

Early Entry into Prep and Reception Policy

Scotch's Prep Learning program is designed to be a hybrid approach which bridges an Early Learning Education program (shaped by the Early Years Learning Framework) and Reception program (underpinned by the Australian Curriculum). Learning experiences are planned around a balance between the play-based learning approach and explicit instruction in foundation subjects.

It is important to note that the broader school experience has Prep students experiencing school within a Junior Campus structure. Therefore, in Prep students follow a day-to-day timetable schedule, attend specialist classes, socialise with older students during their recess and lunch breaks and take part in whole campus events, such as Sports day.

Early Childhood research highlights the importance of unstructured time for children's development and play-based learning in their early years, therefore developmental readiness for Prep is key. Starting school is an exciting and important time in a child's life and should always be an opportunity to 'thrive' not just 'survive'.

The Prep enrolment guideline is designed to ensure that children entering Prep are developmentally ready for the challenges of attending a school environment. It is important to note that a child's Early Childhood Educator is best placed to confirm whether a child will be ready to commence Prep according to their birth date eligibility, or would benefit from a further 6 months in an Early Learning setting prior to commencing as a student at Reception level.

2021 Eligibility

Eligibility for enrolment into Prep at Scotch in 2021, is a date of birth between 16 April and 30 September (with the child turning 5 during their Prep year). Scotch's date of birth guideline is designed to ensure that a child will attend school for no more than one school term prior to their 5th birthday.

2022 > Eligibility

Eligibility for enrolment into Prep at Scotch from 2022 onwards, is a date of birth between 16 April and 17 October (with the child turning 5 during their Prep year).

Scotch's date of birth guideline is designed to ensure that a child will attend school for no more than one school term, plus one week, prior to their 5th birthday.

Early Entry Guiding Principles

Scotch acknowledges that there are times where children are developmentally advanced and would benefit from early entry into the Prep, or Reception programs.

Early entry, along with acceleration into other programs and year levels in the Junior Campus is determined through a carefully informed process which is designed to be in the best interests of the child.

In considering early entry to Prep, or Reception we look for the following factors:

- showing advanced skills in reading, writing and numeracy (evidenced in samples of child's spontaneous play e.g. written communications reflects sentences, reading new books independently to self, working with and manipulating numbers, including making calculations)
- eager to start school
- highly motivated to learn- extremely curious about the world around them, wanting to know how things work and why
- seeks intellectual stimulation and challenges - may be able to make connections between ideas and concepts that seem to be beyond that of their peers of the same age
- seeks interactions with older children
- demonstrates a longer attention span than peers of the same age
- socially mature, emotionally stable, perceptive and confident in a range of settings
- acts independently, speaks for self and can seek assistance when needed
- likes being challenged and perceives school as a place to learn
- demonstrates suitable academic ability (*Full Scale IQ is identified in the very superior range), preferably using the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, Fourth Edition, Australian and New Zealand (WPPSI-IV A&NZ), including the 9 sub-tests required to calculate the Full-Scale score and Primary Index Scales. This can be conducted after the child has attained the age of 4-0 years.

*NB. the Full Scale IQ must be supported by a subtest scores in the superior to very superior range which are supported by equivalent working memory and processing speed capabilities.
- Identification that it would be disadvantageous to the child's development for them to stay in an Early Learning Environment and, therefore recommendation for early entry by the child's Early Childhood educator.

Early entry must be determined as the best means of appropriately engaging and challenging gifted and talented learners with activities that will foster their wellbeing and as a means of achieving learning outcomes that are consistent with their abilities. The College may elect to review all information using the Iowa Acceleration Scale tool for a final decision. (This tool is used to review suitability for acceleration for students at Reception to Year 6).

Early school entry to Prep and Reception is decided at the discretion of the Head of Junior Campus based on important information that supports the ideas that:

- early enrolment will benefit the child

- delaying enrolment may in fact potentially disadvantage the child
- and the child displays the potential to be able to cope with the demands of school.

Explanation of Date of Birth Date Range for 2021

The date of birth range is reflective of typical school term dates with 16 April the anticipated latest date for end of Term 1 and the 30 September the anticipated latest date for the end of Term 3.

- The Term 1 end date has ranged/ranges from 9 April to 15 April over the 10-year period since the SA enrolment cut-off date was set for Reception entry in 2015.
- The Term 3 end date has ranged/ranges from 24 September to 30 September over the 10-year period since the SA enrolment cut-off date was set for Reception entry in 2015.

Explanation of Date of Birth Date Range 2022 and beyond

The date of birth range is reflective of typical school term dates with 16 April the anticipated latest date for end of Term 1 and the 17 October the anticipated latest commencement date for the Term 4.

- Term 1 end date has ranged/ranges from 9 April to 15 April over the 10-year period since the SA enrolment cut-off date was set for Reception entry in 2015.
- Term 4 commencement date has ranged/ ranges from Oct 11 to October 17 over the 10-year period since the SA enrolment cut-off date was set for Reception entry in 2015.