



Geographe Primary School

2026 Kindergarten Parent Information Booklet

We are a connected community where every child is supported to grow.

Clydebank Avenue, Busselton WA 6280 | 9751 7800 | geographeps.wa.edu.au



Welcome

On behalf of all the staff, students, and parents I hope that your family will enjoy being part of our school.

Our school motto, 'Together Toward Future Horizons', underpins our focus on equipping our students with the necessary skills and attributes required now and into the future.

Geographe Primary School values personal excellence and respects diversity. We aim for both high academic performance and emotional and social wellbeing.

At Geographe Primary School we strive to develop resilient individuals that maintain an optimistic outlook on life. We embrace new technologies and aim to provide a contemporary education that caters for all.

Our Vision for our Early childhood is "We are a connected community where every child is supported to grow."

We work closely with the school community and value parents as partners in educating the students in our care. We aim to foster a community of learners – with students, families, and staff all actively encouraged to share a lifelong passion for learning.

This Information Booklet is designed to inform parents, guardians and community members of the standard procedures associated with the management and organisation of our school Kindergarten program.

We encourage parents to contact the school should there be anything that remains unclear.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your time with us at Geographe Primary School.

Sinan Kerimofski
Principal



PRINCIPAL:

Sinan Kerimofski

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday 8.00am-3.45pm

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS:

Mr Luke Ruane

Mrs Alison Freeman

TELEPHONE:

9751 7800

MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES:

Mrs Verna Brookes

EMAIL:

geographe.ps@education.wa.edu.au

SCHOOL OFFICERS:

Mrs Michelle Pascall

Mrs Elaine Hayden

WEBSITE:

geographeps.wa.edu.au



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2026 Term Dates

SEMESTER ONE

Term 1: Monday 02.02.2026 until Thursday 02.04.2026

Term 2: Monday 20.04.2026 until Friday 03.07.2026

SEMESTER TWO

Term 3: Tuesday 20.07.2026 until Friday 25.09.2026

Term 4: Monday 12.10.2026 until Thursday 17.12.2026

Staff Development Days

All staff participate in School Development Days as well as in Professional Development for one hour after school on most Wednesdays.

CONFIRMED SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS ARE:

Thursday, 29 January 2026

Friday, 30 January 2026

Friday, 18 December 2026

An additional three Student Free Days will be scheduled throughout the year, and we will notify families of these dates in advance.



Early Childhood Program

It is our intention that the best possible opportunities are offered to your child to challenge and extend their learning, allowing your child to reach their full potential. Our goal, at all stages, is to provide the necessary ingredients for success and the laying of foundations for effective practices and knowledge for the future. These goals include the following:

- Development of a positive self esteem and an understanding of themselves
- Participate as members of a group, learning such attributes as sharing and taking turns
- Development of the ability to work independently
- Learning how to initiate and interact positively with peers and adults
- Development of effective communication including both listening and talking

The content of the program will be developed from the children's own needs and interests as well as aligned to both the Department of Education's Early Childhood Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and the 'Early Years Learning Framework for Australia' (EYLF).

A child's early years are a time of discovery, exploration and experimentation. Children build their own understandings and knowledge of the world through play, manipulation of concrete materials and social interactions with others. We are proud to say our balanced program of explicit teaching and play-based learning results in individual success and lays the foundation for students to be life-long learners.

Our approach to teaching and learning in the early years is grounded in the values of GPS, which have been created by staff and students in an effort to unite all members of the school community. These shared values are symbolised in the form of a compass and are used to guide and reflect upon the actions and decisions of all members of the school community.

We align our practice to the National Quality Standards Framework. This framework sets high, national benchmark for early childhood education across Australia.





The Kindergarten Day

Kindergarten is a wonderland of painting and story time; of talking and listening; of exploring the world; and of making new friends.

Your child begins to build on what they have learned at home. This includes their understanding of language; that language is made up of words, that written words are made up of letters in the alphabet and that spoken sounds can be written down. They also learn about numbers and shapes and the many different ways we use maths in our lives every day.

These early lessons will help your child experience future success with reading, spelling, language and mathematics skills. Your child's teacher takes into account the many different experiences and backgrounds of the children in the classroom to make sure the learning program supports each child.

Children learn social skills by playing with other children and sharing equipment. Play allows your child to share and take turns while developing coordination and confidence.

All of the above is vital to their future formal learning. While Kindergarten is pre compulsory education, parents are encouraged to send their children to give them the opportunity of actively engaging in the curriculum and becoming an important part of the school community. The skills they learn give them the start they need to embark on their educational journey and head towards their bright future.





