Prep Policy

The Policy
At St Matthew’s School we see the prep as an integral part of our total school life. As a transition from home to school, the prep program offers an atmosphere of positive acceptance in which the child experiences self-worth as an individual and the consequent challenge to grow. Christian values are fostered and influence all prep interaction.

The program offers developmentally appropriate activities which provide growth for the whole child in a secure, supportive and happy environment. Each child is valued as an individual with a unique way of learning and interacting.

Procedure
We have three full time prep classes all offering high quality investigative and play based learning according to the Queensland government Early Years Curriculum Guidelines. As a Catholic school, we also follow the Early Years Religion Curriculum Guidelines put out by Catholic Education.

The preparatory year classes provide flexible learning environments to assist the five contexts of learning:
- Play
- Real life situations
- Investigations
- Routines and transitions
- Focused learning and teaching

The preparatory year classes are also actively involved in all areas of school life.

Our prep teachers are all specifically Early Childhood trained and an experienced school officer is also in each classroom.

Our prep area has been specifically designed to ensure children can play, learn and grow in safety and with guidance.

Eligibility
Children must be five by 30 June to commence prep in that year. Please see the table below for eligibility dates for the next few years. Prep is not compulsory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthdate</th>
<th>Eligible for preparatory year in:</th>
<th>Eligible for Year 1 in:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child born 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have outlined below some key areas about our Prep that may be useful. This information is to be read in conjunction with our school prospectus.

**Enrolment Procedure**
We take enrolment applications two years in advance. Applicants are contacted the year prior to enrolment in April to organise enrolment interviews which take place in May/June.

**Fees**
The fees for Prep are the same as the primary rates. Please refer to our fee schedule.

**Hours**
Prep is full time, 5 days per week from Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 2.55pm, the same as the rest of our primary school.

**Uniform**
Our Prep students are required to wear a uniform which has been specifically designed for them. It is a unisex uniform and consists of:
- green shorts (the same as the rest of the school)
- red polo shirt with the St Matthew’s embroidered logo and the words “Prep” printed in the collar to clearly identify our youngest group
- school hat
- sandals
- school jumper or bottle green tracksuit for winter

**More information**
Please do not hesitate to contact us on 3209 6155 if you have any queries or visit the Brisbane Catholic Education websites [www.bne.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au), [www.qoprep.com.au](http://www.qoprep.com.au) or visit the government’s website [www.education.qld.gov.au/prep](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/prep).