



Early Childhood Education Philosophy Statement – Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre Primary

The Early Learning Setting

We are assisted by '**Belonging, Being and Becoming**: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)'. The Early Years Learning Framework is Australia's first national Early Years Learning Framework for educators working in early education.

This framework has a specific emphasis on play based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

The learning experiences you see in Early Childhood at St Munchin's, show our understanding about how children learn and develop in the early years. They illuminate every child's own gifts. The EYLF guides us to create experiences that reflect '**belonging, being and becoming**'. We understand that **belonging** is central to **being** and **becoming**.

The framework conveys the highest expectations for all children's learning. It communicates these expectations through the following five Learning Outcomes;

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

'The National Quality Standard (NQS)' sets a national benchmark for early childhood education. It outlines seven Quality Areas.

- Educational program and practice
- Children's health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Leadership and service management

In Pre Primary, we also use The Australian Curriculum which sets consistent national standards to improve learning outcomes for all young Australians across the learning areas.

We continually make decisions, plan, implement and assess the curriculum in Early Learning at St Munchin's.

As a Catholic school, we recognise that families are children's first and most influential educators. We create a welcoming environment where all children and families are respected and actively encouraged to participate. The rich and diverse communities of which children are a part, are valued and understood as central to their lives and learning. [*Catholic Education Commission Of Western Australia Early Years Positional Statement, 2009*].