



St Denis School

KINDERGARTEN

Parent Information Booklet

2026



WELCOME

Welcome to St Denis School, a place where primary students embark on happy, rewarding learning adventures filled with discovery, growth, and achievement.

At St Denis, the holistic development of each child is at the heart of our vision. In partnership with parents as the primary educators of their children, we are committed to helping students realise their potential while embracing Catholic values, living with compassion and service, and putting the Mercy and Servite traditions into practice in their daily lives.

In today's complex and ever-changing world, our education is grounded in Gospel values, nurturing faith and spiritual growth alongside academic achievement, social development, and confidence.

We foster a positive and harmonious community where students, parents, teachers, and all members of the school work together through understanding, compassion, respect, and a shared commitment to Catholic values.

I warmly invite you to explore the St Denis website and discover how we make education an enjoyable, enriching, and deeply engaging experience for every student.

Mrs Sarah Potts
Principal



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Address:	2 Orchid Street Joondanna WA 6060
Phone:	(08) 9242 3422
Email:	admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au
Website:	www.stdenis.wa.edu.au
Principal:	Sarah Potts
Assistant Principals	Casey Bakunowicz Danielle Scadden

KINDERGARTEN STAFF

Classroom Teacher:	Mrs Nelly Maiden
Email:	Nelly.maiden@cewa.edu.au
Education Assistants:	Mrs Lisa Cooley Miss Katrina Salter Mrs Lisa Ciffolilli

2026 TERM DATES

TERM ONE	Monday 2 nd February to Monday 2 nd April
TERM TWO	Monday 20 th April to Friday 3 rd July
TERM THREE	Monday 20 th July to Friday 25 th September
TERM FOUR	Monday 12 th October to Friday 11 th December

Please note: The dates may vary due to Pupil Free Days.
These will be advertised in the school newsletter, planner and website.

OUR PHILOSOPHY FOR THE KINDY PROGRAM

The Kindergarten program aims to create an environment where children learn through free play, discovery, hands-on activities and teacher directed activities, which are appropriate to their developmental level.



The Kindergarten environment aims to:

- Develop a sense of wonder about God
- Allow children to be children
- Provide rich experiences that are stimulating, hands-on, creative and challenging
- Foster in each child an enthusiasm and joy for learning
- Develop their pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills
- Develop the ability to communicate verbally and non verbally their thoughts, ideas and feelings
- Encourage socialisation and positive relationships
- Develop their fine and gross motor skills
- Encourage a healthy moral awareness
- Make Kindergarten a place where children feel comfortable and valued, in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Our planning is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and has strong links to the Australian Curriculum. This describes the broad parameters, structure, principles and outcomes required to enhance children's learning from birth to five. It focuses on: play-based intentional learning; the role of teachers in facilitating children's learning; five outcomes and seamless transition from learning in childcare to learning in school.

The Kindergarten program is developed through the interest of the children. During a year, one or more units of inquiry may be covered. Most of the activities, reading material and discussions focus on developing knowledge about the topic. The learning is led by the students, they are encouraged to explore, ask questions and share ideas.

The classroom is arranged into a variety of learning centres in which the children can visit during indoor investigation time. Learning Centres are areas in the classroom focusing on different subject areas and capitalise on the child's natural need to explore and investigate in a hands-on way. Children will also complete teacher directed activities during the sessions.

The outdoor environment is viewed as an extension of our classroom. A variety of equipment is set up each day to help to develop gross motor skills, promote social skills and provide opportunities for learning.

ENROLMENT DETAILS

Please make sure that the office and teacher have current details, such as address, telephone number, emergency contact numbers and any relevant medical information. Please notify the school office of any change to address, phone numbers etc. Enrolment details must be kept up to date.

THE KINDY DAY



8:30am	Children begin to arrive
8:45am	Bell rings to start the day
9am	Mat session Indoor investigation and activities
10:30am	Morning Recess
10:50am	Outdoor play
11:25am	Mat session
11:40am	Specialist class
12:30pm	Lunch Outdoor play
2:00pm	Rest – Quiet activities
2.30-2.45pm	Story Home time

MORNING ROUTINE

- Kindergarten days are **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** 8:45am – 2:45pm

In the morning, children will be welcomed at the door at the commencement of day (from 8:30am). Please encourage your child to carry their own bag and place it in the allocated cubby hole located outside the classroom.

