



Kindergarten to School

A transition guide for parents of pre-schoolers

Produced by Goldfields Principals' Network

Goldfields Network of Education Facilities

KINDERGARTENS AND PRE-SCHOOLS

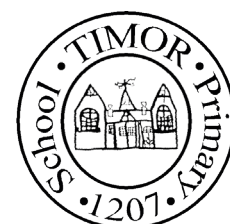
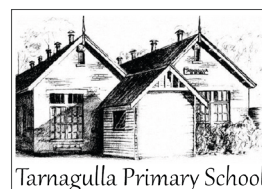
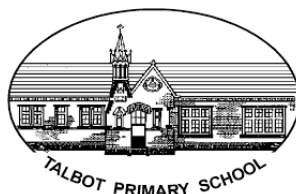
- A.G. Leech Kindergarten
- Californian Gully Kindergarten
- Dunolly Kindergarten
- Goldfields Family Centre
- Paisley Park Learning Centre
- T.L. Stone Memorial Kindergarten

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Avoca Primary School
- Bealiba Primary School
- Carisbrook Primary School
- Dunolly Primary School
- Maryborough Education Centre P-12 & Specialist
- Talbot Primary School
- Tarnagulla Primary School
- Timor Primary School

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- St Augustine's Primary School



MARYBOROUGH
EDUCATION CENTRE
Prep - 12 & Special School

St. Augustine's
Catholic Primary School
MARYBOROUGH

Is my child ready for school?



Knowing if your child is ready for school now, or will be when school starts is essential. Factors determining this will include: age, maturity, social skills level, physical wellbeing and independence.

Attending Kindergarten or an Early Childhood program helps children and families to lay the foundations for future learning. Early Childhood teachers plan environments and experiences to support children's transition to formal schooling. Educators provide a safe environment for children to learn about themselves, how to relate and communicate with others in positive ways, how to solve problems, to become more independent and increase self-confidence.

To make a decision about School Readiness for your child (where any underlying special need does not exist), parents may want to consider the level at which their child performs in the following areas:

✓ ***Language Skills***

- Can understand and follow simple instructions provided by an adult.
- Can hear and repeat a range of sounds.
- Can be easily understood by others.
- Makes eye contact with others during conversations.

✓ ***Self-care and Motor Skills***

- Can dress themselves i.e. can put on own jacket and toilet independently.
- Can open their lunchbox/water bottle and un-wrap food.
- Can use a pencil and scissors safely.
- Can manipulate objects easily; such as play-dough.

✓ ***Social and Emotional Skills***

- Can socialise and play with their classmates safely.
- Can deal with the structured nature of formal learning environments.
- Is able to focus on tasks for at least 5 minutes.
- Copes with transitions and changes to their routine.
- Understands rules and recognises the rights of others.

✓ ***Independence***

- Can cope with less adult supervision and remain on task.
- Will ask for help when needed.
- Will take responsibility for belongings such as hats and jackets.

Enrolling in a school



Now is the time to start thinking about a primary school for your child. The Goldfields Network of Schools plays a vital role in providing high quality education for all students. To further strengthen the effectiveness of the system, our schools have committed to ensuring that our school transition programs connect with the kindergartens and pre-schools in our shire.

All of the schools have points of difference, making them unique. All schools in our shire provide high quality, safe learning environments that equip students for success in life and work. The contacts below are more than willing to spend time with you discussing your child's needs and how their school can address those needs.

School Name	Principal	Contact Person	Number
Avoca PS	Jacinta Dellavedova	Jacinta Dellavedova	54 65 3176
Bealiba PS	Carol Taylor	Carol Taylor	54 69 1256
Carisbrook PS	Christina Drummond	Christina Drummond	54 64 2353
Dunolly PS	Katie Lovel	Katie Lovel	54 68 1111
Maryborough Education Centre P-12 & Specialist	David Sutton	Kelsey Chandler	54 61 7900
St Augustine's PS	Sonia Turner	Sonia Turner	54 60 4440
Talbot PS	Travis Faulkhead	Travis Faulkhead	54 63 2373
Tarnagulla PS	Leigh Mellberg	Leigh Mellberg	54 38 7355
Timor PS	Andrew Tatchell	Andrew Tatchell	54 61 2595

Enrolment

Your child must already be five years of age, or turn five, by 30th April of the year they start school. A child must be attending a primary school in the year they turn six unless given written consent by the Department of Education and Training (DET).

You may enrol your child in a Victorian school as soon as you feel comfortable with your school choice. Contact schools for more information.



In the Goldfields Network we believe it is in the best interests of families, children and schools that enrolments are completed prior to June. The schools and kindergartens will support you with any help you may need to do this, so please speak with them about the process. You can do this by ringing for an enrolment meeting with the primary schools or asking your kindergarten teacher to assist you with making contact with the school.

To officially enrol in primary school you must provide a copy of:

- **Child's Birth Certificate**
- **Your contact, phone and address details and that of any other parent**
- **An emergency contact's name and details**
- **Immunisation Status Certificate**
- **Relevant medical information including doctor and dentist's name**
- **Any specialist reports or assessments including health and welfare information**

Once your child has been enrolled into a school they will be expected to attend the school's transition program. Please note that your child can only attend the transition program once they are formally enrolled with the school.

Transition

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, transition visits will not be taking place until further notice.



Uniform



Most of the schools in our network have a school uniform. Please check with your intended school to confirm what their policy is. Most schools will have samples of uniform available for you to look at and should be able to place an order for you. This way your child will be able to be in uniform from the beginning of the school year.

Helping your child to be ready for school



Ways to support your child to get ready for the transition to school are outlined below:

- Read to your child each day and use books/rhymes/songs/games as a pleasurable shared experience. This will assist your child in learning to:
 - Hold the book up the right way
 - Read the book from left to right
 - Turn the pages of the book one at a time
 - Recognise letters of the alphabet
 - Identify that different letters make different sounds
- Make everyday things an exploration of language. Ask your child questions and listen carefully to their answers. You might ask questions like:
 - What do objects feel like?
 - What do objects look like (shape, colour and size are easy starters)?
 - What do they sound like?
 - What are they similar or different to?
 - How are they similar or different?
 - How do you think they work?
 - Why do you think they work that way?
- Encourage your child's natural curiosity. Engage and play with your child and encourage them to try different ways of doing things. You can use similar questions to those above to promote conversation and understanding.
- Support your child to dress themselves and teaching them to use the toilet independently, including washing hands thoroughly is essential.
- Make sure your child has crayons and pencils and a supply of paper to draw/write on in order to explore their ideas and praise their efforts. Teaching your child to write their name is an excellent idea. Encourage them to use capital and lower case letters correctly when writing their name (capital letter at the start followed by lower case).
- Encourage your child to mix with other children in different environments and support them to become involved in various experiences.

Useful links and resources

Department of Education and Training (DET)

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Kidspot – Information and blogs for parents and kids across hundreds of topics

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/school/stuff-for-school/getting-organised/back-to-school-101-the-emotional-side-of-school/news-story/8c1f2f3ae8e9028055a9d0415a6cc530>

Child & adolescent area mental health services – Information and resources pertaining to mental health services for people aged 0-18 years

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/camhs/>

Family Education – Information and articles relating to children and parents

<http://school.familyeducation.com/educational-issues/parents-and-school/34360.html>