Getting Ready for Kindy

Here are some simple things you can do to help your child (and the rest of the family!) get ready to start Kindergarten:

- Read stories with your child about starting school
- Go past the school and talk positively to your child about how they will soon be going there, the exciting things they will do and the friends they will make
- Go shopping together to buy a special lunch box and drink bottle and things they will need such as a school bag and uniform items
- Practice opening and closing lunchbox and drink bottle and using the zips on the new school bag
- Label all your child's belongings with their name
- Begin leaving your child for short periods of time at day care, grandparents or other family so your child is comfortable being away from you
- Introduce yourself to other parents and become part of the school community
- Organise play dates to help your child socialise with the other children in their class
- Have a routine each morning as you and your child get ready to go to school
- Once school starts, ensure your child gets enough rest. You will probably find that your child is tired. This is normal as they adjust to their busy days at Kindergarten, learning and playing
- Provide your child nutritious meals and snacks to keep them energised through the day
- Talk with your child about their day when they get home. Your enthusiasm is important for them to see and feel and will show them that school is important
- Get to know your child's teacher and don't hesitate to talk to them about any issues you may have experienced. Give them feedback, both positive and negative.

Helping your child have a positive first experience of school is important because it can help shape the way they think about school in the future.

Once school starts, be actively involved yourself. Children love it when their mum or dad comes along to help with reading and other activities.

Your ongoing support will help them build strong foundations for success at school.





Attendance

Enrolment is not compulsory for Kindergarten, however once parents elect to enrol their child in the program, attendance becomes compulsory and any absences need to be explained by either contacting the school office, email, or provide a written note to the class teacher. Each Kindergarten child will attend school five full days per fortnight. Please note that, for the first five sessions of Term 1, Kindy children will only attend for ½ day at any one time.

Arrival and Departure

Kindergarten children attend a 5 day fortnight. The days of attendance depends on your allocated class group.

The Kindergarten program commences at 8:55am and concludes at 3:10pm. The doors will be open at 8:40am for a start time of 8:55am. It is best to arrive as close as possible to 8:55am. It is very important your child arrives and is collected on time. This will avoid any unnecessary distress that your child may experience due to lateness.

For your child's safety we ask that, when the doors are open, you bring your child inside the class at the beginning of each session.

Children must not be left unattended outside before or after the session.

In order to protect children from accidents, no child will be allowed to leave the Kindergarten unaccompanied, or with a person other than their parent or carer, without written permission from their parent/carer. The school will not release a Kindergarten child into the care of his/her brother/sister without prior approval from Administration.

For security reasons, children will only be dismissed to the people parents have listed on their child's enrolment form. If you wish for another adult to collect your child from Kindy, staff need to be advised prior.

If you need to remove your child from the classroom during normal class time, please sign out at the school office before you collect your child.



Reading books about starting school

Here is a list of books about starting school that you can read with your child:

- Tom goes to Kindergarten by Margaret Wild and David Legge (ABC Books)
- Billy and the big new school by Catherine and Laurence Anhold (Orchard Books)
- Buzzy had a little lamb by Harriet Ziefert and Emily Bolam (Blue Apple Books)
- Fiona the pig's big day by Leigh Hobbs (Penguin/Viking)
- First day by Margaret Wild and Kim Gamble (Allen & Unwin)
- I am too absolutely small for school by Lauren Child (Orchard Books)
- Meet the Barkers: Morgan and Moffat go to school by Tomie de Paola (Putman)
- Mr Ouchy's first day by BG Hennessy and Paul Meisel (Putman)
- When an elephant comes to school by Jan Ormerod (Lincoln)
- Who will go to school today? by Karl Ruhmann and Miriam Monnier (North-South)
- First Day by Andrew Daddo (Harper-Collins)
- Monkey Not Ready for Kindergarten by Marc Brown (Penguin Books)
- Dad's First Day by Mike Wohnoutka (Bloomsbury)
- Mom, It's my First Day of Kindergarten! by Hyewon Yum (Macmillan)

Before I can learn to read and write I need to know...

- a book has words and pictures
- that the words are what is read
- that a book has a beginning, middle and end
- books are enjoyable and I can learn so much from them
- how to learn to love books and to care for them
- how to hold a pencil or brush comfortably
- how to scribble then draw and paint shapes and pictures
- about letters and words
- that I will be encouraged for all of my efforts and attempts
- that I can have lots of practice, plenty of paper, paint and pencils

Before I can learn Mathematics I need to know...

