

Carinya Gunnedah's

Prep Program

PARENT / CAREGIVER INFORMATION HANDBOOK



Carinya

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

From Christ and For Him

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ABOUT CARINYA

Carinya Christian School

Carinya is an independent, co-educational day school, teaching students across two campuses in Tamworth and Gunnedah. The learning environment at Carinya Gunnedah is unique to the area, where children of all ages, from 3 years of age up to Year 10, share the same campus, the same outstanding facilities and the same professional staff.

Gunnedah Prep Program

The Kindergarten Preparatory Program consists of Gumnuts (3-4 year olds) and Prep (4-5 year olds). The Program integrates experiences across all curriculum areas using set themes each term to provide a springboard for investigation. We seek to facilitate a hands-on approach through a range of play-based and formal learning opportunities that allow the children to explore, investigate, create and become more confident in attempting new experiences.

Within our Program we encourage and support the children to follow directions, listen to instructions, process information, achieve social development, and develop curiosity about their world, themselves, other people and God.

A Brief History

Carinya Christian School Tamworth commenced in May 1984, with six students in Kindergarten to Year 3. The school was founded, and continues to be run, by the Tamworth Christian Education Association, an initiative of Trinity Church.

In 1998 the Tamworth Christian Education Association saw an opportunity to support the ongoing provision of Christian education to the Gunnedah community by assuming the management of what was previously Gunnedah Christian Community School at the beginning of 1999. In August 1999, Carinya Gunnedah was officially recognised as a Carinya Christian School campus.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

At Carinya, Jesus Christ is central to the core vision of the school and our understanding of Him is embedded in our educational practices at every level. The essential elements of the educational process; the home, the learner, the curriculum and the teacher, are interpreted in a framework based on an understanding of the person and authority of Jesus Christ.

THE CHILD

Every child:

- is taught and valued as an individual, made in the image of God.
- receives all their talents and abilities from Jesus.
- is to develop, use and enjoy their talents and abilities for Jesus.
- is valued equally in the classroom and in the school community.

Jesus is therefore central to the way Carinya understands the child as a learner in the educational process.

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the school examines the world that Jesus has made and our place in it.

As children experience the curriculum, they also learn what Jesus thinks about His world and how He wants them to respond to it. That is why we can say that the curriculum is “centred” on Christ. He created what we learn about and He helps us understand how to live obediently in that world.

CHRIST
centred
view

THE TEACHERS

Teachers at Carinya are obliged to:

- treat a child as an individual because they are made by Jesus in His image, and believe that to be true about the child and themselves.
- teach a child that everything they learn about in the curriculum has come from the mind and hand of Jesus, and believe that to be true.
- respond to a child’s learning in a way that points them to Jesus as the source of all their opportunities and abilities, and believe that to be true.

EDUCATION

• **Teaching Methods**

Our teaching methods are based on an understanding of the learner, the curriculum and the teaching process, informed by what we know about Jesus Christ.

• **Community not Competition**

Students are taught that ‘coming first’ and ‘beating’ classmates is not the goal of their learning. Rather, the joy and reward of learning itself, and the privilege of sharing their gifts as they help others, is encouraged.

THE PROGRAM

Days and Hours of Operation

The Gumnuts Program runs on Mondays and Tuesdays. Parents and caregivers can choose to enrol their child(ren) for one or both days in the Program.

The Prep Program runs on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Parents and caregivers can choose to enrol their child(ren) for two or three days in the Program.

The Program hours for both Gumnuts and Prep are **9:00am to 3:00pm**, although supervision is available from 8:45am each day. If there is a particular need for your child(ren) to be at school before this time, please make arrangements with the Principal.

Pick Up and Drop Off

We have a Drop Off (**8:45am to 9:00am**) and Pick Up (**3:00pm to 3:15pm**) Zone in Little Barber Street where a staff member is always present during these times to escort the children safely between vehicles and the school grounds. When using this area, children must enter and exit the car on the kerb side, as opposed to the road side, and must also be capable of operating their own child restraints, as drivers are not able to exit their vehicles in the Drop Off and Pick Up Zone.

Parking is available in the public car park on Little Barber Street if you would prefer to escort your child(ren) to and from the classroom.

