

WEMBLEY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Childhood Booklet 2027

Contents

Welcome 3

Office 5

Kindy Days 6

School Days 7

Communication 8

Starting Off 10

Important Information 12

Recess and Lunch 13

Teaching and Learning 14

Preparing your Child 15

Our Uniform 17

Our Vision and Values 19





Welcome

On behalf of the WDPS community we are very pleased to extend a warm welcome to all our new families.

Wembley Downs Primary School is an Independent Public School. Briefly, this means that we make many of our own decisions as a school and we are responsible for the outcomes of those decisions. It is also important to note that WDPS is an Education Department of Western Australia school and a proud member of the public school system.

All staff have every confidence that, over the coming years, your family will experience an enjoyable and a constructive relationship with Wembley Downs Primary School community. It is a community that learns together.

It is the considered view of our staff team that you have become members of a dynamic, vibrant and supportive school community. Members of our School Board, Parents and Citizens committee, school staff and students all work together to create a learning environment that strives to build excellence into everything that we do.

Our school is renowned for implementing unique and innovative programs. Our excursions for each year group are highly anticipated events in the school year.

In 2023, the Department of Education undertook its Public School Review. I would like to share with our school community the Public-School Review Report. I am pleased to say we received several commendations and the recommendations that we made for the next steps of our School Improvement and Accountability Work were validated. Here are our Commendations:

- The leadership team places a high priority on its visibility around the school. Parents expressed appreciation for the manner in which staff make themselves available to discuss the interests of their children.

- In response to community feedback, the school has enacted a communication process to ensure pertinent information is disseminated in a timely, appropriate and efficient manner, resulting in a greater degree of predictability and consistency for parents.

- A whole-school assessment schedule guides the collection of school-based, standardised and system data.

- For students at educational risk (SAER), the school has paid considerable attention to building greater understanding of contemporary practices and purposeful assessment to implement processes, programs and targeted interventions.

- The Principal's highly inclusive, collaborative and consultative approach to decision making has made a positive impact on staff morale and increased ownership and commitment to progressing the school's improvement intent.

- The P&C is active in raising funds that support the school in resourcing initiatives and increasing student engagement and participation.

- The skill sets of education assistants are used to maximise student learning opportunities in classrooms and through delivering targeted intervention programs.

- Teachers are dedicated to improving academic and social outcomes for all students. There is a commitment to the ongoing development of a school-wide instructional framework based on explicit teaching, lesson design and consistency.

- Education assistants work as respected collaborative partners with teachers. Their knowledge and skill in working to support students at risk is highly valued.

- School plans include student performance and targets that focus on the efforts of staff to improve the students' academic achievement and progress.

The school is enthusiastically supported by a progressive, cohesive and hardworking School Board and P&C committee. The members of these groups work diligently and productively to provide many additional resources for all students. The P&C have supported our NAIDOC Mosaic, computer hardware, Community Fund, Choir Uniforms, Interschool Sport Shirts, Portable PA system, 98" screen for undercover area, just to name a few.

You may, at times, hear debate between those who promote formal / explicit teaching as opposed to play-based learning and vice versa. The two positions need not be oppositional. Our Early Childhood team believes that both views have merit. Our teaching team employs a range of teaching strategies in their teaching practice.

Experience has shown us that combining teaching strategies from many different teaching approaches enables our teaching team to provide a balanced and engaging educational experience for all students.

Our staff values the formation of a strong partnership with the parents of each student. The home/school partnership is a key focus for our teachers. It is a crucial relationship in the development of essential skills and knowledge of your child.

Again, welcome to our school. If you have a question, come and see a member of our administration team and have a friendly chat. We look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you and your child.



OFFICE

Opening Hours

8:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday

Telephone

9222 9300

Email

wembleydowns.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Manager Corporate Services

Kalina Avenell
Monday to Friday

School Officers

Janelle Klymovich
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Alisha Hardwick
Monday and Wednesday

Excursions & Incursions

All excursions require parental permission either by forms distributed by the classroom teacher or via the Compass app. All excursions and incursions require consent and payment for participation.

Before School Supervision

The school gates open at 8:30am and students assemble near the Library playground. This is a quiet time for students to catch up with friends – it's not a play time. At 8:40am students are dismissed to go to class. If you are with your child/ren you may walk to their classroom and wait outside during this time.

