

Policy: Early Entry to Prep



St Matthew's School Policy on Early Entry to Prep

Queensland schools allow early entry to Prep for a child who turns 5 on or before the 30th of June in the year prior and is considered ready for education in the Year of schooling considering the child's attributes, or has started education in another country, Australian state or territory that is equivalent to Prep and is considered ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child's attributes.

In providing education which is engaging and motivating for our students, St Matthew's always acts in the best interests of the child. We work in partnership with parents and other relevant early education facilities to support a process that helps determine the student's attributes which indicate they are ready for early entry to Prep. These processes ensure equity, consistency and rigour.

The attributes we look for include:

- Aptitude and ability which relates to the potential to learn new skills. They are likely to demonstrate well-developed spoken language with confidence to speak in unfamiliar contexts.
- Social and emotional competence referring to confidence, perseverance and independence which enables focus and enjoyment in learning.
- Physical development incorporating gross and fine motor skills and the ability to sustain attention across the school day.
- A level of knowledge and understanding i. e. skills that will support access to Prep curriculum expectations.

The process involves an application for early entry to Prep and consultation between the school, parents and early childhood educators. Information is gathered through a questionnaire and observation visits of the children in the early childhood context informing discussion and decision-making between school and parents for the best interests of the child.