

## HISTORY

Christ Church Preschool was founded in 1978 at the initiative of the Church to provide the opportunity for children of the Community to enjoy an excellent Preschool experience. The vision was to serve the Community and build good relationships with the Community. Over the years the Church has maintained a significant and happy relationship with the Preschool.

## PHILOSOPHY

Christ Church Preschool is founded on and shaped by Christian beliefs and consequently we love and serve God and honour His Son Jesus in all that we do.

Christians have always valued knowledge and education, and believe that this happens best in an environment where it is acknowledged that God is Creator and we live in His ordered universe.

Children experience the world as God's creation, and will see themselves as loved and cared for by Him. Jesus, the Bible and prayer are part of our daily life.

We do all of this within an open and honest relationship with our community. We respect the individual beliefs of families and do not impose our views on anyone.

## WE VALUE INCLUSIVENESS

- We aim to create a sense of belonging for all the children and their families.
- We welcome all children and families regardless of race, religion, cultural background or family structure.
- All children are accepted and cared for equally.
- We acknowledge the first owners of our land, especially the Wallumedegal people of this area, and value inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our program. We guide the children of the Preschool to gain knowledge of aboriginal culture and show respect to aboriginal people.
- We have high expectations for all children, and support them in gaining a sense of agency through the experiences provided for their personal growth and independence.
- Children with additional needs are welcomed, and are supported to explore and develop their potential in collaboration with their families

## WE VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER CHILDREN'S LEARNING

- We recognise that children's emotional wellbeing is crucial for learning to occur. Therefore we place the building of secure relationships with each child at the centre of our program.
- We place high importance on responding to children's needs and interests
- In all learning experiences children's prior knowledge is recognised. Experiences are developmentally appropriate, stimulating and fun.
- Educators work alongside children to support and guide their learning. We value a collaborative approach to learning, recognising that children learn from each other and from supportive and involved adults.

- We also recognise that children have their own learning style and so we accommodate a wide range of experiences and opportunities for the expression of ideas.
- The process of learning, discovering, investigating and creating (the child's "Learning Journey") is valued as more important than the 'finished product'
- We endeavour to develop within each child a love of learning so that each will become a confident and involved learner.

#### **WE VALUE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

- Children experience and are supported in frequent opportunities for social interactions with their peers and educators through planned and unplanned experiences, small and large group times as well as unhurried and child focused routine times.
- Children are respected and their behaviour is guided in ways that promote healthy relationships and positive interactions with peers and adults.

#### **WE VALUE FAMILIES**

- All families are valued as members of the Preschool community and we strive to work in partnership with them.
- We respect the importance of family to each child and encourage and support the family in their vital role of parenting.
- The rich diversity of family backgrounds is acknowledged and we value and encourage the contribution of this diversity to the life of the Preschool.

#### **WE VALUE OUR EDUCATORS AND ENDEAVOUR TO SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR ROLE**

- We recognise the importance of ongoing learning for staff, so each staff member is provided with and participates in professional development.
- Educators participate in critical reflection as a means of improving their practice.
- Educators are supported in their work with the provision of quality resources and materials that will in turn enrich the children's learning and development.
- Educators work in partnership with the families towards achieving the best outcomes for the children.

#### **WE SEE THE ENVIRONMENT AS AN IMPORTANT TEACHER**

- A physical environment is provided that challenges and ensures the development of confident physical skills
- The environment is aesthetically pleasing with a balance of natural and manufactured elements

- Opportunities are provided for children to experience the natural world – to observe weather, seasons, trees, plants, rocks, soil, sand and water.
- The children are supported in learning to care for our environment. The Preschool endeavours to practice sustainability and to model this to children.

**WE VALUE BEING PART OF THE LARGER COMMUNITY**

- High importance is placed on building links with our community – maintaining contact with the Church community, liaising with local schools and other children’s services, as well as local businesses, the Council, and various community services.

## OUR KEY PARTNERS

### **THE CHURCH COMMUNITY**

Christ Church provides the physical context for our operations and we share their property. We also share their values and the Christian framework of Preschool life is derived from this Community. The Preschool was founded at the Church Community's initiative and this relationship is recognised in our Constitution.

### **NSW GOVERNMENT**

The NSW State Government provides the Regulatory environment in which the Preschool operates. The Government provides significant funding to support the Preschool's operation and the families of the Preschool. The funding comes with obligations to provide a Service that meets the requirements of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and the National Quality Agenda.

### **THE COMMUNITY**

The Preschool benefits from being part of the Gladesville community and values its place in it highly. Over the Preschool's years of operation, it has benefited from the contributions of many families and individuals of the local area, as well as the goodwill and assistance of Local, State and Federal Governments.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

1. To establish and maintain a high standard non-profit Preschool, with the best possible Preschool equipment, facilities and services.
2. To be staffed with well-trained, talented and capable Christian Educators who meet the requirements of the National Quality Standard.
3. To conduct a Preschool Program that provides for the balanced personal development from a Christian perspective of each child, incorporating spiritual, physical, mental, emotional and social aspects of life.
4. To give all possible support and encouragement to parents, guardians, Preschool staff, Christ Church and the Community so as to enable such development of children and to involve them in the achievement of the Objects of the Association.
5. To ensure that all principles, teaching and attitudes of the Preschool are in harmony with the policies of the Anglican Parish of Christ Church Gladesville.