

Join our Kindergarten



Celebrating 20 years of
20 YEARS of
Kindergarten

Werribee

Start with us at 3 years old!



This year, we mark 20 years of Kindergarten at Heathdale, celebrating our partnership with families from the earliest years of learning. From 3-year-old Kindergarten through to Year 12, it is our privilege to journey alongside families as their children grow and flourish within our learning community. Our 3- and 4-year-old sessional Kindergarten programs are delivered within a nurturing, Christian, play-based environment designed to support each child's growth and wellbeing. We are delighted to invite families in the West to join us, as we support each child to grow into the person God has created them to be.

Ross Grace
Executive Principal





Nurturing your child's God-given potential

A child's learning commences well before they enter school. A child's brain is about 80% of adult size by the age of 3. With one million new neural connections every second, the early years are vital in a child's development, as they make connections for higher-level abilities like motivation, self-regulation, problem solving and communication. Emotional security and support is critical for early learning. Our staff are committed to fostering cognitive growth and creativity, emphasising Christian values such as kindness, love, joy and peace in everyday activities, and encouraging socialisation and motor skill development through exploring God's world together. Learning to become the unique person God has created them to be.



Quick Kinder Facts

Location

Our purpose-built Kindergarten facility on our Werribee campus is located in the heart of our Kinder-Year 2 precinct. It is a standalone facility that includes a welcoming reception, 2 group rooms, a common bathroom/washup area, staffrooms and a large outdoor play zone with attached vegetable garden.

3-year-old Kinder

Session hours: 1 day per week, 7.5 hours per day (total 7.5 hrs/week)

Group size: 22 children with 3 educators per group.

Age eligibility: Your child must turn 3 by 31 January of the enrolment year.

4-year-old Kinder

Session hours: 2 days per week, 7.5 hours per day (total 15 hrs/week)

Group size: 22 children with 2 educators per group.

Age eligibility: Your child must turn 4 by 30 April of the enrolment year.

About Our Fees

Every child's Kindergarten place is partially-funded at a base level by the Victorian State Government. At Heathdale, this allows us to deliver a high-quality program led by experienced educators committed to nurturing each child.

As each child can access only one Government-funded Kindergarten place per year – please note that if your child joins Heathdale's Kindergarten program, you must nominate Heathdale as your one Government-funded Kindergarten place.

We do not participate in the Free Kinder program, which provides limited additional funding on top of the base level funding. Therefore, we charge tuition fees to invest beyond the minimum, ensuring your child receives the best care, resources, and learning experiences from the very start.

Your family's fees can be calculated using our Fee Calculator:



What does it mean to join Heathdale?



At Heathdale, our staff see each child—from 3-year-olds all the way up to our graduating VCE classes in Year 12 – as a precious person created by God in His image. Our purpose is to help each child develop their unique God-given potential through Christian education that encourages deep and rich learning and values the development of the whole person. We want every child to feel safe, to have dignity and a sense of belonging by providing a Biblically-based, learning environment that will nurture them through these early years.

Should I join at 3-year-old Kinder?

The choice to enrol in 3- or 4-year-old Kindergarten will differ from family to family. Whether it's to help your child settle early into their school community and feel a sense of belonging; to provide the kind of Christian care you want to mirror at home from an early age; or desire support as you balance family commitments, we are here to partner with your family.

Evidence shows that two years of Kinder is better than one and early learning is vital for optimal development. We can be part of your village, helping you as parents in your God-given responsibility to raise your children by providing a high-quality Christian Kindergarten program to nurture and care for your 3-year-old child as they prepare for school.

We see Kinder as part of our school. So when you join us at either 3- or 4-year-old Kindergarten, your child automatically has a place in Prep if they continue with us at Heathdale, providing certainty of your child's place in our learning community.

What does a typical Kinder day look like?

A typical day for our Kindergarteners revolves around a well-planned routine designed to support holistic development of each child. The day begins with a warm welcome during drop-off, followed by free play and exploration to encourage socialisation and motor skill development. Social activities aim to instil values of kindness and sharing, emphasising the importance of treating others as Christ would. Mat time incorporates activities like prayer, singing, Bible storytelling, book reading and the introduction of basic concepts for cognitive development. Structured learning activities are incorporated to engage children in age-appropriate projects, fostering cognitive growth and creativity. Mealtime emphasises manners and healthy eating, while outdoor play promotes physical activity. Other daily activities include music, movement, group games and rest time. The day concludes with a closing mat time, allowing children to share their experiences. Through a balance of activities, teachers aim to create a nurturing environment that fosters spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and physical development in the children.

What does the curriculum involve?

The 3- and 4-year-old curriculum is coupled across both years into a continuous learning journey that sets them up for Prep. It involves structured, quality play-based learning that supports a child's development. To be successful learners, children will be encouraged to be confident, creative problem solvers immersed in environments where they can explore multiple perspectives and ways of working. We concentrate on learning through play, risk-based play, nature play, indoor/outdoor play, games, singing, dancing, and messy play, all within a Christian environment. Children also learn some maths, literacy, science, French, music, and PE basics.

The 5 areas of learning and development in the Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines are based on the 5 outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework distilled through a Biblical worldview of:

- **IDENTITY**
Children have a strong sense of identity.
- **CONNECTING & CONTRIBUTING**
Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- **WELLBEING**
Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.
- **LEARNING & THINKING**
Children are confident and involved learners.
- **COMMUNICATING**
Children are effective communicators.



Kinder kids becoming future leaders

“I have been at Heathdale since Kinder, meaning for the past 13 years, most of my time has been spent within the Heathdale community which I know I will miss greatly. In my final year, it has been a blessing and privilege to serve as a College Captain. Throughout the year, I have been constantly reminded and able to bear witness, first-hand, to the potential and capabilities of students, and I’ve been encouraged by our community’s kindness, good-nature and willingness to serve and put others first. The next great step awaits – life beyond school – and I am deeply excited to see what’s going to happen next!”



Matthew Packham
Alumni

Quote from College Yearbook, 2022



How do I enrol for Kindergarten?

1

Come and visit with us, either through a tour or Open Day. At every stage of the enrolment journey, we want to get to know you and give you opportunities to get to know us and understand what joining Heathdale's Christian learning community means for your family. After your visit, we'll send you a link to our online application form.



2

Fill out an application form, nominating either 3- or 4-year-old Kindergarten. There are a few documents you'll need in advance, so check out the welcome page to make sure you have everything ready. A \$110 non-refundable application fee is required to submit the application for consideration.



3

We will be in touch with further outcomes, including inviting some families in for an enrolment interview with a key member of our Primary leadership team. As our Kindergarten is a main intake year, we aim to have all places offered by mid-year of the year prior to entry.



Please note: Applying for enrolment is not a guarantee of entry as we often have more applicants than available spaces. To avoid disappointment, we recommend your child has other Kindergarten options available in the event we are unable to accommodate your child at Kindergarten.



