



NAMBOUR
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



**PREPARATORY
ORIENTATION BOOKLET**

2024



Mission Statement
Nambour Christian College

*To provide a secure and
supportive Christ-centred
learning community where a
commitment to excellence,
creativity and service is
encouraged and modelled.*



Welcome to Preparatory at NCC

PREP PROGRAM

The NCC Preparatory Program has been designed with young children in mind. Our aim is to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment in which all children can develop spiritually, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

Our program acts as a support for children in all areas of learning and assists in developing the concepts, attitudes, processes and skills that become the foundations of life long learning.

Conscious that children learn in different ways and at different rates, we provide a broad curriculum presented within an integrated program of developmental activities and learning experiences.

The curriculum emphasises learning through play, real-life experiences and problem-based investigations and discoveries. Through play, children develop communication and thinking skills, engage meaningfully in the areas of literacy and numeracy, explore a range of ways to symbolise experiences and develop imagination and creativity.

Children are encouraged to work in small groups and to learn from one another, with input from teachers and parents. Links to other areas of the school are encouraged and developed.



A special invitation

We know how important your child's progress is to you and we extend an invitation to visit the classroom at any time you are available. The children love to have you visit and your help is invaluable. We do ask, however, that if you wish to speak to your child's teacher about a particular matter, you make an appointment through the Junior School Office or email the teacher directly.

Prep starting date

In 2024, all Prep students will commence school along with all Junior School students on Monday 22 January.





Getting started

Starting school is a major event in a young child's life. It will mean some big changes in routines and parents and teachers need to work together to make the transition from home to school as happy and successful as possible.

There are a number of things that parents can do to help children settle quickly and comfortably into their new school environment.

- The first day of school marks a separation that may be upsetting for both parents and children. It is easier if parents remain positive and reassuring.
- Leave cheerfully each day.
- To avoid anxieties, make sure your child knows the end of day arrangements.
- Practise dressing at home. Shoelace tying is a particularly difficult skill that can be practised at home. Velcro shoes are ideal and strongly preferred by staff.
- Children should be encouraged to visit the toilet independently. Although most children cope well, accidents do happen and it may be wise to pack spare clothing in your child's bag in case of emergencies.
- During breaks, children need to be able to eat without assistance. They should be able to open a lunch box, unwrap food packets and peel fruit. Water bottles with pop-up tops are much easier for children to manage than screw tops.
- Even the most careful of children can lose track of their belongings from time to time. If these are clearly named, they can be easily returned.
- Read to your child as much as possible.
- Help your child to write his/her Christian name often, using the correct mix of upper and lower case letters.



Prep hours

PREP HOURS	8:25am - 2:40pm
Morning Tea	10:40am - 11:20am
Lunch	12:40pm - 1:20pm

During this time, the children will eat in the classroom and teachers will ensure something substantial is eaten by each child.

Parking and bus transport

The beginning and end of the day can present dangerous situations when children are being dropped off or picked up. The top car park in McKenzie Road is only for staff and visitors to the school. Parents are asked to park in the designated car parks in the school grounds. These car parks are behind the church and on the top and bottom level car parks. Please use the Kiss n Go area when you think your child is ready. This is a drive through area on the top level.

Please be aware of the movement of buses around the College. Staff members patrol the three crossings after school to ensure the safety of all children.

Bus transport to and from school is available for your child. Parents should fill out the application form and return to the Business Office. Prep children who catch buses are escorted to and from their classroom by a member of staff.

Absences

Parents are asked to notify the school when a child is absent. Please either enter this on the Parent Lounge or phone the Junior School absentee number on 5451 3397.

For some infectious diseases, there is a mandatory exclusion period. Children showing symptoms of a heavy cold or other

infections which may affect the health of other children, are asked to stay at home.

Remember, a day at Prep is different from a day at home and a child who is unwell may not cope with normal activities and routines.

Uniform

Prep children wear the Junior School sports uniform. This can be purchased from the Uniform Shop located in the Senior School. Prep students wear their coloured house shirt during PE lessons.

