

First Day of School - 2021



The McDowall State School delivers excellence in quality preparatory and primary education services. A quality curriculum delivered by effective professional teaching upholds our vision for all students to experience success and to assume increasing levels of self-responsibility in the achievement of pre-determined learning outcomes within a supportive learning context strengthened by partnerships. In summary, this school commits to:

- ✓ **A focus on the child**
- ✓ **Effective teaching resulting in learning**
- ✓ **Best outcomes for all students**
- ✓ **A quality curriculum**
- ✓ **Partnerships**

School selection is a well researched and considered decision. We know that all schools are different. Parents should always access the '*most appropriate school programme*' at which-ever school location for the specific learning needs of their child. We accept that this may not always be McDowall State School. Thank you for entrusting the preparatory and primary education of your child to us.

Queensland children are required to undertake the Preparatory Year prior to beginning Year 1. The Preparatory Year is a full-time programme that enrolled students attend from Monday to Friday during normal school hours. To enrol in the Preparatory Year, children must be aged 5 years by 30th June in the year they begin the Preparatory Year. Parents may delay their child's entry to the Preparatory Year (and subsequently Year 1), if their child has not previously been enrolled in the Preparatory Year and if they feel that the child is not ready to start formal education. The child may then commence the Preparatory Year when they are of compulsory school age (6 yrs and 6 months). No formal documentation, assessment or approval is required for delayed entry to the Preparatory Year. The Preparatory Year is the start of the Early Years of (Formal) Learning extending P-2, then Years 3-6. Preparatory Year students are taught the Foundation Year of the Australian Curriculum (<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au>) The Preparatory Year is part of the McDowall State School.

Enrolment placements within the McDowall State School are highly sought after by parents. An Enrolment Management Plan is in place to ensure that the school remains within its enrolment capacity and to ensure a quality educational experience is provided for enrolled students. (Refer to www.education.qld.gov.au) Should the Principal determine that enrolment capacity exists within a particular Year Level, enrolments are drawn from the Enrolment Waiting List. Limited 'Out-of-Catchment Enrolments' into the Instrumental Music Immersion "*Programme of Excellence*" are also available through audition.

Should your contact details or circumstances affecting this planned student enrolment, change before the start of the 2021 school year, please ensure that you advise McDowall State School Administration on (07) 3872 5333 or by email admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au as soon as possible. There may be families remaining on the Enrolment Waiting List.

Should you have questions relating to your child's transition into the McDowall State School educational programme for 2021, please contact us at your earliest convenience. Please direct all Out-of-School Hours Care enquiries to (07) 3353 5755.

A child's first day at a new school is a significant event. We are keen to ensure that it is as successful as it can be for both parent and child.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce T. Fogarty Principal.

BEING COVID-19 ALERT

COVID-19 is here to stay. Our world, our nation, our society has a “**New Normal**” and everyone must do their part.

You are **not permitted** to enter McDowall State School **IF**:

- You currently experience or display any cold or flu-like symptoms (See your GP).
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue
 - Shortness of breath
 - Runny or stuffed nose
 - Headaches, aches or pains
 - Loss of smell and/or taste
- Have returned from a COVID-19 hot spot in the last 14 days.
- Have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the last 14 days.
- You are an active COVID-19 case.
- You have been tested for COVID-19 and are yet to be cleared.

Entering the McDowall State School, you **must**:

- Comply with Principal and staff direction and instructions.
- Keep clear and away from restricted access locations. Eg. Classroom / teaching areas. Crowding is not permitted.
- Maintain physical distancing for all adults (1.5m) unless same family. Crowding is not permitted.
- Adult capacity limit is 1 per 2sqm both indoors and outdoors.
- Maintain good hand and general hygiene practices.
- Comply with Contact Tracing requirements (as advised).
- Comply with any COVID-19 School Safe Plans as advised.
- Minimise contact with students and groups of students.
- School events must be fewer than 500 people indoors and fewer than 1,500 people outdoors.
- School must keep contact information about all students, staff and other attendees for contact tracing purposes for a minimum period of 56 days after each entry.