Payment Methods

Credit Card/EFTPOS facilities are available in the Administration Office.
Electronic Banking: BSB: 066161 Account No: 10035840 Reference: Student Name

P&C Contributions and Charges schedule is available on our school website
https://www.wembleydownsps.wa.edu.au/

Kindy Days



All Kindergarten children in Western Australia receive a minimum of 15 hours of Kindergarten instruction per week.

The Kindergarten operates according to the school year with four terms and holidays at the same time as the school.

There are two Kindergarten classes in 2027.

Group A **Ladybugs** 	Monday Tuesday - Alternate Wednesdays	9:00am to 3:00pm
Group B **Butterflies** 	Thursday Friday - Alternate Wednesdays	9:00am to 3:00pm

Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast"

Through the Looking-Glass

Lewis Carol



School Days

School Hours

Kindergarten

Classrooms Open & Class Begins	9:00am
Morning Recess	11:00am
Lunch	1:00pm
End of Day	3:00pm

Pre-Primary

Classrooms Open	8:40am
Class Begins	8:50am
Morning Recess	11:00am
Lunch	1:20pm
End of Day	3:00pm

Term Dates

Term Dates 2027

Term 1 - Monday 1 February to Friday 9 April

Term 2 - Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July

Term 3 - Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September

Term 4 - Monday 11 October to Thursday 16 December

School Development (Pupil Free) Days 2027

Term 1 - Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January

Term 2 - Tuesday 27 April 2027 and Friday 4 June

Term 3 - Monday 19 July

Term 4 - Monday 11 October and Friday 17 December



Communication
Working Together

Communication

At Wembley Downs, we keep in contact with parents through a variety of ways.

- Compass - you'll receive username and password to login via email
- Parent emails
- Box containing a file for each student's take home work outside the classroom
- Seesaw - classroom communication and photos
- Student Portfolios
- School Newsletters - Week 2, 6, and 10
- Kindy or Pre-Primary Term Newsletter
- Classroom Representatives
- Student Reports - Term 2 and 4
- Parent/Teacher Interviews - Term 2 or as required

Open, regular communication with parents is critical in our aim to work as a team. We communicate with each other in a respectful, fair, honest and open manner. Please help us to provide the best environment for your child by bringing any concerns or queries to us as they arise.

Your child's teacher should be the first point of contact for any concerns or queries. Teachers email addresses will be provided to all parents and carers.

If the issue is not resolved, or affects the wider school community, please contact the Principal or Deputy Principal to make an appointment.

The sooner we contact each other about a concern the sooner we can work together to help resolve it.

P&C Association

Wembley Downs Primary School has a strong and active P&C Association that raises funds to support the school, hosts family and parent functions, assists in organising sporting events and supports new families. The P&C Association always welcomes new members and would love you to become involved.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go....."

- Dr Seuss

Starting Off



Preparing your child

Here are some suggestions for parents to make your child's transition into school effective and enjoyable. Each idea, will complement what we, your partners in education, are doing at school.

- Give your child opportunities before school begins to stay with friends or relatives for a few hours while the parents are elsewhere.
- Spend time daily with your child in conversation, in play and in the reading of suitable stories.
- Realise that all children are individuals who develop in different ways, at different rates and are not to be compared with any other child.
- Encourage imaginative play. When children dress up or play different types of make-believe games, they are developing the creative side of their personality.
- Encourage your child to take turns, be patient and share.
- Have a family policy that puts screen time firmly in its place. A balanced screen time program leaves plenty of time for homework, hobbies, reading, playing and family conversation.
- Show your child how to use a public toilet independently - particularly boys.

Each day your child will need:

1. **Backpack** The school backpack is available from the school Uniform Shop and fits the child's work, library bag/book and notes. Bags must be clearly labelled both inside the zip and on the outside to make them easily identifiable for the students. They will be placed by a special name label outside their classroom. Please ensure your child can open and close their bag.
2. **Crunch 'N' Sip** Please provide a piece of fruit (already cut up) or vegetables in a small container with the child's name clearly shown.
3. **Recess** Please provide a small snack for recess.
4. **Water Bottle** with child's name clearly shown.
5. **Lunch** refer to page 14. Please ensure your child can open their lunch box and containers prior to starting Kindergarten. This helps provide a sense of independence and success.
6. **The red school hat** as part of our sun safe initiative, the school has a NO HAT, PLAY IN THE SHADE policy all year round. Hats must have a wide brim.
7. **A change of clothes** and spare pair of underpants (just in case).
8. **Sunscreen** applied before school.

**** Please ensure all personal items, including uniform, are clearly labelled with your child's name.**

Attendance

In line with the Education Department's Attendance Policy, Wembley Downs is required to record and report on lesson attendance for all students.