PREP BOYS AND GIRLS:

- Junior School hat to be worn to during breaks and PE lessons
- NCC polo to be worn with green shorts
- Sports socks are white only, ribbed sports socks, worn to completely cover the ankle, not rolled or turned down
- Sports shoes should be jogger style and provide good ankle and arch support; Velcro shoes are preferred for Prep students; fashion sports shoes that do not provide adequate ankle
- and arch support for the College PE program are not to be worn; please note that flat-sole shoes such as 'volleys' and 'skate' shoes do not meet the criteria and will not be accepted for PE and sport activities.
- College green micro fibre track pants may be worn on cold days
- College jumper, polar fleece or College sports jacket can be worn on cold days
- House shirt is the colour of student's house. Benjamin - green, Dan – red, Judah – blue and Levi – gold
- Compulsory College backpack which is available from the Uniform Shop





Perceptual Motor Program

Perceptual knowledge is fundamental to children understanding themselves and their world. It enables them to interpret what they have seen, heard or touched by responding with a motor movement and is involved in all learning.

Perceptual skills, in terms of space and time, orientation, pattern and sequence are very important for success at school and are best learned through motor activity. Language is the key factor in providing the perceptual knowledge about the motor experience.

The Perceptual Motor Program aims to develop the child's perceptions of themselves and the world through carefully planned movement activities. It gives children a wide range of experiences in seeing, hearing, touching, making perceptual judgements and reacting.

The program emphasises the development of language, the gaining of problem solving skills and general readiness for formal learning.

The key outcomes are:

PERCEPTION

The perceptual areas developed in the program are the perceptions of self, space and time. Success at school requires children to have a sense of sidedness, the ability to cross the midline of the body, directionality, space awareness and good body rhythm cross.

MOTOR

This includes the areas of locomotion, balance, eye/hand and eye/foot coordination and fitness. Many of the tasks that teachers require children to do in the learning situation require some form of motor activity. The more automatic these movements are, the less they will interfere with cognitive learning.

SKILL

Skill development involves language and concept formation, problem solving, auditory and visual memory, the physical skills of throwing, hitting, catching and kicking and the development of confidence

and a sense of success. The program is sequentially structured so that the child gains a progressively higher order of skills. It aims to be preventative rather than curative.

HOW IT WORKS

Children participate in the Perceptual Motor Program for 20-30 minute sessions each week. They rotate around four to five different stations designed to improve the motor areas of locomotion, balance, fitness and eye/hand/foot coordination, as well as eye tracking skills. Each activity also involves perceptual and skill development.

Teachers are involved in organising and monitoring the program and in regular individual assessments. Parent helpers are vital to the success of the program. Adult supervision is required at each station to ensure that safety measures are enforced, correct techniques are followed and to connect language to the motor experience.



Fingergym

The Fingergym Fine Motor Skills Program is an Australian developed, small group rotation program that uses fun and motivating fine motor-based activities to target many of the skills necessary to help children become more independent in the classroom environment.

Fingergym was developed by experienced occupational therapists and education professionals and incorporates play-based learning to encourage problem-solving by “having a go”, no matter what the outcome. In this way children learn confidence and resilience in the classroom while mastering essential developmental skills.

HOW IT WORKS

Children participate in Fingergym twice a week rotating around five activities spending three minutes on each activity.

These activities are divided into five skills categories that support fine motor development:

- strengthening
- sensory and planning
- fine motor coordination
- pencil to paper
- cutting





SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The activities cater to the different levels of ability in the class with examples of how to make the task easier or more challenging on each activity card.

In addition to focusing on the fine motor skills, the program also promotes the development of school readiness skills, such as the ability to:

- organise work space and tools
- maintain a sitting position
- be aware of other people and their needs
- follow visual and auditory directions
- ask for help if needed
- problem solve and actively investigate cause and effect situations
- transition from one task to another
- maintain attention
- risk-take or 'have a go'

The teachers monitor and review student involvement and progress and work to tailor tasks to needs as they arise.

