



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 04/2016

**Centre number:** 4163

**Centre name:** Mawson Lakes Preschool

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director  
Sandra Cattel
- Location address  
12 – 28 Garden Tce  
Mawson Lakes SA 5095
- DfE Partnership  
Hollywood, Lakes and Gardens
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)  
13kms
- Telephone number  
08 8359 1343
- Fax number  
08 8359 1254
- Preschool website address:  
[www.mawsonlakespre.sa.edu.au](http://www.mawsonlakespre.sa.edu.au)

- Preschool e-mail address  
[dl.4163\\_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4163_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

- Enrolment/Attendance

Enrolments (past 5 years)			Attendance (as per PSS0790 staffing attendance figures and data collection submission report)		
2018	Term 1	131	2018	Term 1	120
	Term 2	129		Term 2	114
	Term 3	125		Term 3	110
	Term 4	124		Term 4	110
2019	Term 1	131	2019	Term 1	119
	Term 2	129		Term 2	110
	Term 3	129		Term 3	117
	Term 4	127		Term 4	110
2020	Term 1	128	2020	Term 1	N/A
	Term 2	128		Term 2	N/A
	Term 3	127		Term 3	N/A
	Term 4	127		Term 4	111
2021	Term 1	128	2021	Term 1	111
	Term 2	126		Term 2	111
	Term 3	121		Term 3	106
	Term 4	124		Term 4	105
2022	Term 1	121	2022	Term 1	91
	Term 2	120		Term 2	91
	Term 3	117		Term 3	95
	Term 4	118		Term 4	92

- Co-located/stand-alone

Co located with Mawson Lakes Primary School and Mawson Lakes Community Early Learning Centre.

The relationship between the three sites is strong and the leadership teams from each site work together to develop a seamless care and education services that meets the needs of families and ensures continuity of care and learning from birth to year 6.

- Programs operating at the preschool
  - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

Purple Group: Monday / Tuesday 8.30am – 3.15pm  
Wednesday 8.30am – 11.30am (wks 1,3,5,7,9)

- Green Group: Thursday / Friday 8.30am – 3.15pm  
Wednesday 8.30am – 11.30am (wks 2,4,6,8,10)
- Lunch/Full Day Program  
Included as part of our sessional preschool program
- Playgroup  
This is a joint funded program with Mawson Lakes School and Preschool contributing funds to employ and ECW to be the playgroup coordinator. The playgroup runs on Wednesday afternoons (from 1.30pm – 3pm) and is aimed primarily at families who are on our waiting list for preschool, but open to all.
- Bilingual Support  
Over half of our total enrolments are bilingual and many begin preschool with limited or no English. Mawson Lakes Preschool has a diverse mix of cultures and the Bilingual Support Program is accessed regularly for languages including Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Khmer, Urdu, Hindi, Gurjarati, Mandarin and Vietnamese.
- Preschool Support  
Approximately a quarter of our total enrolments have additional needs ranging from speech and language difficulties, ASD, global developmental delay, specific medical conditions and behaviour needs. Extra support is utilised through the IESP support grant for children who meet the criteria and extensive needs funding is applied for as needed. One Plans are written for all children who access support over 4 hours a week. Preschool staff meet regularly with Support Services staff to review support for individual children and specialist agencies are regularly involved.

## 2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

The educator team in collaboration with Governing Council and families has identified priorities for improvement for 2023. The priorities and strategies for implementation are documented in our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) and encompass the seven quality areas. *(please refer to our PQIP plan our website)*

In 2015 our preschool was assessed under the NQS and received an Exceeding rating in all areas.

