



Blackwood Kindergarten Priority of Access Policy

PURPOSE

Enrolments will be determined in accordance with the Preschool Enrolment Policy of the Department of Children's Services and Child Development (DECD) and this Preschool Priority of Access Policy will inform parents/ guardians of the criteria that will be used to prioritise enrolments in the event that the site has reached enrolment capacity.

SCOPE

Families are entitled to enrol in any DECD preschool service across South Australia; however where the demand exceeds the capacity (number of places available) at that site, then the priority of access policy will apply to guide equity in allocating preschool places.

OBJECTIVES

Parent/guardians who register intent to enrol at the preschool will have their application for enrolment assessed by the site leader or the Mitcham Hills Partnership DECD staff as outlined in Procedure Details. Where a place cannot be offered, parents/ guardians will be provided with the names of alternate local preschools. (note: DECD staff have agreed to ensure that at least one option is available to all families living in the region.)

PROCEDURE DETAILS

Enrolment will be assessed on the following criteria...

Criteria 1: The following children have first priority for enrolment

- 1.1 A child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- 1.2 Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- 1.3 Child under the guardianship of the Minister
- 1.4 Children in families which include a person with a disability
- 1.5 Children with a disability
- 1.6 Children in families with non-English speaking backgrounds
- 1.7 Children in socially isolated families

Criteria 2: To be applied after Criteria 1 when the demand for enrolments exceeds site capacity

Children living in the immediate local area known as the priority catchment area will have 1st priority. This has been defined by the Blackwood Kindergarten Governing Council as suburbs with the postcodes of 5050 and 5051. The following criteria will be followed in order when allocating placement.

2.1 Children living in suburbs with 5050 and 5051 who have had older siblings attend the centre, or who have attended Blackwood Kindergarten Playgroup. Proximity to the centre of home address, closest to furthest will determine the priority of enrolment.

2.2 Children living in postcodes 5050 and 5051. Proximity to the centre of home address, closest to furthest will determine the priority of enrolment.

2.3 Children living outside the priority catchment area who have had older siblings attend Blackwood Kindergarten, or who have attended Blackwood Kindergarten Playgroup. Proximity to the centre of home address, closest to furthest will determine the priority of enrolment.

2.4 Children living outside the priority catchment area. Proximity to the centre of home address, closest to furthest will determine the priority of enrolment.

2.5 Date of application for enrolment, all other criteria being equal.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Site Leader or delegate

- Ensure that all enrolling parents/ guardians are made aware of this Preschool Priority of Access Policy. Published on Blackwood Kindergarten's website.
- Ensures that all staff dealing with enrolment enquiries are aware of and understand the enrolment procedure
- Liaises with neighbouring centres to establish geographical boundaries
- Notifies the Mitcham Hills Partnership Educational Director and neighbouring centres when centre is close to capacity
- Advises parents/guardians of alternate local preschools if a place cannot be offered at this site

Governing Council

- Ratifies the Preschool Priority of Access Policy
- Ratifies the Priority Catchment Area

DECD Staff

- Ensure access to preschool for all eligible children living in the region
- Endorse the Priority of Access Policy
- Approve the catchment area in conjunction with those set by surrounding preschools
- Coordinate an annual process to identify enrolment pressures and consider strategies to alleviate pressures and disseminate to site leaders

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This Policy has been ratified by Blackwood Kindergarten Governing Council

Date 8/9/2015

This Policy will be reviewed by Governing Council

Date June 2016

Associated Documents: DECD Guidelines for Developing & Implementing a Priority of Access Policy in Preschools. DECD Preschool Enrolment Policy. Found on DECD website.