Parents may deliver their child (*if absolutely necessary*) before school to their designated Waiting Area, promptly departing the school site. Frankly, elder students have long demonstrated that they are quite independent and simply need to be set-down at the Kiss-and-Ride Facility. Parents may also elect to return and wait (quietly seated) with P-2 siblings beneath the Large Covered Areas (Tuckerbox and Emblem) and the J Block Undercroft and lawn area from 2,30pm-3pm. Certainly, these same parents may wish to remain under the School Oval Covered Areas. Please note that: (a) Playground equipment is closed and may not be used as cleaning requirements are scheduled (b) Parents are requested not to wait under Covered Areas located between or outside Teaching Blocks – Existing signage applies.

All McDowall State School COVID-19 Procedures will be regularly reviewed to align with State Government advice. Eg. “*Department of Education COVID-19 Operating Guidelines for Queensland State Schools*”.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION CONTACT

McDowall State School Administration reopens from Monday, 18th January, 2021 from 8am – 4pm.

Telephone messages may be left on: 07 3872 5333 or Email: admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

The McDowall State School website: www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

CLASS ADVICE TO PARENTS

To ensure a smooth start to the school year, new families will be contacted by School Administration staff during the week 18th – 21st January, 2021 to confirm that all interviewed P-6 students still intend attending McDowall State School. Once this has been completed (also considering late parental advice of student transfers), draft Preparatory and Years 1-6 Class Lists and teacher allocations will be reviewed in readiness for the first day of school. Parents will receive an email late on **Thursday, 21st January, 2021** advising them of the class placement for their child. Once issued, Class Lists will generally not be amended.

CLASS LISTS

Class Lists will be displayed separately outside classrooms from Day 1. Privacy legislation prohibits the taking of photographs of these Class Lists.

STUDENT BOOK PACK PLACEMENT WITHIN CLASSROOMS

Parents are invited to attend McDowall State School and place their child's Student Book Pack within their allocated classroom on **Friday, 22nd January, 2021** during the times stated below. This should minimise the materials carried by students into the school on Day 1. Teacher Aides will unlock a classroom and advise where book packs may be left (not in tidy trays nor at desks). Teachers will not be present. Teacher Aides cannot be present outside these times as they are required to attend to mandatory training and other duties. Parents may enter, then promptly exit and depart the school so that cleaning requirements are minimal. The classroom will then be relocked until students return to school.

Preparatory Year	10.45am-11.15am
Year 1	10.45am-11.15am
Year 2	11.15am-11.45am
Year 3	11.45am-12.15pm

Year 4	11.45am-12.15pm
Year 5	12.15pm-12.45pm
Year 6	12.45pm-1.15pm

Student Book Packs must be well wrapped and sealed with the student's name and class clearly marked on the outside. If placed within a bag, please place a label or bag tag on the outside. Your child will need to be able to identify their Student Book Pack before placing their belongings into their own desk tidy tray during Day 1.

DAY 1, 2021 **DIFFERENT STARTING TIMES** FOR P-6 STUDENTS

Principal and staff seek Day 1 student arrival to be safe, healthy and a highlight for parents and child. Addressing COVID-19 requirements, adult crowding must be actively discouraged, physical distancing expected and adult 1:2sqm capacity maintained. It is also understood that the classroom is a formal workplace.

Preparatory Year

The first day of formal schooling is significant and parents want to ensure that their child is placed under the care of school staff. At a designated time, parents are requested to use the Metro Street pedestrian gate to access the pathway extending to the area between PC Block and J Block. From there, parents accompany their child to either the PA or PC Covered Area. A supervising teacher aide will be present. From this allocated Covered Area, the class teacher and teacher aide will accompany students to their classroom. Physical distancing and capacity requirements mean that once a teacher collects their class, parents are requested to leave the school site so that other parents may access street parking and attend these same Covered Areas. Please note that Preparatory Year Play Equipment is closed and is not available for family use. Please be assured that if there is a problem, the teacher will phone you and keep you informed.

Preparatory Year students attend Day 1, 2021 during a 20min allocated time window so that all new students may be supported and settled into their class programme. **This staggered start only applies on Day 1.** Please do not arrive outside your designated time window. It is recommended that Preparatory Year parents access McDowall State School via Metro Street pedestrian gate (Term 1 only).