What do you need to do?

If you know your child is going to be absent, please explain the absence through the Compass app. Please be advised, an explanation / reason for their absence is a requirement of the Department of Education. If no reason is given, your child's absence will be marked on our system as unexplained. If you wish to take your children out of school for a family vacation, an email to the Principal is required prior to leaving.

Before and After School

Your child must not be left unsupervised before or after school. Students should be accompanied by an adult to their Kindergarten classroom and once Pre-Primary students are confident on where their classroom is located, we encourage parents to drop off at the school gate.

Staff in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary have a duty of care and can only release students to an authorised adult or carer (over 18). Please be prompt at pickup time to avoid the upset that can occur if your child is left waiting. If your child is leaving with a new person, friend or family member, please write in the pickup book located in their classroom.

Parent Helper

A child's view of their Kindergarten and Pre-primary experience will be greatly influenced by their parents' attitude and interest. Children will enjoy Kindergarten and Pre-primary even more when their parents come along to share part of their day with them.

A parent help roster which may include laundry, making play dough etc., is provided at the beginning of each term. From time to time we would love to have you join us for a morning or perhaps assist on a special day or excursion. Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts and any other special people are also very welcome to join us. Please sign in at the office and receive a visitors sticker.

Birthdays

To celebrate birthdays, some parents like to send in a treat for the students to share. When sending in birthday treats be conscious, we are a nut aware school. Please check with your classroom teacher if there are any additional allergies you need to be aware of. Please check the packaging on items to make sure they are free of these products. Individual cupcakes or icy poles are preferred.

If you are having a party, you are not required to invite the entire class, numbers are always your choice. To avoid disappointment please hand invitations out directly to parents, before or after school and not to students during class time. This can save a lot of heartache for those not invited.

Library

Your child will choose a library book to take home each week. This book is to be returned the following week. Another book cannot be issued until the first book is returned. Your child will need a library bag that is clearly labelled with their name on the outside. No library bag will mean that your child is unable to borrow a book.

Scrap Materials

We can use your scrap materials in the most creative ways, they will come back to you transformed into a creative masterpiece. Items we can use:

Boxes, corks, feathers, lace, bottle tops, cotton reels, wrapping paper etc.



Drop Off

At the beginning of each session please wait outside with your child until a staff member opens the door. Accompany your child into their classroom and ensure that they are left with a staff member.

Young children starting Kindergarten and Pre-Primary may take a little while to settle until they become comfortable with their new routine.

In Term 1 parents are welcome to spend some time in the classroom each morning with their child and perhaps read a story or complete a puzzle together. Once the bell rings, parents are asked to leave and class will begin.

Pick Up

When collecting your child, please wait at the door before your child is dismissed. If there is any change to your child's normal arrangements or they are being collected by anyone other than yourself, please ensure the pick up book has been filled out.

Arriving Late or Leaving School Grounds Early

Children arriving after the siren or leaving early must be signed in or out by a parent via the iPad located in the Administration Office.

Illness

Children who are ill before school should not be sent to school. We do not have the facilities or the staff to look after sick children. **If your child has a temperature, diarrhea or vomiting please keep them home for 24 hours after their last episode.**

If your child is absent due to illness, please log this absence via the Compass app.

If your child is feeling unwell?

Should your child become ill while at school, you will be contacted to take your child home.

If your child has a medical condition that requires ongoing attention or a Medical Emergency Response Plan, please notify the school.



Important Information

Staff are unable to administer medication such as antibiotics and non-prescriptions. If your child has a medical condition eg Anaphylaxis, Asthma, ADHD and requires medication, you will need to provide the Action Plan and complete an Administration of Medication form available from the Admin Office.

In the best interest and protection of all students and staff, if your child has contracted a communicable infection or disease such as head lice, measles, conjunctivitis, chicken pox or school sores you must notify the school immediately.

"Around here, we don't look backwards for very long.....
We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things because we're curious.....
And curiosity keeps leading us down new paths"

- Walt Disney

Recess and Lunch

Healthy Eating

Children are encouraged to eat healthy food at school. We encourage no hidden treats. Please leave these for home time.

Drink Bottles

Please provide your child with a named drink bottle filled with WATER ONLY. Their drink bottle will be sent home at the end of each day.

Crunch&Sip®

In Kindy & Pre-Primary all students will be asked to eat their own food. We encourage parents to pack healthy fruit and vegetable alternatives for Crunch&Sip®.