Under the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), children have to be enrolled in Kindergarten to be eligible for subsidised bus travel (i.e. a bus pass). Nevertheless, if you would like your child to travel by bus, private arrangements can be made with the relevant bus company.

At the beginning of the year we will request information from you regarding your child’s usual travel arrangements and the names of people to whom you give permission to collect your child from school. **We will not vary a child’s usual travel arrangements unless a parent or caregiver has contacted us beforehand.**

A DAY IN THE PROGRAM

Good Morning!

On arrival each morning, the children place their water bottles, Crunch & Sip, Recess and Lunch in separate places. They are also shown where to place their Communication Books each day and their library bags on the day they visit the Library. The children are encouraged to unpack their bags each morning and we assist them to pack their bags in the afternoon. This helps them move towards independence.

Meal Time

Crunch & Sip, Recess and Lunch should all be packed separately and clearly labelled in containers or zip lock bags no bigger than what is required to store their food. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to pack nutritious, healthy food, including:

- fresh fruit
- crunchy vegetables
- a meat or protein food
- dairy food (yoghurt, cheese)
- a starchy food (bread, rice crackers)
- water

We ensure that children wash their hands prior to eating and that food is not shared between children. All uneaten food is sent home so parents can see what their child has eaten during the day.

Children have access to their water bottles throughout the entire day and can fill up their bottles as required.

Rest Time

Rest time is part of the daily program in the afternoon. The children rest while listening to quiet music, stories or songs and it is a relaxing time after the busy morning.

Gumnuts rest for approximately one hour, while Prep progress from half hour rests to no rest time by Term 4 to ease the transition in to Kindergarten.

Show and Tell

As part of our Speaking and Listening Program, children are encouraged to bring one thing each day to share from either God's world (natural) or home (man made). For example, it could be a toy, favourite book, a flower, insect or photograph.

Library Visits

As part of the Program, children regularly visit the school Library. Through these visits the children become familiar with the main school building and interact with other teachers and older students. Library skills and manners are developed as the children make their own book selections and enjoy a story with the teacher.

Children are unable to borrow a new book unless the previous book has been returned. Library bags are essential for transporting books between the Program and home, and can be a draw string bag, pillowcase or purchased from our Uniform Shop.



Technology

Throughout the year, children have access to technology in the form of iPads and an interactive Promethean ActivPanel in the classroom. The use of technology is essential in modern education and your child(ren) will be given a head start as they become increasingly familiar and comfortable with using these devices.

Birthdays

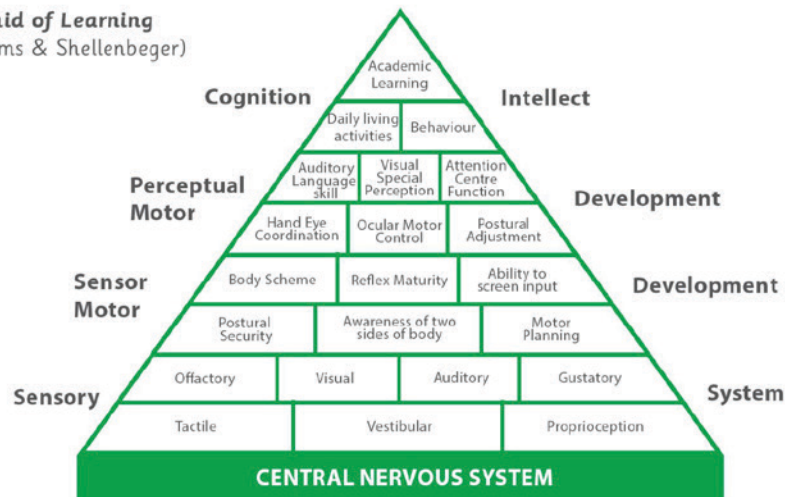
A birthday is a very exciting time in a child's life and we are happy to be part of celebrating that special day. You are welcome to send along a cake or cupcakes on your child's birthday to share with friends, although our preference is for cupcakes.

Invitations - if your child is having a party, please leave birthday party invitations in your child's Communication Book so that teachers can distribute them discreetly.

