

Goomeri State School P-10

**PREP YEAR
HANDBOOK**



2025

WELCOME TO PREP!

At Goomeri State School P-10 we strive to ensure a successful transition to school for your child.

We are committed to providing a quality Prep Program, promoting a love of learning, celebrating success and establishing the building blocks for future learning.

This handbook has been written for families so that you can gain a greater understanding of the Prep curriculum and to help you and your child to have a smooth transition from home to school.

We look forward to sharing in your child's learning journey and celebrating their success together.

Prep provides the foundation for your child's success at school by developing:

- A positive approach to learning
- Independence and confidence
- Thinking and problem solving skills
- Language skills
- Early literacy and numeracy foundations
- Physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills

STAFF

A qualified teacher(s) is responsible for the organisation, running and curriculum of the Prep class. Teacher aides are allocated to assist the Prep class and are an integral part of our team.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR PREP

- All the items on the Prep book list
- The school will supply a bucket hat to all students in 2025. (See 'Sun Safe Policy')
- A lunch box with small amounts of healthy choices for snack times, morning tea and lunch. Ice packs are great to keep lunches fresh.
- A water bottle
- A school bag big enough to hold the lunch box, a document wallet (as on the requirement list) and a library bag on library day.
- Independence in toileting
- A spare change of clothes and underwear (in a plastic bag), "just in case". These can be kept in your child's bag at all times. Please name clearly.

NAMES & LABELS

As young people often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything - bags, shoes, lunchboxes, hats, library bags, clothing and all equipment.



WHAT YOUR CHILD WEARS AT PREP

Prep students wear the school uniform which can be purchased from the Goomeri State School P-10 P&C. The preferred footwear is socks and black joggers with Velcro straps, although laces are acceptable.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child's arrival. Children must wear the school bucket hat to school each day. No hat = No play.

NON UNIFORM DAYS (Free Dress Days) are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Students who don't wear their uniform to school donate 50c to the Student Council (this money goes towards various Student Council projects).

Once again please remember that students must wear appropriate closed in footwear and be sun safe.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Goomeri State School P-10 Prep operates five days a week from 8.55am to 3.00pm.

There is no supervision provided prior to 8.25am. Children who arrive at school before 8.25am are required to go to the library and will be dismissed from there when supervision commences.

On arrival, please encourage your child to organise his/her lunch box, school bag, water bottle etc. rather than doing it for them.

PARADE

From week 2 the Prep Year students will attend Parade at 8.55am on the first day of each school week. Parents are also invited to attend.

COLLECTION TIME

School finishes at 3pm. We ask that you encourage your children to pack their own belongings to foster independence.

Prep children must be collected by a parent, caregiver or an older sibling.

At the beginning of the year, the bus children will be taken to the bus area. Older siblings are encouraged to walk with their siblings to the bus.

PUNCTUALITY

The Prep program starts promptly at 8.55am so please ensure that your child is at school on time. This way, your child does not miss out on any valuable group learning experiences.

When the Prep day finishes, please ensure that whoever is collecting your child is here on time. A child quickly becomes distressed when it's time to go and no one is here to collect him/her.

In addition, teachers may have meetings to attend, bus duty etc and cannot always be there to supervise after 3.00pm.

Students will be taken to the office for collection if there is no suitable supervision at the classroom after 3.00pm.



IT'S THE FIRST FULL DAY OF PREP – Tuesday 28 January, 2025

... The Journey Begins!

Over the coming year you will see your child grow, develop and mature in many ways. The changes you will observe are tremendous.

They will explore, investigate, problem solve and predict as they engage in their learning. They will make friends and learn to be tolerant and get along. Together we will set learning goals and celebrate their achievements.

This journey is one we will take together as we work as a team to support your child to reach their full potential.

On the first day ...

- The school day starts at 8:55am. Please arrive 15 minutes earlier to greet your teachers, friends and other parents.
- Assist your child to find his/her name tag and place for their bag.
- Explore the room to gather and meet some other parents and children.
- Choose a settling in activity with your child.
- When it's time to leave, please say "goodbye".
- Tell your child that you will be back in the afternoon.



MORE BITS AND PIECES TO REMEMBER

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Our door is always open and we encourage parent participation in all aspects of our program, after you have signed in at the office. Parents are most welcome to help in the classroom. This will give you the opportunity to work with your child, meet his/her friends and gain an insight to the daily activities. Please arrange this time with the teacher, in advance. If visiting your child's class please remember to sign in through Admin.

We are always happy to discuss any matters to do with your child. This can often be done informally before or after school. If a more detailed discussion is required please arrange a mutually convenient time with the teacher. Please also consider that once school has started, teachers will be engaged in focused learning and teaching with the class and it will be difficult to speak to the teacher.

