



HILLSIDE
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



Early Learning Centre

Pre-Primary

2021

PRE-PRIMARY 2021

Christian education is at the heart of HillSide's operations. Therefore, the Pre-Primary programme is based on best practice within the framework of a Christian worldview. HillSide is therefore distinctly Christian in fabric and intent. The Pre-Primary programme works within the College's overall *Vision* "to positively transform lives, in our school, in Jesus' name". In terms of our College's mission, our core business is to provide quality education to our school community, ensuring that our children are equipped with the skills, values and confidence to engage successfully in a modern world.

The aim of the Pre-Primary programme is to provide quality educational experiences built on the developmental learning needs of the children. These areas of development include linguistic, social, emotional, spiritual, creative, physical and cognitive growth. The curriculum is purposeful and appropriate to the child's current thinking, interests and ways of learning. It will encourage children to be independent, active problem solvers, and engaged in the learning process.

Practices in the HillSide Christian College's Pre-Primary are based upon the following principles of learning:

- The core need of all children is to know God, and to understand that they are made to live in right relationship with Him. Loving God, then loving our neighbour, are the main purposes of life, and these commandments have been taught to us by Jesus Himself;
- Children learn in different ways, which may range from dependent to independent, impulsive to reflective, cautious to adventurous, individual to group. Children need to "feel", "think" and "do" as well as "reflect";
- Children are created with different gifts and abilities. Encouraging them to identify and use their gifts will help them to develop confidence in new situations;
- Children need to experience success. Success will be more likely if children can participate at their own level of ability in challenging learning situations;
- Children respond to encouragement and recognition from peers and adults. They understand their learning processes and experience satisfaction when they evaluate their achievements;
- Language is important to learning. By thinking and talking, children make sense of their experiences and incorporate new ideas with existing knowledge;
- Motivation affects learning. Children are more likely to learn and remember when they are interested and the experience is relevant;
- Children need to explore materials and a variety of media to discover properties and relationships through trial and error;
- Children learn through their senses and develop concepts through many multisensory experiences.
- Cooperation assists children to learn from each other. When cooperative interactions are encouraged, children refine their language and thinking and develop positive relationships;
- Learning is influenced by the quality of the interactive role of the adult;
- Children need to feel safe in their schooling environment and have clear routines and consistent expectations.

The Pre-Primary programme provides children with experiences that enhance and develop their personal and interpersonal skills, spiritual attitudes and values across all learning areas. Much of the children's learning is achieved through activities based on structured play. The Pre-Primary programme reflects a direct link the full scope of the Australian Curriculum as outlined in the Western Australian syllabus documents.

The Australian Curriculum is designed to teach students what it takes to be confident and creative individuals and become active and informed citizens. It sets the goal for what all students should learn as they progress through their school life – wherever they live in Australia and whatever school they attend. From the first year of schooling to Year 10, students develop knowledge and skills in eight learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)
- The Arts
- Technologies

At HillSide Christian College we offer a ninth learning area: *Christian Living* as part of our teaching and learning programme.

In W.A., schools use the Western Australian Curriculum. The Kindergarten to Year 10 Western Australian curriculum provides a coherent and comprehensive set of prescribed content and achievement standards which schools will use to plan student learning programmes, assess student progress, and report to parents. The Western Australian syllabuses remain broadly consistent with the Australian Curriculum, but have been contextualised to make them more suitable for Western Australian students and teachers.

Pre-Primary learning covers the Pre-Primary aspect of the WA Curriculum in a developmentally appropriate, play and inquiry based approach at HillSide.

Listed below are some of the elements of a Pre-Primary students daily programme that also benefit their learning.

Indoor Learning

Spiritual development is encouraged daily through Bible stories, singing, discussion and prayer times. Children are encouraged and supported to develop their Christian faith.

Blocks are interesting and challenging objects and children use them to experiment, make discoveries, find solutions, represent, and create.

Manipulative materials allow children to make their own discoveries and challenge them to use their initiative and imagination. Such materials include puzzles, threading materials, sorting, matching and classification materials.