Children in both age groups participate in a variety of play-based learning opportunities each day. These opportunities may be completely free form or have some level of structure, focussing on the following 5 key areas of learning:

- 1 **Gross Motor Skills:** A combination of focussed instruction and free play.
- 2 **Fine Motor Skills:**
 - i. Pre-school readiness - dexterity, finger strength and control.
 - ii. School readiness - pencil grip, pencil control (tracing, colouring), name writing, cutting, pasting.
- 3 **Academic Skills:**
 - i. Pre-literacy - all about books, the PreLit teaching program, comprehension skills, visual discrimination, letter construction and sound recognition.
 - ii. Pre-mathematics - numbers and counting, patterns, measurement, space.
 - iii. Core Studies - curiosity, investigating, instruction.
- 4 **Social Skills:** Self-control, empathy and verbal communication.
- 5 **Creative Skills:** Visual arts and music.

Pyramid of Learning
(Williams & Shellenbeger)



HOME AND SCHOOL TOGETHER

There are a number of simple things that you can do with your child at home to compliment and assist with their learning in the Program.

Reading/Literacy

Read a variety of books to your child on a regular basis. Read the book and then:

1. Ask your child to name items in the book - what is it?
 - Elaborate - what type of ball is it? What is its colour, size or purpose?
2. Describe an event from the book - what happened?
 - Elaborate - ask for a different ending; what would have happened if...?
 - Identify reasons - How come? Why?
3. Relate the events of the book to:
 - Your child's world - is that car like ours?
 - Your child's emotions - how would you feel if...?
4. Enjoy discovering details in the book's pictures and illustrations.

Pencil and Writing Skills

Fine motor skills are an important part of your child's development before school. The following areas are important to develop:

1. Use of scissors: Any opportunity for children to practice cutting is beneficial. A helpful way for children to remember the correct use of scissors is to draw a smiley face on the top of the thumb and explain that the face wants to look up at them while cutting. His two friends (the second and third fingers) always want to sit in the other scissor hole together, but never apart. Left handers need to use left-handed scissors.
2. Pencil grip and control: Tracing any type of line or letter using any range of writing implements is a helpful way to encourage your child's developing pencil control. PLEASE NOTE: it is very important that if you are modelling the writing of letters, always use lower case letters (unless to begin a name).

DAILY ROUTINES

GUMNUTS

8:45 - 9:20am	Arrival and Morning Activities
9:20 - 9:30am	Welcome and Mark Roll
9:30 - 10:30am	Crunch & Sip and Outdoor Activities
10:30 - 10:50am	Recess
10:50 - 11:15am	Shared Book and Group Time
11:15am - 12:30pm	Inside Small Group Activities
12:30 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00pm	Rest Time
2:00 - 2:40pm	Storyline Online and Indoor Quiet Activities
2:40 - 3:00pm	Pack Bags and Go Home

PREP

8:45 - 9:20am	Arrival and Morning Activities
9:20 - 9:30am	Welcome and Mark Roll
9:30 - 10:30am	Crunch & Sip and Outdoor Activities
10:30 - 10:50am	Recess
10:50 - 11:15am	Shared Book and Group Time
11:15am - 12:30pm	Inside Small Group Activities
12:30 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 1:30pm	DEAR and Storyline Online
1:30 - 2:40pm	News and Indoor Activities
2:40 - 3:00pm	Pack Bags and Go Home



GETTING READY CHECKLIST

LARGE backpack

Must be large enough to fit the day's food, drink bottle, Communication Book, jumper, spare clothes, library book and perhaps an item for "News" or craft to take home. Please help us to help your child learn to pack their bag with ease and confidence.

SEPARATE containers for Crunch & Sip, Recess and Lunch

Crunch & Sip, recess and lunch are stored in different places during the day. Please pack them in separate containers that the children can open by themselves to help build their independence.

Drink bottle

Water only please.

Ice bricks

Help keep lunches cool and fresh!

Library bag

Children are able to borrow books from the Carinya Library. Only children who attend on Library days will need a library bag.

