

# McDOWALL STATE SCHOOL



## PREPARATORY YEAR EARLY ENTRY

The decision about when a child enrolls into the Preparatory Year is extremely important and should be made in the child's best educational interests to enable a positive and successful start to school.

### **Preparatory Year Eligibility**

Preparatory Year eligibility for children is from the beginning of the school year in which they will reach the age of 5 years by 30<sup>th</sup> June. This means that children born in July to December would attend the Preparatory Year in the year after they would turn 5 years of age. All Queensland children are required to undertake the Preparatory Year, prior to commencing Year 1.

Early or delayed entry to the Preparatory Year are options which may be considered in specific circumstances and where it is in the child's best educational interests.



### **Early Entry To Preparatory Year**

Early entry to the Preparatory Year is only possible if the child meets all the legislative conditions set out in Part 4, Section 15 of the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006*. Early entry to the Preparatory Year is an exception, not the rule.

**A child who is younger than the prescribed age for the Preparatory Year is only able to commence school early if:**

- They turn 5 years by 31<sup>st</sup> July in the year they propose to attend the Preparatory Year; or
- They have previously enrolled at school in another state or country; and in both cases,

- **The Principal is satisfied that the child is ready for formal education.**

Previous school enrolment in another country, state or territory does not guarantee early entry into the Preparatory Year.

These are the only circumstances in which early entry to the Preparatory Year is permitted, and they apply to all schools in Queensland.

Students approved for early entry into the Preparatory Year will be expected to attend school on every school day and will be taught and learn about all areas of the Australian Curriculum at a younger age than usual.



A child will only be enrolled early into the Preparatory Year, if the Principal is satisfied that the child has the required attributes, and early enrolment will be in the child's best interest. For example: While a child may be highly capable in reading or counting, they might not have developed the social or emotional maturity required for success at school.

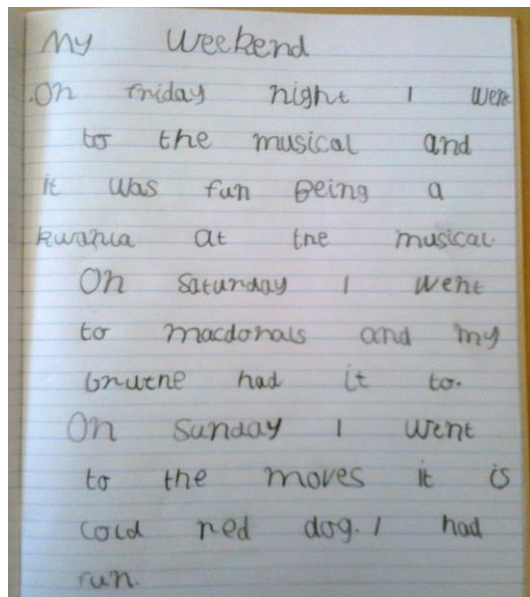
It is a legislative requirement for Principals to assess children for early entry to the Preparatory Year according to four attributes:

- Aptitude and ability;
- Social and emotional competence;
- Physical development; and
- Level of knowledge and understanding.

The Principal, in consultation with the Deputy Principal P-1 and other relevant personnel, eg. Preparatory Year teachers, Head of Curriculum, Guidance Officer, Speech Language Pathologist, etc; will assess the child's attributes based on the following:

- Information provided in the Application for Enrolment Form;
- Discussion with the child's parents about the child's attributes;
- Observation of the child made by school staff; and
- School readiness screening and assessments.

If the Principal determines that the child has the required attributes to enter the Preparatory Year early, the school will provide the parent with an Application for Enrolment Form. If the child has not yet developed all of the attributes required for early entry to the Preparatory Year, they are not eligible for enrolment.



A parent who is interested in early entry into the Preparatory Year should contact the McDowall State School to discuss the requirements with the Deputy Principal P-1 or Principal.

### **Delayed Entry To Preparatory Year For Children Who Have Not Previously Been Enrolled In The Preparatory Year**



Parents may delay their child's entry to the Preparatory Year (and subsequently Year 1) if they feel that the child is not ready to start school. For example: The child is still developing their social and emotional skills. The child may then commence the Preparatory Year when they are of compulsory school age (6 years and 6 months).

No formal documentation, assessment or approval is required for delayed entry to the Preparatory Year. School Leadership do not make decisions on

delaying a child's entry to the Preparatory Year. While some parents may choose to discuss their decision to delay entry, it is not necessary for parents to do so.