



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education
and Child Development

Gumeracha Primary School

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TRANSITION POLICY

This document concerns itself with transition practices for those starting school as Reception students and those leaving the school as Year 7 graduates.

Admission for Reception Students

Intakes for children starting school for the first time are on the first day of Term 1.

If your child turns five **before May 1**, they will start **school** on the first day of Term One in that year.

If your child turns five **on or after May 1**, they will start **school** on the first day of Term One the following year.

Children are not legally obliged to start school until they are 6 years of age. Some families are choosing to delay entry to school if they feel their child is too young, usually if they are still under 5 years of age.

Once a child is enrolled in school they must legally attend regularly.

If consideration is being given to delaying entry to preschool and school, consultation should occur between the family, early year's educators and any other professionals involved with the child.

Children are entitled to only one year of preschool, that being in the year before they start school.

If any delay to school entry is being considered this needs to be planned well in advance to enable the child to transition straight from preschool to school without a gap between finishing the eligible year of preschool and beginning school.

For further information you may read the Dept. for Education and Child Development website. Go to Same First Day and Transition to School:

<http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/default.asp?id=42918&navgrp=151>

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teachingandlearning/default.asp?id=46040&navgrp=2637>

Junior Primary Years

With the single start, children will spend twelve terms in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as follows:-

4 terms – Reception

4 terms – Year 1

4 terms – Year 2

The above guidelines are set to address the best needs of students now and in their futures. In exceptional circumstances the school may identify students who require less time in Junior Primary. In such cases the class teacher will discuss this option with the Principal and the Parents.

Transition for Reception Students

The transition programme will involve a number of visits and will occur during Term 4 before the child is to start school.

The staff at Gumeracha Primary School believes a smooth transition into the school environment provides children with a positive beginning to their schooling years. This experience allows:

- Students to become familiar with the school environment and classroom environment and resources.
- Students to become familiar and comfortable with all staff within the school.
- Students to build positive relationships with other students at school.
- Students to interact and form positive attitudes towards their new learning environment.

Therefore we have established the following procedures to ensure every student's transition into our school is successful.

Prior to transition visits the Reception teacher will visit the pre-schools to meet with the children coming to Gumeracha Primary School. At that time the Reception teacher and the Pre-School Director will organise a meeting to discuss children's developmental levels at a mutually agreed time to suit both educators.

The Reception teacher will spend time reading each child's preschool Summative Report to support their understanding of the child's strengths and learning needs.

The transition visits will occur over three weeks in Term 4 of each year. The day will vary from year to year, but the three visits will be on the same day of each week.

- First visit: 8.45am – 11.00am (children bring their recess, a piece of fruit for Crunch and Sip, a water bottle and a hat)
Parent Information Meeting – school tour, meet the Principal/Teacher
Discuss class routines.
- Second visit: 8.45am – 1.30pm (children bring their recess a piece of fruit for Crunch and Sip, a water bottle and a hat and lunch)
- Third visit: 8.45am – 1.30pm (children bring their recess, a piece of fruit for Crunch and Sip, a water bottle and a hat and lunch)
- A fourth visit will be determined as required

Individual transition programmes will be negotiated for students who have special needs to ensure individual needs are addressed.

Transition for Year 7 Students

Gumeracha Primary School recognises that the transition from primary to secondary schooling is a major milestone for both students and parents. Our staff believes that a smooth and positive transition to secondary schooling will enable the students to successfully build on the learning and the successes that they have achieved during their primary school years.

We have therefore established the following procedures to ensure that the transition from primary school to secondary is a positive experience for all students and families.

- All DECD Transition information will be distributed to families as required.
- Secondary Schools will be encouraged to visit Gumeracha Primary School to meet with Year 7 students and teachers, provide information, and answer questions.
- As part of our reporting process, families of Year 7 students will be provided with information regarding their readiness for secondary school, specifically focusing on the students' strengths, and areas needing development. The promotion of Independent Learning Skills will occur to ensure that students increase their levels of readiness for secondary school.
- Gumeracha Primary School staff will communicate with secondary schools to ensure that important information relating to each child's social, emotional and academic development is passed onto the secondary schools.
- Extra visits from and to secondary schools will be arranged as required, as well as additional visits for students with special needs as deemed necessary by the schools involved.
- Year 7 students will spend at least one day on a transition visit at the secondary school that they will be attending. This will take place towards the end of Term 4 in the year prior to their departure from primary school. Extra visits from and to secondary schools will be arranged as required.

Reviewed and revised, March 2019