Parent helpers are essential to the success of this program. Adult supervision is required at each activity station to ensure that the children are practising correct and safe techniques. The time required is approximately 20 minutes once a week. If you would like to volunteer to help, please talk to your child's teacher.



Cafe

Nambour Christian College Cafés are run by Laurent Vancam. Laurent is a French chef and cook book author with a background in catering both in Europe and Australia.

The Junior School Café is open from 8:00am until approximately 1.30pm.

The menu is based on using fresh and wholesome ingredients in line with the State Government's healthy tuckshop food guidelines. Specials are changed weekly and are from a different country each week.

Orders are placed via the Flexischools online ordering system. The order is sent directly to the Café so no cash is required. You can order by 9.00am on the day or days and weeks in advance. To get set up for online ordering go to the Flexischools website at www.flexischools.com.au.

Further information about the Cafés can be found on the NCC website at www.ncc.qld.edu.au. Click on our community, NCC Café.

Cold drinks, snacks and meals are available for parents and visitors.

We can supply birthday cup cakes for your child's class. They can be delivered directly to the classroom. One day's notice is required. Order and pay online or at the Café.

Email: cafe@ncc.qld.edu.au

Food for thought

The nutritional needs of Prep children are high during this period of rapid growth. Please give some thought to healthy foods. Below are some suggestions.

Morning Tea: fruit, dried fruit, cracker biscuits, small tub of yoghurt, cheese, sandwich

Lunch: sandwich, roll, salad, fruit, fruit juice

Drinks: Please send a water bottle with a pop-up top. Children also have access to the water bubblers.

What not to send in lunch boxes: salted chips, chocolates, lollies, soft drink, cake, sweet biscuits.

Please help us with this policy as it encourages healthy eating habits and also stops competition amongst the children.

BIRTHDAYS

This is a special day to celebrate. Please feel free to bring in cup cakes for sharing with the whole class. They can be ordered from the Junior School Café.



Medication policy

Children requiring medication to be administered during the day need to have it in a container clearly labelled by a health care professional. It must contain the name of the drug, use by date, name of medical practitioner prescribing the drug, name of student, dosage and frequency of administration. All medication needs to be brought to the First Aid officer to be stored in the first aid room. Paracetamol can only be given if it is sent to the first aid room by the parent and is accompanied by written instructions from the child's doctor.

Home time

If you are picking up your child, parents are asked to wait outside the Prep classrooms until the children are dismissed. The time prior to this is important as children are preparing for home. Teachers support them as they pack their bags and collect their personal belongings.

Please check your child's belongings each afternoon.

Children must wait inside until their adult arrives. Please endeavour to pick up your child promptly at 2.40pm. If the occasion arises that you are unable to be on time, please phone to let us know, as young children may become anxious when adults do not appear when expected.

You may also choose to use the drive through Kissngo area. Student are escorted to there by Junior School Prep staff and can wait with other students for you to pick them up.



School age care program

The College operates an after school care program for the convenience of parents and a holiday club vacation care program during the holidays.

Information regarding fees and hours of care can be directed to the Director of NCC early learners ph: 5451 3330 or email: nambour@nccearlylearners.com.au





Pastoral care

Pastoral care is an integral part of the school program, having as its goals the spiritual, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of students. For students who find they are struggling with issues, the pastoral care team provides help, empathy, guidance and support.

Our Junior School Pastoral Care team are available if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give them a call or you are most welcome to drop in to their office.

Home and school partnership

An effective partnership between home and school is important for your child's learning success.

Positive partnerships grow when both parents and staff demonstrate:

- open and honest communication
- mutual respect, trust and support

Please share any concerns or queries you may have with us throughout the year.

We look forward to working with you, as partners, in the education of your child. With God's help, we will have a fantastic year of learning and growing together.

NAMBOUR
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
SOW TO HARVEST



SECURITY.

SUPPORT.

SUCCESS.