Spare underwear / change of clothes

While being fully toilet trained is an enrolment requirement, occasional "accidents" do happen. Please send along spare underwear and a change of clothes in a plastic bag. This stays in your child's bag and hopefully won't be needed. If required, it's much easier if they can change into their own clothes.

ALL belongings clearly LABELLED

Please label all your child's belongings with a permanent marker. You would be surprised how things become ownerless after a while!

Carinya Sports Uniform

Gumnut and Prep students are a part of the Carinya school community and, therefore, wear the Carinya uniform. All uniform items (except for shoes, backpacks and hair accessories) are available, and must be purchased from, the Carinya Uniform Shop. New and second hand items are available.

The uniform consists of:

- Red wide-brimmed school hat
- Logoed red and black sports shirt (all year round)
- Logoed black sports shorts (worn in Terms 1 and 4)
- Logoed black tracksuit pants (worn in Terms 2 and 3)
- Logoed red polar fleece jumper
- White socks with conventional sports shoes that are predominantly white in colour with white shoe laces

OPTIONAL WINTER ITEMS (Terms 2 and 3):

- Logoed red parka to wear over the top of the logoed red polar fleece jumper on very cold or wet days
- Black beanies and gloves (also available from the Carinya Uniform Shop)
- Plain red or black skivvies may be worn underneath the red and black sports shirt

All uniform enquiries can be directed to Mrs Katie Cook, the Uniform Shop Manager, by emailing cookk@carinya.nsw.edu.au.

Updated Uniform Shop Opening Hours, Uniform Code and Dress Requirements and online order forms can also be found on the Carinya website - www.carinya.nsw.edu.au/uniform.

Staff use various and regular methods of communicating with parents and caregivers as it is one of the key ways that Carinya brings “home and school together”. You will be kept up to date with your child’s health and well-being, progress and development, highlights from day-to-day activities and notifications of upcoming school events.

• The Communication Book

Communication Books are an important and effective means of communication between the Program and home. The display of the orange **Please Look Inside** page indicates that there is information to be read. Similarly, if you have written something in the Communication Book to be read by us, please display the orange **Please Look Inside** page and it will be read by the teacher.

• School Chat Newsletter

Each fortnight a School Chat information newsletter will be sent home via email. It can also be accessed on the school’s website or you can contact the front office to arrange for a hard copy to be printed if you don’t have internet access. The School Chat lets you know about upcoming events and also includes a section on what Gumnuts and Prep have been doing in the previous two weeks.

• Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews occur twice every year and provide an invaluable opportunity for our staff to continue to partner with parents and caregivers in the education of your child(ren). We encourage parents and caregivers to use this opportunity to share your concerns or positive outcomes for your child and to help us provide the best possible support for your family as we journey together through these precious, early years.

• Absences

Please notify the school if your child is going to be absent by calling the front office on **6742 2766** or by sending an SMS to **0419 795 613** before 9:00am.

If your child becomes ill at the Program, you or your contact person will be notified immediately.

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for the Carinya community to gather together, and for parents and caregivers to join their children at school and in the classroom for special events, including:

• Welcome BBQ / Parent Information Evening

At the beginning of Term 1 every year we host a Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Evening. Members of the school community gather together for a complimentary sausage sizzle before attending information sessions in the classrooms. It is a great way to connect with other students and families at the beginning of the year and to find out more about what is happening in the various classes.

• Puckapunyal

Once or twice per term from Term 2 onwards, Prep students perform an item at Puckapunyal, which is our equivalent to a school assembly. Puckapunyals are held on Thursday afternoons from 2:10 to 3:00pm. Afternoon tea for the adults attending is served from 1:40pm before each Puckapunyal. Dates for Puckapunyals are listed in the School Chat, along with notices regarding which classes are going to be on stage on each occasion.

• Thanksgiving Concert

At the end of every year we hold Thanksgiving Concerts in the last week of Term 4 to give thanks and celebrate the year that we have had. Gumnuts and Prep host their own Thanksgiving Concert on the same evening that Junior and Middle School students host theirs. It is a wonderful way to end the year as a school community.

You can find the latest details and dates for Carinya community events on the Carinya website, Facebook page and in the School Chat newsletter.

For more information regarding fees and enrolment please refer to our website or contact the Registrar.

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