Once their bag has been put away please encourage your child to:

- put their labelled drink bottle, and morning tea/lunch box in the shelves by the door
- encourage your child to go to the toilet if required
- put on their hat and encourage them to join in play

Parents farewell their child. A bell will ring at 8:45 am to signal the commencement of the day.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask the Kindy teacher.

KINDY DAILY REQUIREMENTS

1.BAG: A bag big enough to carry paintings, drawings and constructions

2.HAT: A hat. Please note that the school has a 'NO HAT, NO PLAY IN THE SUN' policy. Please ensure that your child has a labelled hat with them everyday. The children will bring their hat to and from school everyday to allow you to wash as needed.

Please ensure that you put sun-screen on your child every morning to promote sun-safe behaviour. The classroom has a supply of sunscreen kept at the door if you need some.

3.DRINK BOTTLE: A drink bottle that is clearly labelled containing water, so the children may help themselves to a drink throughout the day.

4. MORNING TEA & LUNCH

Please pack your child's morning tea and lunch in a labelled lunch box. They may be packed separately or together eg. in a bento box. We encourage healthy eating choices to maintain optimal learning. Fruit and vegetables and a small snack eg. cheese or crackers are strongly encouraged as a morning snack.



Please pack food that your child would normally eat for lunch at home. We encourage the children to eat all of their sandwich or savoury food before eating other foods. Any uneaten food will be sent home so you can gauge how much was eaten and was liked and disliked.

Please be aware that there may be children that are allergic to nut products. **Please avoid sending any foods that contain nuts or traces of nuts.**

6.SPARE CLOTHES: A change of clothing (suited to the season) should be kept in a labelled plastic bag in your child's school bag to allow us to quickly attend to accidents or spills. Please label all items of clothing.

7. LIBRARY BAG: The children will be visiting the school library and will have the opportunity to borrow a book for the week. Please supply a library bag to keep the books safe.

WHAT TO WEAR TO KINDERGARTEN

It is very important that children wear clothes that are comfortable and manageable. Activities are often messy, so please don't send your child in their best clothes.

Sun safe clothes- no thin straps or crop tops. Please ensure shoulders and tummies are covered.



Our uniform supplier sells a 'We love our Kindy T-shirt' and shorts (optional)
Avoid clothing that may cause difficulty when going to the toilet.

Having manageable shoes will increase your child's independence and confidence. Please ensure children are wearing sensible shoes or sandals that they can independently take off and put on.

SHOES, SNEAKERS OR SANDALS WITH VELCRO STRAPS are recommended. No high heels, thongs or backless shoes. Sport shoes must be worn on sports days.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DROP OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Parents and children are asked to wait outside the classroom when arriving. The doors will be opened at the beginning of the day 8:30 am. Parents must remain with their child until they are admitted by the teacher.

Please do not allow your child to play on any of the playground equipment around the school before or after school.

It is important to arrive on time and to collect your child on time, as this will help him or her feel secure.

At the conclusion of each day 2:45pm, children are farewelled individually as their parent or guardian arrives at the gate at the front of the school. We will not release any child to another adult without prior arrangement. If you have arranged for your child to be collected by another family member or friend, please advise us via email. Children who are not collected by 3.15pm will be taken to the administration office for collection.

We realise that unforeseen circumstances may arise at times, therefore, if you are unable to collect your child or are running late, please telephone to advise the school's administration office.

If you need to collect your child early, please sign your child out at the school's administration office prior to collecting your child.

SETTLING IN

One of the first things your child needs to learn is how to be away from his/ her parents or caregiver. Children love coming to Kindy, however there may be an initial period of adjustment at the start and this will be different for every child. It is important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the environment. The staff will work closely with parents/ caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best chance to settle in.

If your child is distressed, especially in the first weeks of school, it is advisable that you leave promptly and let the staff look after the child. Be assured that children usually settle quickly when mum or dad are out of sight. If at any time your child is distressed and cannot be placated, you will be contacted.

ABSENCES

Legal requirements on monitoring absenteeism have become much more accountable. Parents must inform the school/class teachers prior to the child being absent if it involves a previously arranged appointment. If parents have forgotten to do so, they must inform the school via the administration office before 9.00am on the day. This can be done by emailing the office (admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au)

If your child is late, parents must sign students in at the administration office and obtain a 'Late Arrival Pass.'