## 3. Curriculum

- Framework used

The Early Years Framework for Australia (EYLF) – Belonging, Being and Becoming V2.0

- Core Values

### Site Philosophy

Our philosophy is at the core of our work with children and families. It is underpinned by the three pillars of the EYLF – Belonging, Being and Becoming. At Mawson Lakes Preschool this looks like;

### Belonging

- . Children belonging to their families and community
- . Children and their family feeling safe to create meaningful attachments with educators
- . Educators creating an environment that nurtures wellbeing
- . Educators and families celebrating together
- . Welcoming families and the cultural diversity they bring
- . Acknowledging and supporting Aboriginal ways of growing and learning

### Being

- . Children being supported to explore through periods of long, uninterrupted play
- . Educators being 'present' and engaging with children at their current level of interest and development
- . Educators valuing childhood and providing an environment where children can simply be 3,4, or 5
- . Educators providing a learning environment which fosters children's sense of curiosity, wonder and awe
- . Educators appreciating each child's current stage of development and supporting them to take their next steps
- . Educators providing a learning environment which is intentionally planned and responds to children's diverse learning needs

## Becoming

- . Children becoming confident and capable learners
- . Educators supporting children to develop positive dispositions for learning
- . Educators having high expectations for all children and providing opportunities through purposeful play and intentional teaching to guide children to their next learning goal
- . Educators, families and children coming together to connect, play, learn and grow on the traditional lands of the Kurna people
- . Educators advocating for children and childhood
- . Educators supporting the continuity of learning from preschool to school for all children

## Our Vision:

Is for all of our children to become confident, resilient, socially competent individuals

- Specific curriculum approaches
  - A play based curriculum is used as the basis for all learning at our preschool. The Early Years Learning Framework V2.0 is used to document learning and track progress over time. In line with our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan the preschool uses a number of tools to assess and document childrens learning including;
  - Early Literacy development - with a focus on Phonological awareness using the PASM (Phonological Awareness Skills Mapping) tool
  - Numeracy and Mathematical understanding using The 4 Top 5
  - Social Skill development – using the Kimochis® Curriculum.
  - Physical Skill Development
  - Site funding is used to implement literacy, physical and social skills programs for children in their first term of preschool and those who have been identified as needing extra support.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - Preschool to School Transition – Our program includes regular opportunities for all children to participate in transition experiences throughout the year. Children regularly visit the Book Nook, use the play ground and oval and may attend official school events. The preschool staff work closely with the Assistant Principal (Early Years) to ensure transition/orientation programs caters for the needs of all children and families. Preschool staff also assist with class placement at the end of the year.
  - Shared learning groups – The preschool and various JP and Primary classes engage in shared learning experiences. This may be based on a project of work or more flexible learning opportunities as they arise.

Regular visits to and from the school are integral to our preschool program

- Early years meetings – the school and preschool early years staff have developed a PLC and meet on a regular basis to discuss curriculum, share information and network

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile

Director	1.0
Teacher	1.0 (permanent – currently working 0.8 Mon-Thurs)
Teacher	1.0 (permanent – currently working 0.8 Tues – Thurs)
Teacher	0.5 (permanent – currently on secondment for 2023)
Teacher	1.0 (contract)
Teacher UA/NIT	0.8 (contract)
ECW 1	1.0 (permanent)
ECW 1	1.0 (0.5 permanent)
ECW 1 UA/NIT	0.1 (contract)
ECW 1 lunchcover and literacy groups	20hours per week (contract)
ECW 2	5hours per week (contract)

The ECW 2 is employed as our finance officer and works approximately 5 hours per week including some holiday periods.

Speech Pathologist 0.2 buy in program 2023-2024

- Performance Management Program

Performance development is consistent with DfE policies and all staff have access to regular feedback and support. Performance management processes are ongoing and regular reflection and sharing of new learning occurs during staff meetings.

Funding for professional development opportunities are included in the centre budget and align to the Preschool Quality Improvement Plan.

- Access to special support staff

The preschool makes referrals as necessary to DfE Support Services. The preschool has an excellent relationship with our Disability Coordinator and Speech Pathologist. Many children who attend Mawson Lakes Preschool have a written OnePlan and regular meetings are held which includes DfE support staff, childcare/school and other agencies involved with the child and family. The preschool also liaises closely with the childcare centre and Assistant Principal of the school to share information and provide for consistent planning and support.