Painting is a creative means of expression through which children can represent their impressions of events, objects or their emotions. Children delight in making discoveries about new colours, textures, patterns and designs.

Music in the early years allows for active involvement through singing, playing with musical instruments, moving, listening and creating.

Dramatic role play allows for spontaneous, self-initiated make-believe play for children which provides them with the opportunity to use new concepts and language to interact with others.

Technology is explored through using simple tools and materials, to investigate, take apart, assemble, invent, construct and represent ideas. Digital technologies will provide opportunities for students to develop simple skills and promote critical thinking.

Outdoor Play

The outdoor area is an essential part of the learning environment for children. Freedom to explore and discover their capacities outdoors enables children to solve problems and develop self-awareness and self-confidence. This is enhanced by allowing students to investigate and make discoveries within our nature playground.

As children gain control over their movement and balance, they test their skills in a variety of situations. Providing for physical activity requires planning a challenging, non-competitive environment in which the children can learn.

Morning Tea & Lunch

Children are requested to bring fruit, vegetables or cheese for morning tea in their lunch boxes. Suggestions include: kiwi fruit, cheese, rockmelon, watermelon, stone fruit, dried fruit, apple, orange, banana, carrot, mandarin, cucumber, and tomato. A variety is always more interesting.

You will also need to provide your child with a healthy lunch.

Please do not bring nuts or nut products/spreads in for morning tea or include in lunches. There are children in the school that are highly allergic to a variety of nuts and consequently HillSide is a ‘nut free’ school.



Children will need to bring a labelled water bottle to school. Only water should be in the bottle. This is very important, especially during the summer months.

Clothing & Personal Presentation

Children are required to wear school uniform. They should bring a set of spare clothes. All children's items must be clearly labelled. If your child needs to borrow clothes for any reason, the items need to be washed and returned as soon as possible.



Summer Uniform

SUMMER	SUMMER
<p><u>Girls' Sports Uniform</u></p> <p>Sports Polo – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Sports Skort – Navy with College initials</p> <p>Zip Jacket – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Hat – Navy, wide-brimmed with College logo</p> <p>Socks – White with HCC logo</p> <p>Sports Shoes – Predominantly white with white laces or black with black laces (Velcro acceptable K-2). As per pictorial guide.</p>	<p><u>Boys' Sports Uniform</u></p> <p>Sports Polo – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Sports Shorts – Navy with College initials</p> <p>Zip Jacket – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Hat – Navy, wide-brimmed with College logo</p> <p>Socks – White with HCC logo</p> <p>Sports Shoes – Predominantly white with white laces or black with black laces (Velcro acceptable K-2). As per pictorial guide.</p>

Winter Uniform

WINTER	WINTER
<p><u>Girls Sports Uniform</u></p> <p>Sports Polo – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Sports Trackpants - Navy</p> <p>Zip Jacket – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Hat – Navy, wide-brimmed with College logo</p> <p>Socks – White with HCC logo</p> <p>Sports Shoes – Predominantly white with white laces or black with black laces (Velcro acceptable K-2). As per pictorial guide.</p>	<p><u>Boys Sports Uniform</u></p> <p>Sports Polo – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Sports Trackpants - Navy</p> <p>Zip Jacket – Navy with College logo</p> <p>Hat – Navy, wide-brimmed with College logo</p> <p>Socks – White with HCC logo</p> <p>Sports Shoes – Predominantly white with white laces or black with black laces (Velcro acceptable K-2). As per pictorial guide.</p>

All uniform items must be in good condition, fit appropriately and be worn in the manner for which they were designed. *Uniform items that are available through the online uniform shop are of College standard, and should be purchased only through the College supplier, PermaPleat: <https://hillsidechristiancollege.permapleat.com.au>*

Appropriate uniform and personal presentation standards will be decided upon by the Principal and/or Deputy Principal. Any changes will be will be notified via the school newsletter.