SHARING INFORMATION – COMMUNICATION

Communication is essential to ensure a strong partnership between home and school.

Events in family life, such as a major illness, visits by grandparents or other relatives, an accident or death involving relatives, friends or pets can impact greatly upon children and may markedly affect their behaviour.

It is important for the parents and teachers to share information, which may affect your child. We would be most grateful if parents would inform the teacher of any unusual happenings.

COMMUNICATION DIARY

Each student is presented with a *P-3 Early Communication Diary*. Please feel free to write messages as needed. The teachers will also use this diary as a way of communication, so please check it daily.

ABSENCES

If a child is absent from school, parents are asked to notify the school admin staff in writing or by phone by 8:55am. A valid reason for the absence and the length of absence needs to be provided.

Absence notifications can be emailed directly to Admin Staff by emailing admin@goomeriss.eq.edu.au. If your child's absence is not explained in the timeframe outlined above you will receive an SMS message from the school requesting an explanation. This is a state wide safety procedure.

If your child is late, please ensure they enter through the office and collect a late slip to present to their teacher.

TREASURES FROM HOME

Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home.



Staff cannot assume responsibility for any loss or breakage.

Students will participate in Show and share at these times, special treasures from home are allowed. The class teacher will notify you when is going to occur.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

Goomeri State School P-10 has three clear rules.

1. Be Respectful
2. Be a Learner
3. Be Safe

Goomeri State School P-10 is a 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' school, where we recognise the good behaviour of students. To acknowledge this good behaviour students are given "Goomeri Golds" which, when enough are obtained, entitles them to wristbands and a semester reward. See the Prospectus for more information.

SCHOOL WIDE

These rules are adopted by everyone in the school and are applicable to all students. Along with these, Prep has rules which your child will need to follow to ensure all learning experiences are uninterrupted, everyone feels happy and the room is a safe, comfortable, learning environment for all.

FORT / PLAYGROUND

The days for Prep to Year 2 students to play on the fort are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Prep to Year 2 students are also allocated Friday lunchtimes to play at the Multipurpose Court.

Safe Area: Prep-2 students have a safe area, to play in to ensure their safety - located in front of Prep building and sandpit.

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays and other celebrations are wonderful ways to build understanding about one another.



From past experience, we have found that cupcakes are more practical to share than large birthday cakes. Please discuss with the class teacher prior to bringing any food items to share.

PARENT HELP

As a parent, you can play a vital role in your child's education by becoming involved in the school and helping your child make a smooth and happy start to their education.



Parents are encouraged to contribute to the Prep program and are welcome to be helpers in the classroom. The Prep teacher will organise a parent roster once the children have settled and routines have been established.

Grandparents and other relatives are also welcome to visit. Please be aware that a **Blue Card will be required** for any helpers who are not parents of a Prep student. Blue Cards will need to be verified by Admin prior to school entry.

You can help by:

- Reading school newsletters, noticeboards, the school facebook page and the QParents App.
- Supporting special events
- Supporting our rules and consequences
- Volunteering in the classroom.

Parents can also help by taking small tasks to do at home such as cutting up materials or making play dough.

Parents are required to sign the Visitors Sign In book at the office when staying at Prep for any purpose. A visitor's badge must also be worn.

Reading To Your Child

Reading at home with your child clearly shows the value of reading. Investing 5 minutes, every day to read to, or listen to your child is very helpful. Somethings you can include:

- Reading aloud
- Listening to your child talk about the pictures
- Ask questions about the stories, characters, events, and pictures
- Share reading with your family.

TUCKSHOP is available weekly on Thursday's. Orders close the Monday prior to tuckshop day. Please use our Qkr! app for ordering. Please remember to also pack fruit on this day for fruit break.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

LOST PROPERTY

Please make regular checks of the lost property box located under F Block (where parade is) and outside Admin.

EXCURSIONS



From time to time during the year we may organise excursions and outings. Written permission from parents will be necessary before a child may participate. Please keep an eye out for any such letters in your child's communications diary.

Parent helpers may be needed, but no toddlers or other children can be included, as these are special outings for your Prep child and yourself.

LEARN TO SWIM

Prep students participate in a five week Learn to Swim program in Term 4 with the school Physical Education teacher and other staff members. Students will travel to and from the pool by bus in their timetabled PE lesson. It is an

Education Queensland policy for all students to wear a sun safety swim shirt.

CURRICULUM

At Goomeri State School P-10, Prep teachers use the Foundation Year of the Australian Curriculum to guide children's learning. It is through this curriculum that the teachers and teacher aides will deliver a quality program catering for each child's needs and abilities.