It is a legal requirement that the school is notified through an email or note explaining your child's absence.



COMMUNICATION

We consider communication between home and school to be very important. Our first concern is the happiness of your child. Should anything happen at home to upset your child in any way, we would appreciate it if you could let us know.

We will keep you informed about the Kindergarten program through Seesaw, notes and a weekly newsletter.

One of our main forms of communication is an app called Seesaw. Each family will be invited by the teacher through email to join the Seesaw group as your child begins the program. The teacher will send notes/ work/ photos and other information regarding the program through this medium, so please ensure you check the App regularly. This also forms a digital portfolio to showcase the children's learning. This evidence of learning might include products, work samples and lots of photos that reflect the learning process.



The school newsletter is available fortnightly on a Wednesday, on the school website www.stdenis.wa.edu.au and via a link sent through email.

If you have any queries, concerns or information regarding your child's well-being, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to meet with the Kindergarten teacher.

PARENT ROSTER

We love having parents assisting in the classroom, however as the children are very young and still adjusting to being away from their parents, we will evaluate when we will introduce a Parent Roster based on how the group is settled. This will be advised at a later date.

If you are staying for the session you will need to sign in at the school's administration office and receive a visitor's badge.

It is very important that anything you see or hear while on roster remains confidential. The teacher will inform parents of any incidents, accidents or concerns that may have occurred in the session. It is not the place of parents to pass on confidential matters to other parents as it can be misunderstood or taken out of context. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak with the Kindergarten teacher.

We ask that siblings are not brought to the Kindergarten when you are on roster so that you can participate fully and not be distracted by other young ones.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The St Denis school Code of Conduct describes the minimum standards of conduct in all behaviour and decision making to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students. The Code applies to staff, students, volunteers, parents and guardians as applicable. Please refer to the school website for more details.

TOILETING

It is encouraged that all children be toilet trained before attending Kindergarten. If a medical condition exists, the teacher must be informed.

In the event of a toileting accident, wet clothing will be cleaned as much as possible, rinsed and sent home in a plastic bag. If soiled, the child will be made as clean and comfortable as possible and, if necessary, parents will be contacted to pick up their child.

Parents are required to provide at least one change of clothing to be kept in the child's bag. Please ensure clothing is appropriate to the weather.

HEALTH AND MEDICATION

Please do not send your child to Kindergarten if he/she is unwell. This is very important not only for your child but the health of all children and staff. A child who has been unwell may wake up seemingly well but within an hour or two may feel unwell again, so please take this into consideration when deciding whether to send your child to school or not.

If your child falls ill or is injured while at school, you will be contacted. Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date with the office and the Kindy staff.

If your child has any medical conditions or allergies (especially to food), it is essential that you advise the school and in particular, the Kindergarten staff at the beginning of the year. In some cases, a management plan may be requested, e.g. for children with asthma or severe allergy.

All medication for high risk children is kept in separate containers in the classroom. All medication received by high risk children must be recorded.

No medication will be administered to any child unless parents have completed the Medication Record form (available on our school website). Please note that the original script or doctor's authority must be provided and all medications must be in original packaging with the original label showing the student's name, medication name, dosage, and frequency of administration. If there are any changes in medication or dosage, a new script or doctor's authority will need to be provided.

Parents are requested to inform the school if a child has had a communicable/infectious disease and are required to observe the exclusion from school period. Public Health Department recommendations for most common infectious diseases are listed on their website.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The children are asked not to bring toys or personal belongings to Kindergarten as items lost or broken often cause the children undue stress.

BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays in Kindy. We promote a healthy and nutritious approach to food at school. Children are made to feel special on their day, but parents are advised that cakes and lollies are not permitted at St Denis Kindergarten.



SPECIALIST TEACHERS AND PROGRAMS

As part of our school's registration, we must provide a developmentally appropriate protective behaviours curriculum. Our school has adopted the 'Keeping Safe' program.

The students attend Music and AUSLAN with a specialist teacher

Throughout the year the children may be involved in programs such as gymnastics through specialised coaches during Physical Education lessons.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Speech screening will be conducted by a registered Speech Therapist in Kindergarten. The classroom teacher will also complete the Pre-Literacy Screening during the year. The school nurse will visit the Kindergarten children to check their hearing and vision and report back to parents.

Fine and gross motor skills are incorporated into the daily kindy program.