started education in another country, Australian state or territory that is equivalent to Prep.

AND

- is considered school-ready

A July birthday or previous school enrolment in another state or country, does not guarantee early entry to Prep in Queensland.

Parents seeking early entry are required to attend an initial interview with the school Principal to discuss the child's attributes in terms of:

- Aptitude and ability
- Social and emotional competence
- Physical development
- Level of knowledge and understanding

Discussions will also focus on expectations for early entry to Prep and the best interests of the child. Parents will be provided with an 'Application for Early Entry into Prep' form at this time. Following an assessment of the Application, the Principal will advise parents in writing of the outcome of the process.



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# Our Primary Schools



## Cairns Suburban Region

<b>Bentley Park</b>	St Therese's School
<b>Earlville</b>	Our Lady Help of Christians School
<b>Gordonvale</b>	St Michael's School
<b>Manunda</b>	St Francis Xavier's School
<b>Mount Peter</b>	MacKillop Catholic College
<b>North Cairns</b>	Mother of Good Counsel School
<b>Parramatta Park</b>	St Joseph's School
<b>Redlynch</b>	St Andrew's Catholic College
<b>Trinity Park</b>	Holy Cross School
<b>Woree</b>	St Gerard Majella School

## Northern Region

<b>Waibeni (TI)</b>	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School
<b>Mossman</b>	St Augustine's School
<b>Weipa</b>	St Joseph's Parish School

## Southern Region

<b>Babinda</b>	St Rita's School
<b>Innisfail</b>	Good Counsel Primary School
<b>Silkwood</b>	St John's School
<b>Sth Johnstone</b>	St Rita's School
<b>Tully</b>	St Clare's School

## Atherton Tablelands Region

<b>Atherton</b>	St Joseph's School
<b>Dimbulah</b>	St Anthony's School
<b>Mareeba</b>	St Thomas' School
<b>Ravenshoe</b>	St Teresa's School



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