Please note that the following also applies in accordance with our uniform policy:

Boys	Girls
<p><u>Hair</u> - short, well-groomed hair with no added colour. Hair is not to be beyond collar length and out of the eyes. Dramatic layered haircuts or long hair strands or any unusual “gelling” or teasing of hair is not permitted.</p> <p>Neat, tidy conservative styles only.</p> <p><u>Jewellery</u> - watches and chain with cross permissible. No rings, bangles or bracelets are acceptable. No earrings permissible (including clear studs).</p>	<p><u>Hair</u> - clean and tidy with no added colour. Hair is to be off the collar and tied back from face. Dramatic layered haircuts or long hair strands or any unusual “gelling” or teasing of hair is not permitted. Neat, tidy conservative styles only.</p> <p><u>Hair Accessories</u> - are to be navy blue</p> <p><u>Jewellery</u> - one pair of earrings – plain studs or sleepers. Sleepers are to be no more than 1 cm. in diameter. Watches and chain with Cross permissible. No rings, bangles or bracelets are permitted.</p> <p><u>Nails & Make Up</u> - nails must be short and clean. No coloured nail polish. Makeup (including, but not limited to, blush, eyeliner, eye shadow, foundation, lipstick and mascara) is not permitted.</p>

If you are not sure about the expectations of Pre-Primary, please speak to your child’s teacher before you make any changes to the appearance of your child.

A hat is required and we apply sunscreen on the children’s faces before they play outside.

Nature Play Ground and Footwear

When playing in our nature playground, it is necessary for the children to wear gumboots to protect their feet. Please bring a labelled pair of gumboots to school.

Health Nurse

The Kalamunda School Health Service provides a regular service to our school. Pre-Primary students may have a screening test as part of this service. A consent form will be sent home, please fill it in and return promptly. Please make sure you sign all correspondence. Vaccination is recommended by the College for all children.

Parent Involvement

We may at times request parent involvement in our daily activities. Parents can provide us with valuable support by placing their name on the roster at these times.

Communication

The Pre-Primary staff members are committed to nurturing strong relationships with families and the community. Parents can provide us with valuable information about their child's needs, interests and skills. It is important that we work together to establish positive relationships that enable specific learning and developmental goals, as this will ensure consistency of approach and similar strategies between home and the Pre-Primary. You are welcome to email staff or simply speak to us.

It is essential that the College has your current address, telephone, mobile numbers, email and an emergency contact person. This can be updated at any time by notifying the school office. Staff in the Centre also need to be informed of any changes to going home arrangements (this includes children attending OSHC), medical information or family circumstances which may affect your child.

If you need to communicate information but can't get in to see us, please feel free email the class teacher.

Communication Book

There is a communication book which is clearly labelled and located on a table near the door. Please use this to inform us if other people are dropping off, or picking up your children. Please also verbally tell staff. Otherwise staff will only let your child go home with you (their parents/guardians).

Medical Issues

If a student has an ongoing illness or condition, parents are responsible for informing the school. Any changes to that information are the responsibility of the parents.

If a student has a condition that requires a management plan because the illness can be of a serious or chronic nature, then parents and the Centre will work together to develop the plan with copies given to personnel as required.

Students are not allowed to self-administer medication. Medication will be kept in a locked store cupboard in a safe place in the classroom. If your child needs their Epipen or inhalers at school, please ensure the teacher has them, along with their Anaphylaxis, Allergy or Asthma Plan.

If a student has a short term illness, the school must be informed. Staff members are willing to administer medication that may be required, however a medication form **MUST** be completed for staff to administer medication.

Students who are sick are checked by the teacher and a decision is then made whether to send the child home. Parents will be notified if their child sustains a head injury and will almost certainly be sent home.

When parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted, the Principal may take the child to a doctor or hospital.

Attendance/Absence

Children are expected to attend regularly to gain the full benefit from the programme. Continued non-attendance risks a child's continued enrolment.

If you know that your child is going to be absent, or if your child has been absent, please bring a short written note, or email absent@hillside.wa.edu.au or complete the form on the Skoolbag app. If your child is going away on holiday or has an illness, please let us know and we will pray for you and support you in any other way we can.

Late Arrival to School/Early Pick Up

Our school uses SEQTA (student management software), and part of this is an attendance system. As such, any absence, late drop off or early pick up not done using our system results in an automatically generated email home. If your child is late to school, or you are picking them up early for any reason, you must go to the school office to get a late slip/sign out slip prior to going to the classroom. This ensures correct Duty-of-Care.