8.00am-8.20am	PA1	PA Covered Area
8.20am-8.40am	PA2	PA Covered Area
8.40am-9.00am	PB2	PA Covered Area

And
And
And

PC1	PC Covered Area
PB1	PC Covered Area
PC2	PC Covered Area

Years 1-6

Where possible, Years 1-6 should independently access the McDowall State School and remain in their designated supervised Waiting Area. (Refer to Day 1, 2021 School Map) These areas are not always located outside Teaching Blocks and are designed to promote adult physical distancing across the school. From these areas, class teachers will accompany students to their classroom. Should a parent accompany their child into the school, physical distancing and capacity requirements mean that once the student is placed into the care of staff, parents are requested to leave the school site so that other parents may access street parking and attend to their child's support needs. To productively maximise the availability of local streetscape car parking and facilitate Kiss-and-Ride Facility continuous movement, Years 1-2 students are to access the school between 8am-8.30am and Years 3-6 students are to access the school between 8.30am-9am. Staff will monitor and assist (students as necessary) between 8.00am and 8.30am. Should siblings of the same family attend, students progress immediately to their designated Waiting Area and quietly remain seated.

8.00am-8.30am	Years 1-2
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8.30am-9.00am	Years 3-6
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From Wednesday, 27th January, 2021, Years 1-2 will daily be dismissed from class at 2.30pm and Years 3-6 will be dismissed from class at 3pm.

Adult Visitor Contact Tracing Day 1, 2021

For student set-down and pick-up entry into the McDowall State School, parent contact details are already recorded within Student Enrolment Records. Should a grandparent, extended family member or family friend whose contact details were not included within a student's enrolment record attend McDowall State School, they **must** attend School Administration and both sign-in and sign-out of the school site. Should parents work in partnership with class teachers as volunteers assisting students or as helpers within programmes, etc in 2021, these parents too **must** attend School Administration and sign-in and sign-out of the school site. This is also a continuing P&C Association Public Liability Insurance requirement.

Upon Arrival Within the School – Day 1, 2021 only

Upon arrival at school, **ALL** students are to gather in their allocated Year Level Waiting Areas (*Refer to Stars*). Large School Maps indicating before school Year Level Waiting Areas will be on display throughout the school.

Preparatory Year By 8.20am By 8.40am By 9am	Parents accompany their child to their designated Preparatory Year Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 1 By 8.30am	All Year 1 classes are located in the multi-storey J Block. For safety reasons, general access is not permitted within building stairwells and onto building verandah areas before school. 1J1-3 classes assemble in the J Block Undercroft . 1J4-6 classes assemble beneath the Animal Mural Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 2 By 8.30am	All Year 2 classes assemble beneath the School Emblem Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 3 By 9am	All Year 3 classes assemble beneath the E/F Block Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 4-5 By 9am	All Years 4-5 classes assemble inside the School Hall . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 6 By 9am	All Year 6 classes assemble beneath the C/D Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.

Upon Dismissal from Class – From Day 1, 2021

Parents may elect to return and wait (quietly seated) with P-2 siblings beneath the Large Covered Areas (Tuckerbox and Emblem) and the J Block Undercroft and lawn area from 2,30pm-3pm. Certainly, these same parents may wish to remain under the School Oval Covered Areas. Please note that: (a) Playground equipment is closed and may not be used as cleaning requirements are scheduled (b) Parents are requested not to wait under Covered Areas located between or outside Teaching Blocks – Existing signage applies.

DAY 2, 2021 **NORMAL STARTING TIMES** FOR P-2 / 3-6 STUDENTS

From Thursday, 28th January, 2021, P-2 students should arrive between 8am-8.15am. Years 3-6 should arrive between 8.15am-8.45am for their school start. Day 1, Arrival Times do not apply.

School Timetabling for P-2 & Years 3-6 from Wednesday, 27th January, 2020.				
School Administration	Preparatory Year to Year 2		Years 3 to Year 6	
8.00am to 4.00pm	Bell sounds	8.15am	Beeper sounds	8.45am
	Instruction	8.20am to 2.30pm	Instruction	8.50am to 3.00pm

Bell	P-2 Sector	
8.15am		
	8.20am	(4 sessions)
10.30am 10.50am	10.30am	Play
	10.55am	Refreshment
	11.10am 11.15am	Debriefing (3 sessions)
12.45pm 1.05pm	12.45pm	Play
	1.10pm	Refreshment
	1.25pm 1.30pm	Debriefing (2 sessions)
2.30pm		