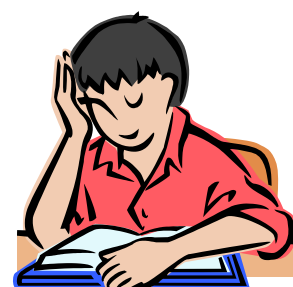
Prep students progressively move towards a more structured learning environment throughout the year.

The children will be involved in age appropriate focused learning experiences, play and inquiry based learning to develop the foundations for future learning. You will see different learning experiences, such as hands-on, project learning, and small/ large focus teaching.

PREP CURRICULUM

The Goomeri State School P-10 Prep Programs incorporate the following:

- Supporting play as a context for learning;
- Understanding each child as an individual;
- Developing supportive partnerships;
- Providing flexible learning environments; and
- Assisting children in exploring the world around them and the ways in which they learn.



The seven learning areas in the curriculum are:

- English;
- Mathematics;
- Science;
- Arts;
- Technology
- Health and Physical Education;
- HASS - Humanities and Social Science, where children explore the places and people who are close to them and are important in their life;

In Prep we teach systematic synthetic phonics to support early literacy and oral language development. Throughout the year further support programs may be accessed such as OLEY (oral language for early years) and Heggerty Phonic Awareness. The aim is to help students develop early metalinguistic and phonemic awareness skills during the Prep year. These skills such as hearing rhyming words, differentiating long words from short words and segmenting and blending words into syllables and sounds- are essential for children to master before formal reading instruction begins. More information in regards to any of these programs will be discussed as the year progresses.

Children come to Prep with different experiences, interests and learning needs. Teachers plan learning that aims to promote the achievement of every student. Targeted programs and other resources are used to support and extend the students' development.

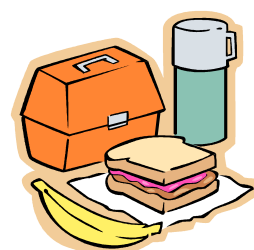
REPORTING

Throughout the year there are different ways we keep you informed of your child's progress. Parent Teacher interviews are offered in term 1, 2 and 3; interim reports are provided in term 3 and formal written Report Cards in terms 2 and 4.

However, if you are concerned at any time please contact the teacher to arrange a suitable time to discuss your concerns or ideas.

PACKING SCHOOL LUNCH

Being at school is hard work, so by lunchtime your child will be hungry and thirsty. They will need a nutritious and filling lunch.

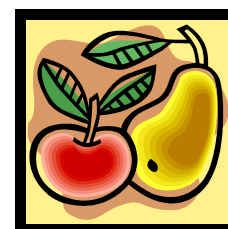


When packing your child's lunch:

- Provide healthy food and water in realistic quantities for morning tea/lunch.
- Ensure that your child can open and unwrap their lunch:
- Provide a variety of smaller items rather than one or two large items.
- Pack an ice brick to keep food fresh.
- Include spoons as needed.
- Provide a named water bottle every day and encourage your child to drink from it.
- Check the schools information about healthy food choices.
- Any allergies? Please advise the school.

Suitable Health Choices:

- Bread – sandwiches, rolls, French sticks, pita, lavish bread
- Crackers – rice, Ryvita, Sao, Salada
- Savoury biscuits
- Cheese / salad/ olives
- Salami / meat
- Vegetables – carrot sticks, beans, capsicum
- Boiled eggs
- Baked beans (in a container they can open)
- Fruit – fresh, dried or canned
- Natural popcorn
- Yoghurt / milk
- Custard (not flavoured)
- Buns – plain or fruit
- Leftovers
- Cereal
- Tuna / Salmon (in a container they can open)
- Muesli bars (preferably not chocolate)
- Salad
- Water and juice



Unsuitable food for lunches

- Chips or lollies
- Cakes with lots of icing or cream
- Chocolate or chocolate flavoured or chocolate coated foods
- Nutella tubes or Roll-ups
- Soft drink



☒ Nuts (We do have students with allergies to nuts in our school community, please assist us in keeping them safe by not bringing nuts or foods containing nuts to school.)



EATING TIMES

The Prep Year students eat Morning Tea and Lunch with the other students in Years 1 – 6 and have a fruit snack near the classroom with their teacher at approximately 10.00am.

Morning Tea: 11.00am to 11.30am

Lunch: 1.15pm to 2.00pm

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS:

5 Munro Street, Goomeri Qld 4601

Phone: (07) 41696200

Fax: (07) 41696250

Email: admin@goomeriss.eq.edu.au

Website: <http://goomeriss.eq.edu.au>



If you have any questions or need some more information, please come and see us!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OUR PREP CLASSROOM!