Recess

Please provide your child with an appropriate healthy snack.

Lunch Time

Please provide your child with an appropriate healthy lunch.

It is helpful if children have containers that can be managed independently. Please make sure that your child's container and lid are named.

We promote **'waste-free lunches'** and encourage you to provide your child's food in a reusable container. Many parents have found that '**wrapping free**' lunch boxes suit their requirements well and are environmentally friendly. Please label these with your child's name.

Lunch Orders

Parents can also place a lunch order for children in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary at the school canteen twice a week on Wednesday and Friday. Order through Flexischools. https://www.flexischools.com.au/

Please, No Nuts

Wembley Downs is a nut aware school. As some of our students have life threatening allergies to nuts, please do not send items that contain nuts or nut products to school.
If you are uncertain about an item, please check with your child's teacher. Your assistance in keeping all of our children safe is appreciated.





Teaching and Learning

To maximise the development and learning outcomes for our students, we need to pay particular attention to the early years of schooling from Kindergarten to Year 2. These years lay the foundation for every child to love learning and become a successful student. At Wembley Downs we have a focus on a combination of play based education strategies and explicit teaching.

Raising Expectations in The Early Years

We are initially steered in our planning by three important documents – the Early Years Learning Framework, Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and National Quality Standards.

Early Years Learning Framework

The first four years in a child's life are vitally important in terms of education, as they are the years when a child is laying down foundations for future learning and participation in society. This document describes five broad outcomes that underpin our teaching pedagogy.

- Children have a strong sense of identity.
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- Children have a strong sense of well-being.
- Children are confident and involved learners.
- Children are effective communicators.

Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is responsible for curriculum guidelines for all Western Australian Schools K-12. The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines focuses on children's learning and development, consistent with the Early Years Learning Framework. In Kindergarten we focus on personal and social competence, pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills. Every student is an individual and we strive to plan and support each student at their own developmental level, addressing students' academic, social, behavioural, emotional, psychological and physical needs.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

The National Quality Standard sets a national benchmark for equality in early childhood education and care services across Australia and establishes a set of standards that all service types are expected to meet. This document outlines seven standards that we demonstrate through our Kindergarten program.

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Quality Area 3: Physical environment

Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Quality Area 7: Leadership and service management

Western Australian Curriculum

As students enter Pre-Primary the Western Australian Curriculum is implemented and covers the content areas to be taught along a continuum from Pre-Primary to Year 12. The WA Curriculum learning areas include:

- English.
- Mathematics.
- Science.
- Humanities and Social Sciences (including History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business).
- The Arts.
- Health and Physical Education.
- Technologies.

Developmentally Appropriate Learning

Children learn through playing and being actively involved in experiences planned by their teachers. Children are encouraged to explore, discover, improvise, create, question, discuss and construct. We aim to capture children's natural love of learning while developing literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for future learning.
In planning our program for the early years, we understand that:

- Children learn through play and exploration, as well as explicit teaching.
- Children develop and learn at different rates and in different ways.
- Learning is continuous and all areas of learning are interrelated.
- Early experiences affect learning and attitudes to learning in later years.

We build on existing knowledge, skills and interests. Our program is supportive but it is also challenging. It is based around a balance of:

- Child-directed play - The child chooses how, when, with what and with whom to engage.
- Teacher-guided play - The teacher manages the play environment to achieve specific outcomes.
- Intentional teaching - The teacher plans and delivers explicit instruction to achieve specific outcomes.

Planned and incidental learning occurs throughout the day as a whole class, in small groups and individually.

Learning is hands on and takes place through touching, seeing, hearing, exploring and experimenting. Some of the activities children may participate in include:

- Designing and creating.
- Dressing up.
- Dancing.
- Doing puzzles.
- Making collages.
- Listening to and playing music.
- Singing with actions.
- Painting and drawing.
- Cooking.
- Reading books and storytelling.
- Playing with clay, play dough, blocks, sand and water.
- Using technology.

The style of handwriting your child will be learning at Wembley Downs Primary School is NSW Foundation Style. Whilst there is no expectation that your child can write their own name at Kindergarten we ask parents to familiarise themselves with this style and use it when writing their child's name.



Preparing Your Child



A child's ability to read or write depends very largely on the extent of the quality of language experiences they enjoy at home.

Language

Listening develops and leads directly to speech and is of prime importance throughout schooling.