Beeper	Years 3 - 6	
8.45am		
	8.50am	(4 sessions)
11.00am	11.00am	Refreshment
	11.15am	Play
11.35am	11.40am 11.45am	Debriefing (3 sessions)
1.15pm	1.15pm	Refreshment
	1.30pm	Play
1.50pm	1.55pm 2.00pm	Debriefing (2 sessions)
3.00pm		

Adult Visitor Contact Tracing 2021

For student set-down and pick-up entry into the McDowall State School, parent contact details are already recorded within Student Enrolment Records. Should a grandparent, extended family member or family friend whose contact details were not included within a student's enrolment record attend McDowall State School, they **must** attend School Administration and both sign-in and sign-out of the school site. Should parents work in partnership with class teachers as volunteers assisting students or as helpers within programmes, etc in 2021, these parents too **must** attend School Administration and sign-in and sign-out of the school site. This is also a continuing P&C Association Public Liability Insurance requirement.

Upon Arrival Within the School – From Day 2, 2021

Upon arrival at school, **ALL** students are to gather in their normal allocated Year Level Waiting Areas.

8.00am-8.15am	PA1, PA2, PB2	PA Covered Area
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And

PB 1, PC1, PC2	PC Covered Area
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Preparatory Year By 8.15am	Parents accompany their child to their designated Preparatory Year Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 1 By 8.15am	All Year 1 classes are located in the multi-storey J Block. For safety reasons, general access is not permitted within building stairwells and onto building verandah areas before school. All Year 1 classes assemble in the J Block Undercroft . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 2 By 8.15am	All Year 2 classes assemble beneath the Animal Mural Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 3 By 8.45am	All Year 3 classes assemble beneath the E/F Block Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 4-5 By 8.45am	All Years 4-5 classes assemble beneath the School Emblem Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.
Year 6 By 8.45am	All Year 6 classes assemble beneath the C/D Covered Area . Class teachers and teacher aides will meet, organise and assist students settle within their classroom.

Upon Dismissal from Class – From Day 1, 2021

Parents may elect to return and wait (quietly seated) with P-2 siblings beneath the Large Covered Areas (Tuckerbox and Emblem) and the J Block Undercroft and lawn area from 2,30pm-3pm. Certainly, these same parents may wish to remain under the School Oval Covered Areas. Please note that: (a) Playground equipment is closed and may not be used as cleaning requirements are scheduled (b) Parents are requested not to wait under Covered Areas located between or outside Teaching Blocks – Existing signage applies.

PREPARATORY YEAR TRANSITION STATEMENTS

Preparatory Year teachers support a child's formal learning by making connections between school and their experiences at home, kindergarten and childcare. Parents are requested to begin assembling information about their child's learning and development during the Kindergarten Year. This information should be made available to the Deputy Principal P-1 as soon as possible. Your kindergarten will issue a 'Transition Statement' for your child, to you, toward the end of this year. When received, please leave a photocopy with McDowall State School Administration. Alternatively, parents may complete a 'Transition Statement Consent Form' to have the statement copy electronically sent to McDowall State School Administration as soon as it is completed. Please refer to: <http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/kindergarten/curriculum>.

TARTAN TUCKERBOX

The Tartan Tuckerbox will be closed on Day 1, not re-opening until Monday, 1st February, 2021. A Welcome Back Meal Deal will be available for Friday, 29th January, 2021. Preparatory Year students do not access the Tartan Tuckerbox services during Term 1.

UNIFORM SHOP

The McDowall State School P&C Association operates the Uniform Shop, relying on support of parent volunteers. Uniform Shop opening hours are therefore determined when volunteer availability is known.

20th – 22nd January, 2021 Preparatory Year and New Students – By appointment only.
 23rd January, 2021 8.30am – 12.30pm.
 27th – 29th January, 2021 ... 7.45am – 9.30am.

Uniform fittings by appointment – Sign Up at: <http://signup.com.au/go/2R5jET>
 Register on www.flexischools.com.au to order on-line for pick up on 23rd January, 2021.
 Email: uniformshop@mcdowallsspc.org.au

BOOK PACKS

The McDowall State School P&C Association has contracted the supply and distribution of P-6 Student Book Packs to MK Educational Supplies (located at Homebase on cnr of Gympie and Zillmere Roads, Aspley). All Book Pack orders may either be collected from MK Educational Supplies or home delivered. Book Packs are not delivered to McDowall State School.

