Port Broughton Kindergarten

Transition Policy

Kindergarten is a wonderful environment in which through play young children are actively involved in their own learning and in which both planned and incidental learning takes place. The transition from home to kindy is a large step for most children and often larger for their parents. Our aim is provide an environment where children feel safe and their wellbeing is our immediate concern where we help them leave the security of their parent/caregiver and develop trust and confidence to be happy to join into our kindy routine. The transition to school is equally as daunting. We work together with families, the community and the Port Broughton Area School to make this change a positive experience for all involved.

To support the successful transition from home to kindy we have on offer:
- Playgroup sessions every Friday from 10:00am – 11:45am which not only is a great opportunity to develop social skills, hand eye coordination and gross motor skills but also an opportunity to familiarise themselves with our kindy room and resources.
- Information sessions to parents of children about to start pre-entry.
- Pre-entry one session per week for children who are starting Full time Kindy the following term
- Home visits for children in their first term of full time Kindy to get to know each child in their familiar surroundings
- Playgroup are invited to a Kindy session twice a term to familiarise themselves with children, staff and the environment.

To support the transition from Kindy to School we have:
- Strong Links with JP Classes and staff
  - Cross age transition program includes fortnightly visits to and from PBAS with the R/1 class
  - Formal and Informal transition program for children about to start school
  - Planned activities with special days and excursions
  - Negotiated Educational Plan meetings re children with special and/or additional needs if necessary
  - The kindergarten has a regular lesson time planned with the teacher librarian each fortnight. The activities are programmed to fit our current theme, are age appropriate and familiarise kindergarten children with a community facility

Communication Links
- Regular consultation between R/1 teacher, Deputy Principal and Preschool Director
- A Governing Council rep from the Kindy presents information between the Kindy and School’s Governing Council Meetings
- Professional Development Sessions

Facilities
- Kindergarten children regularly use the school oval for Physical Education Games and activities
- Other school equipment is available if necessary for Kindy Staff to use
Cooperation and consultations with community, school and kindergarten

- Buses, routes and meetings

At the Kindergarten we work strongly with parents to support the development of their skills on the Governing Council. Many of them leave feeling confident of their contribution to and knowledge of early childhood education—leaving them to continue involvement through School Council and LAP programs.

We are proud of the strong links between the school and the Kindergarten at Port Broughton and know they will grow and strengthen with support from staff, parents and the community.

Successful Transition occurs when:

- Children have contact with their new school to familiarise themselves with routines and surroundings
- Children have contact with their future school staff, both in the preschool and school environments, to enable children and staff to meet each other and begin to build a relationship.
- Parents and children’s wellbeing, feelings, and needs are considered. An opportunity for review is provided through surveys to children/families/staff, and that the findings are used to further the transition program.
- There is a clear and open communication between staff, parents and children that supports the development of positive relationships and learning for students.

Timeline for transition Planning:

**Week 9**  
Organise weekly visit dates to and from school for the following term

**Week 1**  
Kindergarten staff send out a letter outlining transition to school details

**Week 3 or 4**  
Children who are starting school in the following term visit their new class for informal visits which lasts approximately 20 minutes

**Week 5**  
PBAS sends out “Footsteps from Kindy to School” to families of school starters  
Kindy staff and school staff meet to discuss school starters

**Week 6**  
PBAS hold a Parent information session for parents of the new school starters

**Week 7 or 8**  
Formal transition starts with increasing time increments:
- 8:50–11:30 (pack recess)
- 8:50–1:45 (pack recess and lunch)
- 8:50–3:20 (pack recess and lunch)

**Last week of term**  
Graduation ceremony where the Principal of PBAS and Reception Teacher attends and presents the new school starters with a hat and a welcome letter/certificate.

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Signed:  
Chairperson – Governing Council (Leah Townsend)  
Director – Port Broughton Kindergarten (Belinda Petherick)