Hills Grammar

Transition to School Procedure

Policy Statement

Starting school is an important transition for children and their families. A positive start to school is a key factor in setting up the foundation for a child's future academic and social success. The ECEC supports continuity of learning and transitions for each child by implementing a comprehensive transition to Kindergarten.

Rationale

The ECEC will liaise with families, the community, The Hills Grammar School, local schools, and children to work collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition to Kindergarten, whether at Hills Grammar or at another school.

The ECEC will endeavour to:

- Support children to become familiar with their school environment.
- Reduce the stress for children by providing positive experiences during their transition.
- Support the teachers to observe children interacting with their peers in a social setting.
- Provide children with regular opportunities throughout the year to engage in positive experiences within the school setting.
- Encourage parents to become a part of their child's transition to school.

During the year and at set meeting times, communication between staff is a vital component of the ECEC's transition to school program. ECEC educators communicate effectively and transparently with Hills Grammar Kindergarten teachers and the Head of Hills Grammar Junior School, to transfer knowledge and understanding of each transitioning child, including family and child expectations and interests.

Strategies

Transition Program

- Where possible, during Term Four, a number of transition sessions will be organized and held for children who will be attending Kindergarten at Hills Grammar. These sessions may include lessons held by the Kindergarten teachers and Specialist teachers.
- While the children are participating in some of these transition sessions, parents will participate in parent information sessions with expert speakers and staff from the school. Sessions are held either face to face or via zoom.
- During Terms 3 and 4 ECEC walks through the school campus down to the Library. This gives children an opportunity to get familiar with a school environment. During this time, ECEC educators read a book to the children in the Library.
- During Term 4, ECEC children transitioning to school the following year engage in 2 weeks of 'lunch box week.' During this time, the children bring a lunch box from home in and have lunch in the Kindergarten space. Lunch continues to be provided by the Hills Grammar café (Chartwells).
- The Head of Junior School/Year 5 buddy will write a letter to each child before they start school in January, welcoming them to the School.

- A Kindergarten Information pack, including information about Kindergarten, the teachers, the first day etc will handed out to parents.
- ECEC teachers will meet with the Kindergarten teachers to discuss the children entering Kindergarten.
- Transition programs will be individualized where needed.

For children not planning to attend The Hills Grammar School, ECEC educators can meet with parents to discuss the transition program of their chosen school and help in any way possible. A Summary of Assessment or Transition to School statement is also provided to the families who can pass this information onto their child's School.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.