



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2017

Centre number: 5667

Centre name: Dover Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director : AARON SELWAY
- Postal address : 37 BROADWAY, SOUTH BRIGHTON 5048
- Location address : 37 BROADWAY, SOUTH BRIGHTON, 5048
- DECD Partnership : HOLDFAST
- Geographical location : 14km from GPO
- Telephone number : 08 82969841
- Preschool website address: <http://www.doverkqn.sa.edu.au/>
- Preschool e-mail address : dl.5667_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: Average enrolments and attendances for 2011-2016
 - 2011 Average enrolments: 58.5
 - 2011 Average attendances: 53
 - 2012 Average enrolments: 61
 - 2012 Average attendances: 51.75
 - 2013 Average enrolments: 68.5
 - 2013 Average attendances: 61.5
 - 2014 Average enrolments: 65
 - 2014 Average attendances: 57
 - 2015 Average enrolments: 62
 - 2015 Average attendances: 54.5

- 2016 Average enrolments: 62
 - 2016 Average attendances: 58
- (2016 information based on Terms 1,2 and 3 as Term 4 not currently available)

- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone site
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - ❖ Occasional Care: The kindergarten offers 6 sessions of funded Occasional Care per week for children 2 years and over. Two sessions per day currently run on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30-11:15 and 12:00-2:45.
 - ❖ Playgroup operates on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:30. All families are welcome. No bookings are required. Cost is \$5 per family per week.
 - ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program operates on MON, TUE, THUR and FRI, 4 hour session each Wednesday (groups alternate)
 - ❖ Bilingual Support : If required
 - ❖ Preschool Support : If required

2. Key Centre Policies

- The kindergarten operates under the motto:-

Empowering children for a successful and sustainable future.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:

The children's learning program is based on the Early Years Learning Framework "Belonging, Being and Becoming" which builds on five main learning goals:

- A strong sense of identity
 - Connections with their world
 - A strong sense of wellbeing
 - Confidence and involvement in their learning
 - Effective communication skills
- Core Values:
 - Respect
 - Cooperation
 - Responsibility
 - Challenge
- Specific curriculum approaches
 - Learning through a play based curriculum
 - Catering for the needs of individual children
 - Embedding sustainable practices into the everyday running of the centre. Promoting its value and importance with children and families.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
 - 1 Full time Director – Band A-1
 - 1 Full time teacher
 - 0.4 Universal Access Teacher
 - 0.6 Occasional Care Worker (ECW2)
 - 1.2 ECW (2 ECW's at 0.6 each)
- Performance Management Program
 - On an annual basis in accordance with DECD guidelines
- Access to special support staff
 - As required – families will use DECD or private services including speech pathologist, psychologist or disability coordinator.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The kindergarten has well maintained grounds that are spacious and functional. The kindergarten has invested in a number of sustainable initiatives such as solar power and recycled rain water. In 2015 a chicken coop was constructed and eggs are sold to the kindergarten community. The chickens now pay for their own upkeep (economic sustainability). Six vegetable garden beds have been established at the back of the building and vertical pallet gardens are now used in the front for growing succulents and herbs. They provide desirable and attractive barriers between play spaces.

- Capacity (per session): The site has a capacity of 44 children based on floor space, however, current capacity is based on staffing ratios of 1 educator to 11 children. Our Monday/Tuesday group and Thursday/Friday group are both at full capacity (33 children in each based on staffing of 2 teachers and 1 ECW). We currently have 111 families accessing the centre in the kindergarten and Occasional Care programs.
- Centre Ownership – DECD owned
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: The kindergarten has some ramp access for wheelchairs and a disabled toilet for adults. However, access through the gates will be difficult as higher security fences were constructed several years ago.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: The majority of the children are from Anglo Saxon families but we generally have several families from multicultural backgrounds. This year we have 4 children from Non-English speaking backgrounds.
Most of the children would come from families where one or both parents are either working or studying.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
The kindergarten encourages a high level of community support through our Governing Council, fundraising activities and assistance with program activities such as cooking and gardening, or manual chores. Since 2015 we have used email as our primary method of communicating with families. This has been highly effective, especially in supporting working families who may not drop off/pick up their child frequently.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:
Almost 50% of our children typically attend Brighton Primary School, then a high number of children who attend either St Teresa's School or Stella Maris School. A small number of children attend other schools in the Holdfast area.
- Other local care and educational facilities,
The kindergarten is central to a number of private child care centres. We also have close ties with other schools and kindergartens within the Holdfast Partnership.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
The kindergarten is within walking distance to Westfield Marion, the new Aquatic Centre, Marion Cultural Centre and the Domain. There are also a number of shops along Brighton Road.
- Other local facilities
We are located across the road from "Dover Square" – a community park with a children's playground and social hub for our families. The Dover Tennis Courts and Community Hall are also within close proximity.
- Accessibility
The kindergarten is close to transport corridors with regular bus and train services within a short distance. The Flinders Medical Centre and University are within a short drive as is the Brighton beach front.
- Local Government
City of Holdfast Bay Council – Phone 8229 9999 (General enquiries)
Brighton Administrative Offices – 24 Jetty Rd Brighton
Glenelg Customer Service Centre – 2 Colley St Glenelg

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups

The kindergarten is part of the Holdfast Partnership which consists of 8 kindergartens, 5 primary schools and Brighton Secondary School in the geographical location of Brighton through to Glenelg.

We are striving to achieve a close working relationship with all schools within our partnership. In 2016 we worked closely with Brighton Primary School to develop a stronger transition process to support children moving from kindergarten to school. This involved visits from Reception classes to the kindergarten, delivering information to our children on what school is like and what learning is like at school. We also had visits from all Reception educators prior to school visits.

The kindergarten developed our own video with the 2016 children which was provided to those children attending in 2017. The video was designed for parents to watch with their children to stimulate discussion and to replace the fear and anxiety that children often face moving into a new environment with excitement and anticipation.