



Bridgewater Kindergarten Inc

2021 annual report to the community

Bridgewater Kindergarten Inc Number: 4606

Partnership: Mount Lofty

Signature

Preschool director:

Mrs Glenda Henderson

Governing council chair:

Mr Andrew Heath

Date of endorsement:

17 March 2022



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Context and highlights

Bridgewater Kindergarten is based in the Mt Lofty Partnership, in the Adelaide Hills. We are a part time Centre, with sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 to 15:00 and Thursdays 9:00 to 12:00. All children attend all sessions. Pre-entry is determined each year by the numbers currently enrolled and the number of pre-entry children. Playgroup which is open to the community, operates on Mondays during the school term, 9:30 to 11:30. Bridgewater Kindergarten is nestled in a Bushland setting in the Adelaide Hills. Our enrolments range from 22 children to a maximum of 33. Our unique physical environment provides a safe, nurturing space where children can explore, investigate, inquire and question their world. The large natural, bushland playground enables opportunities for adaptable and creative learning. Our own Bridgewater Kindergarten Bushland, Pintyi-illa Ngangkiparri (Kurna/Peramangk name) adjacent to the playground offers wonderful opportunities to widen our experiences of our local natural environment and forms an important part of our curriculum. The local community are invited to explore Pintyi-illa Ngangkiparri, interpretive signs, plant identifiers and our Street Library, Taikkurringka Pirrku, support this. Children's Voice, Nature Play, Sustainability, Aboriginal perspectives and respecting the environment underpin our learning programme. Both indoor and outdoor learning environments are valued and we continue to develop flexible spaces where the indoors and outdoors merge seamlessly. We invite the outdoors in, and the indoors out. A large verandah offers valuable protective learning space for all seasons and a portal to the outdoors.

As an Educational Community we are committed to developing a culture where children feel comfortable to speak out, offer suggestions, ask questions and have an active voice in their learning. Inquiry is expected and encouraged. We also commit to open communication between educators and families. Families are encouraged to be involved in the kindergarten programme and to join our Governing Council.

Governing council report

2021 Bridgewater Kindergarten Governing Council was made up of 8 parents who volunteered their time and energy to another challenging year. With the COVID-19 pandemic restricting community engagement heavily in 2020, we were initially hoping for greater involvement in 2021. Due to health restrictions related to COVID-19 many planned activities to involve children, parents and the wider community did not eventuate. Ultimately the health and well-being of others outweighed the need to physically engage more with the community and fundraise.

There were several achievements worth noting: Bridgewater Kids Discovery Trail brochure –a fantastic way devised to help promote the Kindergarten, but also getting outdoors and exploring Bridgewater. Special thanks to the Kindergarten children for their artistic contribution and Josie and Meg and for all their hard work. We hope this brochure will be taken on by future governing council's to develop, expand and share wider in the community. Boundary Beautification - the completion of the mud kitchen, musical instruments and butterfly garden. Special thanks to Dan Johnston and Native Habit for all their hard work. These installations have made the area more functional, attractive and engaging for all.

The heart and soul of the Kindergarten is Glenda, Deb, Hannah and Suzy! Thank you for your dedication to educating and showing such love to our children. Your care, commitment and patience are appreciated. The ongoing support and caring environment has resulted in such personal growth throughout the year to our children. Thank you to all those involved in Bridgewater Kindergarten this year, without you all, the Kindergarten would just be a 'thing', your contribution whether big or small has made it an 'experience' and what an amazing experience it's been.

Andrew Heath
Chairperson
Governing Council

Preschool quality improvement planning

Our dedicated staff, Deb Combridge- Teacher, Hannah Carson-ECW, Suzy Hunt- ECW and myself Glenda Henderson –Director worked as a cohesive and supportive team this year. Along with the children and families input we engaged in an active and interesting programme. Once again COVID 19 restrictions and uncertainties impacted our operations, restricting parent involvement in the learning programme and their ability to enter the kindergarten building.

We revisited the meaning of “Children’s Voice” ensuring that staff had the same understanding- listening to children’s words, actions and emotions and consulting with them to make decisions and ensure genuine involvement. Professional Development with Gowrie reflecting on our practices led to making positive changes including revisiting our documentation and communication with families. We adapted our current programming format to more strongly feature Children’s Voice.

Department for Education Parent Initiative Funding supported us to offer four Parent Numeracy evening sessions led by Lisa Jane O’Connor form PMA. Parents from the Mt Lofty Partnership met together and were inspired to engage in Numeracy language and activities at home.

Transitioning from Sharing Books to the online format using the SeeSaw App supported communication with families about our curriculum, their children, community and kindergarten events. Governing Council were consulted and it was decided to keep hard copies of our See saw posts in a Sharing Book to take home and share with the children. The Skoolbag App was also used for communication. In 2022 we will be considering whether we need both.

Building cultural competence in relation to children’s understanding of Aboriginal Culture is now embedded in our curriculum. One of our challenges has been having Aboriginal people active in our site. Trent Hill visited twice sharing some artefacts and dreamtime stories. It was special to spend time in our Bushland, Paintyi-illa Ngangkiparri with Trent. Later in the year we met Deanne Hanchant-Nichols, a local Aboriginal woman who shared stories with us and taught us some Kaurna language. We learnt Australian Animal Kaurna words. When we were unsure of the Kaurna word for Potoroo, Dee contacted the Kaurna language group and they created the word.....