- the names of numbers
- how to count in the right order
- match the number with the right amount of things
- colours and shapes
- about size
- about sorting into sets



Other helpful ideas

Commencing school is an important step in your child's school life. You can help your child get the most from their Kindergarten year in the following ways:

- Your attitude to school will influence your child's attitude - make it positive. If you have any worries or doubts about the program or your child's performance, please discuss them with your child's teacher.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly and punctually.
- Encourage self-care skills (toileting, health, hygiene, etc.)
- Read to your child often. It is a good way to extend language and promote reading readiness.
- Show an interest in the activities your child engages in and ask questions about them.
- The 'work' your child brings home - whatever the end result or materials used - represents time and effort and indicates their level of development.
- Appropriate praise and interest will give your child confidence to venture further next time. Don't presume because there is no 'work' to bring home that no work was done. Block building, sand/water play activities, puzzles, sorting/matching activities all have no end product to take home and after a cooking session, we eat the results!
- Please keep us informed by advising the school of new phone numbers, addresses, changes in family situation, illnesses etc. We need to know anything that will help your child learn.
- Read all notes and notices regarding not only Kindergarten but also the school in general. Our school newsletter is produced electronically every second Wednesday and a link is sent to families via Compass. Limited copies are available from the school office for parents who do not have access to the internet.
- Community notices can be included by sending information to geographe.ps@education.wa.edu.au.
- Attend Parent and Citizens (P&C) Meetings. Decisions are made at these meetings by the parents who are present which affect your child and the school.
- If you want a say, you need to be there.
- Our school utilises Compass as a digital platform to enhance communication between teachers, parents, and caregivers, facilitating the exchange of important information and updates related to your child's educational experience.

Our school administration team is available to discuss any policy matters with you. Our school values the partnership that we have in educating your child and welcomes your enquiry.





Parent help roster

We welcome parents into our school to help and participate. On one of your visits you might be asked to help with the preparation of activities, to assist children outdoors or to help pack away. If you would like to join in with our program on a particular day, please write your name on the Parent Roster that will be available on the notice board. By doing this, we will know you are coming and can be sure you are included in our activities. Please arrange alternative care for siblings and, before heading to the classroom, visit the front office to sign in and complete a Parent and Child Volunteer Declaration Form. Please remember that we depend on your confidentiality for anything you hear or see when in the classroom.

Talking to the school

Where appropriate, teachers should be your first point of call to discuss most issues concerning your child's learning at school. Often speaking promptly with the classroom teacher greatly assists in working through any issue and a satisfactory outcome is achieved for all. If you have any concerns during the year regarding your child we would appreciate if these issues are relayed to your child's teacher through Compass or email geographe.ps@education.wa.edu.au. You will find that there is often a simple solution. If you are in need of a more detailed discussion, please feel free to make an appointment.

Personal items

Please do not allow your child to bring their toys, jewellery or other personal items to Kindergarten. This will avoid the children becoming upset when things get lost or broken.

Year level requirements

Each student at GPS is issued with a Personal Items List. The items you supply are for use in the classroom throughout the year. Items may be purchased through the schools' preferred supplier or a supplier of your choice. There is no need to label individual items with your child's name - a name on one bag with everything inside it will suffice.

Birthdays

On your child's birthday you are welcome to send along small cakes. Please consider the school policy in regards to 'nut aware' and also please check with your child's teachers for any allergies to be aware of when preparing birthday cakes. Handing out birthday invitations (especially in front of children not invited) can be upsetting to both children



School dress code

Students at GPS are encouraged to wear our school uniform with pride. The clothing items in the uniform range are comfortable and affordable. Please keep a change of clothing in children's bags at all times so we can help your child stay comfortable while at school.

Parents, staff and students support Geographe Primary School's Dress Code. A school's Dress Code can play an important role in promoting a positive image of the school and creating a sense of identity.

Enrolment at the school is on the understanding that Geographe Primary School's Dress Code will be adhered to.

HATS

It is school policy that all children are to wear a wide-brimmed or bucket style hat for all organised physical education activities and while playing outside at recess and lunchtime. This hat policy is fully supported by the Cancer Foundation as an effective means of protecting students from harmful effects of over exposure to UV rays. We have a 'no hat no play' policy throughout the year. On occasions when your child does not have a hat to wear, she/he will be restricted to playing in shaded areas.

HAIR

Students must ensure that their hair does not create a health or safety risk. Regardless of gender, students with long hair are required to tie their hair back. Long hair must be 'tied back' as a preventative measure in avoiding/containing the spread of head lice (nits). Hair ties and headbands must be plain and flat (no embellishments). No brightly coloured hair dye to be used, except on sports days and assembly items.

FOOTWEAR

Students are required to wear sensible, closed in footwear to school, or sandals with back straps. We encourage children to wear footwear that is easy to take off and put on themselves as footwear is optional inside our playground.

Our uniforms will be available from Uniform Concepts Super Store conveniently located at 33 Bussell Highway, West Busselton.

Opening hours:

Tues, Wed, Thur: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sat: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Contact details:

Telephone: 9270 4663

Email: busselton@uc.nellgray.com.au



School dress code



SPORTS UNIFORM





Lunch

On days when your child is attending a full day at school, you will need to pack a suitable lunch. Please make sure your child can easily open all items in his/her lunchbox and that all non-disposable items are clearly labelled. The school canteen is open Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday, with menus available through the front office.

