



Oak Flats Public School Philosophy



At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we “promote academic success along with social and emotional wellbeing, supporting all students to reach their full potential.” (Oak Flats Public School Vision)

We believe that Early Childhood (0-8 years) is the most crucial time for development and growth in a person’s life. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we nurture this development by employing Educators whose role it is to scaffold and extend children’s learning. Oak Flats Public School Preschool encourages children to enjoy just **being** with unhurried time to play and experience everyday life. As the children engage in meaningful experiences at Preschool, they are **becoming** capable, competent, and confident learners. Children at Oak Flats Public School Preschool feel safe, secure, and supported through meaningful relationships with the Educators. By taking ownership of the curriculum and environment, the children develop a sense of **belonging**. Children know that they have a voice that is respected and valued.

At the Preschool we believe that it is a child’s right to have opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential. These opportunities are provided in a high-quality program that is underpinned by research, the principles of the National Quality Standards, the Early Years Learning Framework, and the Early Childhood Code of Ethics. The following Principles guide our practice.

Secure, Respectful and Reciprocal Relationships

We believe that relationships are key to a child’s success in Early Childhood. We value positive, trusting, and open relationships with staff, children, families, the local community, and school community. The Educators invest time in becoming familiar with the children and their families. They build ties that last throughout the child’s time at Oak Flats Public School.

Partnerships

At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we believe that families, children, staff, the local community, and the school community are all partners in the educational and care process. We believe in regularly connecting with the school and local community and embed events in our program. There is a strong belief in providing a positive transition to school program which prepares the school for the arrival of the children in the following year. Educators work together to provide a high-quality program. Children are encouraged to be actively involved in making decisions about their time at Preschool learning. We work closely with families to bridge the gap between home and school and provide continuity of care.

High Expectations and Equity

We believe that all children are individuals who have the right to achieve at their own pace and according to their own abilities. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, the Educators meet the children where they presently are and hold high expectations for them. We continually strive to find equitable and developmentally appropriate ways to ensure that all the children reach their full potential. We work with specialists to provide activities that support children.

Respect for Diversity

All children have the right to an education regardless of their gender, background, or abilities. We honour the histories, cultures, languages, traditions, child rearing practices, and lifestyle choices of families. At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we meaningfully embed different cultures’ perspectives in the program. We celebrate the differences that we all bring to Preschool and are respectful of each other. The Preschool daily acknowledges the people of the Dharawal nation and thanks them for letting us share their land.

Ongoing Learning and Reflective Practice

At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we believe that we are all lifetime learners. With regular findings in research and the Early Childhood Profession constantly evolving, it is necessary to engage in professional learning, to build our professional knowledge. We willingly seek out, reflect on, and implement professional learning that enhances our practice. Our Educators daily engage in critical reflection of our curriculum and practices to inform decision-making and continual improvement. We welcome reflective practice from families, the children, the community, and the school community.

Practice: The educators draw on a range of strategies to promote children's learning including:

- Adopting holistic approaches
- Being responsive to children
- Planning and implementing learning through play
- Intentional teaching
- Creating physical and social learning
- Environments that have a positive impact on children's learning
- Valuing the cultural and social contexts of children and their families
- Providing for continuity in experiences and enabling children to have successful transition
- Assessing and monitoring children's learning to inform provision and to support children in achieving learning outcomes.

Play and the Curriculum

We believe that play is the brain's favourite way to learn. Through play children develop dispositions that will encourage lifelong learning. At the preschool, we provide a stimulating play-based curriculum that supports exploration, investigation, meaningful engagement with others, creativity, and expression of self. All children and families are encouraged and supported to contribute to the program. Our program cements its foundations in the Early Years Learning Framework.

Sustainability

At Oak Flats Public School Preschool, we believe that we have a responsibility to teach tomorrow's leaders about sustainability for them to ensure that the natural resources and overall well being of the earth can have the capacity to keep going. We provide an environment and learning experiences that encourage nurturing, reflection, knowledge building, and advocacy for a better planet.

Personal Philosophies

"Fun, friendly space to learn and play." – Daliya Phipps. Responsible Person in Charge

"All children regardless of age, gender, ability, culture or religion have the right to high quality early childhood education that is sensitive to their needs and is provided within a safe, caring, stimulating and healthy environment to reach their full potential." – Alice Wigny. Relieving Responsible Person in Charge

"A love of learning through play and exploration." – Kellie Urszulak. Nominated Supervisor

"Early Childhood Education and Care is all about relationships and sets the foundation for all future learning." – Sarah Beesley. Early Childhood Teacher

"Quality learning experiences and activities with a focus on school transitions. Respect for self, others and learning. Developmental boundaries and routines supported by Preschool PBL" – Nicole Tate. Early Childhood Educator

Children's Philosophies

At Preschool:

- We play and we learn
- We wash our hands and we eat our lunch
- We learn to look after chickens
- It is fun
- Our teachers look after us and help us to learn
- It is a great place to make friends.