A highlight of 2021 was the Property Improvements as a result of the \$30,000 maintenance grant. A pergola provided shade for our mud kitchen area and the mud kitchen itself upgraded. Our butterfly garden had an uplift including making the footpaths safer to use. The garden area was extended to include a Bush Tucker garden and irrigation was installed. Improved lighting in the bathroom, fans installed under the verandah and the removal of no longer used gas heaters rounded of the \$30,000.

Enrolment

| | Enrolment by Term | | | |
|------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
| 2018 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 31 |
| 2019 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 22 |
| 2020 | 24 | N/A | 26 | 21 |
| 2021 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 30 |

NOTE: The data is based on person counts in the two week reference period each term. Excludes pre-entry.

Data Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Reporting and Analytics directorate.

Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance

| | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2018 centre | 95.0% | 93.0% | 92.9% | 93.2% |
| 2019 centre | 92.9% | 88.4% | 88.6% | 75.0% |
| 2020 centre | 97.5% | | 69.2% | 95.7% |
| 2021 centre | 90.3% | 89.0% | 90.7% | 93.3% |
| 2018 state | 90.8% | 88.4% | 88.0% | 88.2% |
| 2019 state | 90.8% | 88.2% | 86.9% | 87.6% |
| 2020 state | 89.8% | 73.0% | 86.3% | 87.0% |
| 2021 state | 88.6% | 86.5% | 88.4% | 85.0% |

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy.

Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours.

*Note: Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance comment

Bridgewater Kindergarten families celebrate and support their children's attendance at kindergarten. Generally reasons for not attending include, illness, family holidays or unavoidable appointments. Families use the See Saw app, SMS or a phone call to inform us if their child is not attending. If we have not heard from them after three days the Director calls to see that all is well.

Destination schools

| Feeder Schools (Site number - Name) | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 636 - Bridgewater Primary School | 77.0% | 83.3% | 94.4% | 57.1% |
| 107 - Crafers Primary School | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.6% |
| 176 - Heathfield Primary School | 3.0% | 11.1% | 5.6% | 10.7% |
| 8003 - Heritage College Inc | 3.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10.7% |
| 396 - Scott Creek Primary School | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7.1% |
| 9079 - St Catherine's School | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.6% |
| 9096 - St Michael's Lutheran Primary School | 3.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.6% |
| 8007 - The Hills Christian Community School | 11.0% | 5.6% | 0.0% | 3.6% |

NOTE: The data is collected in Term 3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by exiting preschool children. Only schools that are a destination for 3% or more of students are shown.

Data Source: Site Performance Reporting System (SPER), Term 3 2021 collection.

Destination schools comment

This year we have children who are transitioning to a variety of schools.

Govt Schools

Bridgewater Primary School 18

Heathfield Primary School 3

Crafers Primary School 1

Aldgate Primary School 1

Reynella Primary School 1

Non Govt Schools

Hills Christian Community School 1

St Michaels Lutheran School 1

St Catherine's Parish School 1

Heritage College 3

Family opinion survey summary

Overall the results of our Parent Opinion Survey were very positive. Families showed high satisfaction in surveyed areas.

In Leadership and Decision making, responses were positive however a small percentage were unsure about the involvement of families in decision making. One of the effects of COVID restrictions and precautions was less visible engagement of parents in the curriculum. Our Governing Council was strong but also less visible as we practiced social distancing.

The survey consolidated our community's love for our large, bushland outdoor environment. Responses to our learning programme and the quality of teaching and learning were very positive.

Relationships and communication. The largest variation was in this area. With only 21 responders one neutral response can affect the overall percentage greatly.

Staff at Bridgewater Kindergarten put huge effort into communicating with families. We ensure that we greet them each morning and afternoon. We use See saw to share group and individual curriculum information and stories.

Parents are invited to join us for meetings about their children. Unfortunately 5% of our group were neutral regarding our efforts in this area. This is an area to review in 2022.

Parent responses included_

"The teachers are great at adapting learning to suit the kids and follow their interests."

"Bridgewater kindergarten uses a range of platforms that help me communicate with the educators and understand my child's progress. I feel welcome and engaged with their programs."

"Whilst the learning programme at Bridgewater kindergarten is full, diverse and detailed, the teaching staff have managed to find a pace and delivery format that is calm, kind and considered for the children's needs."

"I feel very confident in the leadership of our kindy. I feel involved and encouraged to take part in certain decisions regarding my child's education and wellbeing at Bridgewater."

"It has been more difficult to be involved with the kindy and communicate with teachers with all of the COVID restrictions this year."

Relevant history screening

All permanent, contract and TRT staff, volunteers including Playgroup Coordinators and Student Educators have current Working with Children Checks.

Financial statement

| Funding Source | Amount |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Grants: State | \$284,905 |
| Grants: Commonwealth | \$0 |
| Parent Contributions | \$27,899 |
| Other | \$1,928 |