



**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 6 graduates.

Admission for Reception Students

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 between **May 1 and October 31**, they can start school in term 3 of the same year

If your child turns five on or after **November 1**, they will start school in term one of 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. Starting School:

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/enrol-school-or-preschool/school-enrolment/starting-school>

Junior Primary Years

With the addition of a mid-year intake, children will spend either twelve or fourteen terms in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as follows:-

START OF YEAR INTAKE

4 terms – Reception
4 terms – Year 1
4 terms – Year 2

MID YEAR INTAKE

6 terms – reception
4 terms – Year 1
4 terms – Year 2

Transition for Reception Students

The staff at Gumeracha Primary School believes a smooth transition into the school environment provides children with a positive beginning to their schooling years. The transition program may involve visits before the child is to start school.

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.

Prior to transition, 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.

Transition for Year 6 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 Department for Education Transition information will be distributed to families as required.
- Secondary Schools will be encouraged to visit Gumeracha Primary School to meet with Year 6 students and teachers, provide information, and answer questions.
- As part of our annual reporting process, families of Year 6 students will be provided with information regarding their 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.
- Year 6 students will spend at least one day on a transition visit at the secondary school that they will be attending, the date/s will be determined by the High School Leadership team. This will generally 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, as well as additional visits for students with special needs as deemed necessary by the schools involved.

Reviewed and revised, July 2023