Incursions/Excursions

Throughout the year we will have incursions (visitors to the Centre) or excursions (external from the Centre). These enhance the children's learning experiences by providing first-hand opportunities for children to broaden their general knowledge and understanding of immediate environments, the local neighbourhood, and the wider community. These are an important part of our programme. There is usually no cost associated with incursions/excursions as these are paid in school levies.

Toys and Valuables

Toys or valuables should not be brought to school unless requested to do so by the teacher. Treasured toys or belongings such as games and jewellery should not be brought because considerable emotional upset can occur if these items are damaged or stolen. The College does not accept responsibility for these items.

General Information

Portfolios will be brought home by the children at the end of each semester, so that you are able to take pleasure in celebrating your child's work.

Birthdays – we love to celebrate birthdays, so please feel free to bring in cupcakes, or something small to share (no balloons or lolly bags thank you). Staff ask that if you give out invitations that you do it discretely to parents, so that staff are not involved and children do not feel missed excluded. Also, please check with the teacher in regard to birthday food because the school encourages healthy eating and some children have allergies and /or food sensitivities.

It is expected that your child is already fully toilet trained. If children are unwell, they should be kept home as contagious diseases spread quickly through a close group of children.

Bringing & Collecting Children

Children are to be brought to and collected from their class by an adult.

Children are **not** to be left at their class until the classroom is open and staff is in attendance at 8.40 am. There is a Before and After School service available for parents who need this facility. Please contact the College office directly for more details.

Arrival and departure must be acknowledged by a staff member. If anyone other than the usual parent is collecting your child, please notify the class teacher verbally and in the communication book because staff will not release your child into the care of anyone whom they do not know.

School Photographs

These are taken once each year. There is no obligation to purchase the photographs but children should participate in the photographs, so that other families can purchase them if they wish. The school asks all parents' permission with regard to using photographs on multimedia. We would ask all parents not to share photos or videos which include other children on social media in order to respect other parents' wishes.

Enrolment Information

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date. It is vital that we have current contact details in case of an emergency.

Parent Portal

It is vital that parents and carers are able to stay in touch and receive and send communications. The College's main platform is SEQTA. A parent portal is available at:

<https://engage.hillside.wa.edu.au>

An App. is also available for download from iTunes or the App. sites for other device platforms. Any parent who cannot access SEQTA should contact: portalhelp@hillside.wa.edu.au

College Policies

Most College policies are summarised in the annual Parent Handbook. This is emailed to all parents at the end of the proceeding school year and is also posted on the College website. This booklet outlines general operations, rules and procedures. Policies are also filed on the SEQTA ENGAGE.

Things to bring

Hat*

Change of clothes*

Gumboots*

A packed nutritious recess and lunch

Water bottle* that contains water (no cordial or juice)

** All of your child's personal items need to be clearly labelled.*

Pre-Primary Hours

Pre-Primary hours are the same as the Primary school hours. (8.40 a.m. – 3.10 p.m.)

College Contact Details

Address:	336 Hawtin Road, Forrestfield, WA 6058
Telephone:	(08) 9453 2644
Email:	admin@hillside.wa.edu.au
Absentee Email:	absent@hillside.wa.edu.au
Website:	www.hillside.wa.edu.au
School App:	SEQTA Engage (download from iTunes or the Google play store) Skoolbag (download from iTunes or the Google play store)

Conclusion

This booklet is not an exhaustive document and some aspects may change from time to time. Nevertheless, it is an introduction to the HillSide schooling community and provides some information about what occurs in the Pre-Primary. For further information, please read the *Parent Handbook 2021*. Please feel free to discuss any questions or issues with your child's teacher.

Updated May 2021

TEL: (08) 9453 2644
E-MAIL: ADMIN@HILLSIDE.WA.EDU.AU
WEBSITE: HILLSIDE.WA.EDU.AU
ABN: 62 082 838 689

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HILLSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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TO KNOWLEDGE, ADD WISDOM
ESTABLISHED 1977