The preschool has established relationships with Autism SA, Disabilities SA, Novita and other NDIS service providers; many who provide services in our centre for children, and these services are accessed as required.

- Other

Child and Youth Health – Child and Youth Health utilise the preschool for termly health checks for eligible children.

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The preschool began operation in 2004 in class space within the school. In 2007 the preschool moved to its present purpose built site on the school grounds. Due to enrolment pressures the preschool underwent a substantial building extension in 2015 in order to increase our capacity. Inside, the preschool is light and airy with two large play spaces and two smaller withdrawal areas that can also be opened up to create another large play space. The preschool staff have their own office/prep area and there is a separate office for the Director. The preschool has indoor storage with a custom fitted storage room while outdoors there is a custom fitted large shed. The preschool is airconditioned and heated and toilets are on recycled water. There are also two large water tanks which are used to maintain the gardens and in children's play and learning about sustainable practices.

The outdoor learning environment has been developed over the last 10 years, with a major renovation project about to begin in the latter half of 2023, and provides children with a number of natural learning spaces including large covered sandpit and water course area, fountain, swings, mud kitchen, climbing log, kitchen garden and covered veranda space.

- Capacity (per session)

Physical cap 132; 66 children per session

Staffing cap 2023 121; 66 & 55 per session

- Centre Ownership

DfE

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

Disability access was considered as part of the design (adult toilet doubles as disabled toilet and includes a shower and space for a hoist and washing machine/dryer)

- Other

The preschool has access to school resources and facilities including Mawson Centre/Book Nook (library), The Dension Centre and playground/oval areas.

The preschool also shares some infrastructure with the school including IT connections and phone systems. The preschool is also included as part of the school for security purposes.

The preschool finances are included on the school EDSAS (company 7), but finances are managed by the preschool. One of the ECW positions is specifically for finance duties and funding is allocated in our yearly budget to support this.

## 6. Local Community

### General characteristics

- Mawson Lakes is a newer suburb approximately 13kms north of Adelaide. It is situated alongside the more established suburbs of Pooraka, Para Hills West, Salisbury and Parafield Gardens. The suburb began as a Delfin development with many subdivisions in the Mawson Lakes area. The suburb consists of high, medium and low density housing options. Many of our families live in apartments or townhouses. The population is diverse with a strong International and Defence Force presence. This means that there is a level of transience as many families are located in SA for a short time. Most families would be considered 'middle to upper income'. The community is also highly culturally diverse with many children accessing preschool with little or no English.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool  
The Preschool has enjoyed an extremely active and supportive Governing Council and parent community. The Governing Council are pivotal to the decision making and management of the centre including finance, fundraising, budget and asset management, policy making and implementation. Many families who are on the Preschool Governing Council go on to be members of the school Governing Council and active in the life of the preschool and school community.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool  
Between 75-80% of children attend Mawson Lakes School with the remainder accessing mostly private schools in the surrounding areas.
- Other local care and educational facilities  
The preschool is co-located with Mawson Lakes Community Childcare centre with many families utilising both facilities.  
In Mawson Lakes the community has access to a DfE primary school and a private secondary school (Endeavour College) and the University of South Australia has a strong presence in the community.



Mawson Centre is a joint owned facility (DECS/UniSA and Salisbury Council) and the Mawson Lakes School library and community library is housed there. Mawson Centre is a community hub for learning and social activities.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**  
The preschool is located in the centre of Mawson Lakes commercial centre and is well serviced by an array of retail, social and community services including a supermarket, specialty shops, cafes/restaurants as well as medical facilities eg chemist, medical centre and dentist.
- **Other local facilities**  
Families in Mawson Lakes have access to a number of local parks, lakes/waterways and golf course. Church groups also operate in the area.
- **Accessibility**  
The preschool is located near the Mawson Interchange which has excellent rail and bus links to the city and surrounding suburbs.
- **Local Government**  
Mawson Lakes Preschool is part of the Salisbury Council

## **7. Further Comments**