TARTAN TIMES

The 'Tartan Times' school newsletter is published each fortnight and is the main vehicle of communication between the McDowall State School and families. Information is regularly updated and school procedures explained. Most families elect to receive an email advice when the latest 'Tartan Times' has been posted onto the school website. www.mcdowallss.eq.edu.au The Q Schools app may also be used. Should any family not have on-line access, arrangements can be made through School Administration for a hard copy to be provided.

PARKING

Please expect to park a number of residential blocks away and walk the distance between your car and the school. Parking is extremely restricted and regulated around the McDowall State School. Please take time before school begins to familiarise yourself with traffic and parking signage. Fines will be issued by traffic enforcement officers. Staff do not regulate nor direct traffic. Parent parking is not available within the school grounds. Parents are asked to consider the lifestyle and be courteous to local residents by not blocking driveways nor parking on private property.

CHILD CARE

Child care is provided through **McDowall SS P&C Association Out-of-School Hours Care** located in K Block. Tel: 07 3353 5755. Email: admin@mcdowallossh.org.au Should child care be required for 2021, it is recommended that contact be made as soon as possible. ***Child care is not managed nor provided by the school.*** A Waiting List applies.

Before School Care: 6.30am – 8.30am.

After School Care: 2.30pm – 6.30pm.

Pupil-Free Days Care: 6.30am – 6.30pm.

School Vacation Care: 6.30am – 6.30pm.

LOCAL AREA CAR PARKING

Parking Restrictions and Enforcement

- ▶ The McDowall SS operates separate Sector Timetabling to relieve traffic pressures.
- ▶ School staff do not regulate nor direct traffic.
- ▶ Parent car parking within the McDowall State School grounds is **not permitted**.
- ▶ McDowall SS grounds will be retained as a safe location of staff, parent visitors and students.
- ▶ Regulated parking is provided for staff, complemented by P&C Association staff/long-term volunteers who contribute toward student services.
- ▶ Parking on local area streets and roads is restricted and managed by Brisbane City Council; and enforced by Queensland Police.
- ▶ Registered vehicles have every right to use such public infrastructure and drivers can expect to be fined should they not comply with the law, regulations and signage.
- ▶ Being in a hurry or for personal convenience is not an excuse for blocking a driveway or putting other road users or pedestrian safety at risk. Parents are asked to consider the lifestyle and be courteous to local residents by not blocking driveways or parking on private property.



Kiss-And-Ride Facility

- ▶ Brisbane City Council has provided a Kiss-and-Ride Set-down / Pick-up lane within the public carpark located beside the school oval.
- ▶ School Administration assist parents by providing student supervision for 20 minutes after 2.30pm and again from 3.00pm – 3.30pm at the Kiss-and-Ride Set-down / Pick-up lane.

Solutions

- ▶ Please expect to park a number of residential blocks away and walk the distance between your car and the school. Parking is extremely restricted and regulated around the school. Please take time before school begins to familiarise yourself with traffic and parking signage.
- ▶ Students should be expected to walk to the school gate, attend Out-of-School Age Care or walk to the Kiss-and-Ride Facility supervised area, in preference to parents parking on local area streets and entering the school for student pick-up.
- ▶ Contact Translink and consider accessing local bus services (teacher-aide supervised until 3.30pm).
- ▶ Car pool with neighbours.
- ▶ Park-and-Stride (from a few blocks away from the school).

PARENTS OF PREPARATORY YEAR – YEAR 2 STUDENTS

Please refer to the **P-2 Student Pick-up Advice** form attached to the newsletter (or paper copy). This form can also be found on our website. [Click here](#) for the direct link.

Should your contact details or circumstances affecting a student's planned or continuing enrolment, change before the start of the 2021 school year, please ensure that you advise McDowall State School Administration on (07) 3872 5333 or by email: admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au as soon as possible.

A child's first day at a new school is a significant event. We are keen to ensure that it is as successful as it can be for both parent and child.

DAY 1, STUDENT BEFORE SCHOOL YEAR LEVEL ASSEMBLY LOCATIONS 2021