Help us save money to use on your child's education instead of waste disposal.

Please organise your child's lunch box, following the Zero Waste Lunch guidelines:

- Bring your food NUDE
- Bring your food in a CONTAINER
- COMPOST your food scraps
- REUSE a drink bottle

Communicate weekly, as your child's tastes will change. Instruct them to bring home any unfinished items in their lunchbox so you can review the situation.

Energetic, playful children often take two bites out of a large apple and then throw it away. Discuss 'small' fruit selections with your child.

This website has some simple recipes for healthy lunch box tasty food and is a wonderful support tool for parents entering the school system for the first time.
<https://www.fuelto go.com.au/>

Morning recess

At Kindy, your child will eat morning tea from a snack box that is separate to their lunch. It should contain a suitable amount of nutritious food that provides your child with long-lasting energy. We encourage children to eat mindfully and fuel their bodies for learning.

Drinks

Please ensure your child brings a closable drink container with water only, everyday. All drink containers should be clearly labelled with a full name.



Records, information and medical requirements

Please advise the office and Kindergarten staff of any changes to addresses, phone numbers and medical information, as we have found that in some situations when a child is unwell we have been unable to contact parents.

Please notify staff if your child has any form of medical condition that may affect their wellbeing. If so, a form will need to be filled in with the procedure that we need to follow in case of an emergency. We are unable to administer any medication until all necessary paperwork has been completed - this is a Department of Education requirement. If medication needs to be administered to your child during the school day, consent forms need to be completed before a teacher can administer. These forms are available from the front office on request.

The School Nurse will provide a health assessment for all children during their Kindergarten year provided that the parents have filled in and signed the medical information documents.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and can be life threatening. It occurs after exposure to an allergen (e.g. peanuts, nut products and bee stings are most common). In the interests of health and safety of all children, we encourage you to follow the directions that the school and/or class teacher provides and support an 'allergy aware' environment.

PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice/Nits)

Children with head lice are excluded from school. They are permitted to return following treatment and when all lice/nits have been removed. All family members should be treated. For more information on treatment please contact the School, Community Health Centre, local pharmacy or visit health.wa.gov.au.





Voluntary contributions

Some amenities are not supplied by the Department of Education e.g. playground equipment, art/craft materials, educational tours, and other school requisites seen as essential by parents and teachers. Voluntary Contributions help to supplement the contributions made to the school during the year by the P & C Association and the School Grant.

Our School Voluntary Contribution is:

\$60 PER STUDENT TO A MAXIMUM OF \$180 PER FAMILY

Information regarding Voluntary Contributions and Charges is provided separately.

Behaviour Management

Geographe Primary School has adopted the Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) model for managing student behaviour from Kindergarten to Year 6. Our PBS purpose is: to develop and implement School-wide Positive Behaviour Support in order to improve behaviour, teach social skills and foster a positive attitude towards learning to achieve higher educational outcomes. It is our intention that this will develop a school culture which is consistent and based on a common language which is used by all.

All behaviour falls under the following four school expectations:

- Be A Learner
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be Caring

Strategies are employed to identify, recognise, promote and teach the behaviours we desire and expect from students. By reinforcing and focussing on positive behaviour, children demonstrate more of this behaviour and less unproductive, negative behaviour.

When undesirable behaviour does occur, this is seen as an opportunity to reflect on the situation and reteach the desired behaviour. For more severe behaviours which require correction and intervention, the child may be counselled and given a consequence. This will usually involve contacting and/or involving the parent or carer.





Absence

An explanation is required for ALL absences from school. Parents and Guardians can either contact the school office, email or provide a written note to the class teacher. A Medical Certificate may be required to explain prolonged absences. If a student does not produce a note, administration will forward a Department of Education letter requesting an explanation as to why the child was absent from school.

Parents/caregivers are required to negotiate and seek approval from the Principal before taking their children on family holidays during term. "Applications to be absent from school" are available from the school office.

If your child has to visit the doctor during school-time, a note should be sent to the school informing us of the time. The parent/guardian must come to the office to sign the Student Sign In/Out Book.

Visitors to the school

All visitors to the school should make initial contact with the front office, this includes parents who may need to drop off student lunches. Visitors are required to sign the Visitors' Book and state the reason for the visit.

Leaving school early

Should you need to collect your child during school hours, we kindly request that you adhere to the following procedure:

- Please visit the front office and sign your child out with our administrative staff.
- Upon signing out, you will be provided with a visitor sticker. This step ensures a smooth and secure handover of your child.

Reporting

Formal Reports will be issued to all Kindergarten students at the end of each Semester. Staff will also conduct parent/teacher meetings in Term One for the purpose of learning more about your child and to share how your child has settled in at Kindergarten. In Term 3 families will be invited to attend our popular Learning Journey so children can showcase the knowledge and skills they have developed in the school setting.