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- Engage your child in conversation.
- See that your child answers in sentences.
- Speak clearly and carefully so that the child hears correct pronunciation of words.
- Allow your child to answer the phone to assist discrimination of voices and to listen carefully.
- Play sound guessing games e.g. voices, noises, crumpling paper, knocking, scraping etc.
- Listen to music - can they identify a song or instrument?
- Provide experiences for learning new words, new ideas and talk about the experiences and feelings.
- Play word games to develop vocabulary and attention to sounds, e.g. I spy, what animal, fruit, vegetable etc. starts with an "o".
- Listen for sounds in the bush or park.
- Recite favourite rhymes and poems together.

Reading

- Take every opportunity to read to your child. Try to make story-reading part of the routine of going to bed. Children who are read to frequently learn the language of books from their parents.
- When reading to your child, encourage them to turn the pages and discuss what's happening in the pictures. Let them read the story back to you, 'reading' the pictures is fine.
- Listen to your child and encourage them to relate experiences to you. It is often said that 'good talkers make good readers', so ensure your child knows that what they say is important.
- Enrol your child in the local library and encourage them to borrow books of their own choice.
- Let your child see you reading. Children model themselves on their parents' behaviour.
- Take your child to interesting places - zoos, farms and so on to develop language about the world we live in.
- Encourage children to identify pictures and letters in newspapers and magazines.

Writing

Interest is the key - the more curious children become about the written word, the better chance that they will want to learn to write.

- Take every opportunity for your child to walk, run, climb, kick, catch, jump, ride, etc. to develop not only the big muscles, but also hand-eye coordination.
- Display writing in the home - reminders, cards and noticeboards.
- Model uses for writing - shopping lists, letters, phone messages.
- Provide your child with opportunities to draw, trace, cut, colour in, do jigsaw puzzles, finger plays, paste, tear paper, use nuts and bolts, fingerpaint, play dough, hammers, etc.
- If your child wishes to write their name, teach them correctly using a capital letter to start and lower case to follow.
- Get excited about first attempts (even if it looks like scribble). Ask them what they have said.
- Buy things that will encourage writing.

Mathematics

Mathematics is part of children's everyday life from a very early age. Activities such as playing with blocks, shopping, setting the table and counting cups allows meaningful learning experiences to support your child's development in understanding numeracy skills.

- Give every opportunity to use concrete objects when learning to count - blocks, stones, matchsticks, buttons (have a box of objects), counting forks to set the table, buttons on a shirt. Have the child touch each object as they count.
- Help with cooking to learn concepts - large/small, full/empty, big/little, heavy/light etc.
- Help unpack shopping - on top of, below, big, low etc.
- Sorting – rough/smooth, hard/soft, round/striped.
- Solve simple problems - Birthday Party - how many friends, balloons, visitors - how many glasses?
- Time - time of the day, tea will be ready in one hour, TV program at 5pm, birthday on Saturday, how many days until the holidays?
- Encourage participation in hobbies that require 'hands on' experiences for example model kits.

In Summary

Children from homes that are rich in language, where people enjoy talking and listening to each other, where anecdotes are told and stories are read, have been wonderfully prepared for school, particularly for reading and writing.

Children who have been encouraged to ask questions, make sense of their surroundings, play imaginatively and express themselves creatively, move with confidence into school.

Children who have been encouraged to face challenges, who have been praised for appropriate behaviour and who have experienced general approval and success, come to school with expectations that everything will be fine and it usually is! We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey at Wembley Downs Primary School.





Our Uniform

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Kindy

Kindy t-shirt
Black shorts/skorts
Red school hat

Pre-Primary

Red polo shirt
Black shorts/skorts
Red school hat

Winter

Black shorts/skorts
Black track pants
Polar fleece zip front jacket

Optional

Dress (K -2)
Black Leggings

Shoes

Choice of closed in shoes, sports shoes or sandals.

Please consider shoes your child can put on without adult assistance.

The Uniform Shop is run by the P&C. It's located outside the Admin Office and is open throughout the term. For dates and times refer to the sign on the door, Newsletter or Compass Calendar.

Online orders can be placed on Flexischools with delivery to classrooms within 1 week.

Our Vision and Values



OUR VISION

Wembley Downs Primary School envisions a united and engaging community where Care, Respect, and Challenge form the foundation; fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and inclusivity, ensuring a safe and stimulating environment for students to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Be Your Best

We take pride in our work and school.

We show resilience.

We are motivated learners.

We value participation in community events.

We do our best to achieve our goals.



Core Values

Be Caring and Safe.

Be Respectful.

Be Responsible.