



INFORMATION FOR 2024 ENROLMENTS

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child to Olympic Avenue Kindergarten (OAK). We trust that your child will feel happy and secure in our kindergarten environment and enjoy all the wonderful opportunities we provide to grow and develop. We hope that you too will enjoy a fulfilling association with the kindergarten and we invite you to participate in the many activities which are open to parents.

This document has been prepared to provide the information needed for your understanding of the kindergarten and your participation. OAK is a community operated kindergarten, welcoming and encouraging the involvement of families. A Committee of Management, made up of parents, works with the staff to ensure that the kinder operates smoothly and effectively. See <https://www.olympicavenue.com.au/our-committee/>.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please don't hesitate to talk to your child's Educator or a Committee Member.

We look forward to your family joining us at OAK in 2024.

Our Philosophy

OAK acknowledges the people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we come together to learn through play. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We respect and celebrate our indigenous heritage.

OAK is committed to providing a child safe environment where children are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

OAK provides a nurturing, secure and stimulating play-based program that is guided by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (2016), the Early Years Learning Framework (2009) and the National Quality Framework (2018).

We believe:

- In the importance for children to develop a sense of belonging.
- That children are individuals and should be valued for their individuality.
- That children achieve better outcomes when we have high expectations of them.
- In equity and diversity, in that all children deserve to access and participate in all parts of the kindergarten program with other children.
- That every child has the right to learn and develop.
- That all children, families, educators and the Committee have the right to be respected. We promote acceptance and respect for each other's different skills, abilities and cultures.
- That families are respected as their child's first teachers. We value shared decision making and active participation and welcome family involvement.
- In the importance of children making connections with the natural environment and we promote sustainability as part of our everyday practice.

Timetable for 2024. Note Staff to child ratio is one staff member to 11 children.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Purple 4yo			8.30-4.00		8:30-4:00	15 hours
Red 4yo	8:30-2.00	8.30-2.00		8.30-2.00		16.5 hours
Yellow 3yo	8.30-2.00	8.30-2.00		8.30-2.00		16.5 hours
Orange 3yo			8.30-4.00		8.30-4.00	15 hours
Extended Care	2.00-5.00	2.00-5.00		2.00-5.00		3 hours per session

Extended Care

Extended care is offered to families at an additional cost. These sessions usually start in Week 2 of term one. Extended care classes will only run if there is sufficient demand. Enrolment into these groups is first in best dressed.

Funded Kindergarten

Sessional Kindergarten in Victoria is funded by the government for 15 hours per week. In 2024 Both 3yo and 4yo kinder will receive government funding. This funding is paid directly to the kindergarten and does not attract the Child Care Subsidy. The Committee of Management is a not-for profit association registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. More information on funding can be found here:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/kindertick>.

Fees for 2024 (per term)

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten has opted in to the "Free Kinder" scheme for 2024. Under this initiative, three and four year old kindergarten is free for 15 hours per week. Note that we are able to charge the cost of an excursion – this will be billed later in the kinder year once the excursion is planned and booked (usually for the four year old group only)

The \$195 per term fees below are the "gap" fees which are charged for the additional 1.5 hours which are not funded (in the Red and Yellow groups).

4yo Red Group	\$195
4yo Purple Group	Nil
3yo Yellow Group	\$195
3yo Orange Group	Nil

Plus \$150 enrolment fee which is refundable on commencement of term 1. Note that this will not be refunded if you withdraw from the kindergarten prior to commencement date in term 1

Extended Care Session: \$350 per term (to attend one day per week), or \$700 to attend twice, or \$1,050 to attend all three sessions.

Plus a \$100 extended care deposit that will be deducted from term 4 extended care fees if you remain enrolled in the extended care program.

Families with a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession card or Refugee status will not need to pay an excursion fee or an enrolment fee. Please contact our Compliance Officer for more information regarding fees, officeolympicave@gmail.com.

Victorian Government School Term Dates for 2024

**Kinder terms generally align with Victorian government school terms, however additional child free days may be held for set up, clean up, and professional development. Refer to OAK's calendar for dates.*

Term 1 30th Jan to 28th March

Term 2 15th April to 28th June

Term 3 15th July to 20th September

Term 4 7th October to 20th December

Parent Involvement

Parents are asked to volunteer for kinder duty each term. These sessions are a lot of fun and it is a great way to get to know the staff and the other children in your child's kinder group. Please note that you will require a Working with

Children check in order to volunteer in the kindergarten program. We also have an active committee of management which will be voted in at our AGM in November 2023, which is comprised of parent volunteers that manage the service.

The Kindergarten Community

We have a Social/Fundraising Committee, who organise many different activities such as group coffees/dinners, a welcome event, and a social/fundraising night for parents. Our parents also utilise Pennydale park for plays after the kinder session.

Policies

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten reviews and updates its policies annually. Policies are compiled in a Policy Manual, a copy of which is available for reading in the foyer. Copies of individual policies can be obtained by contacting the Compliance Officer on officeolympicave@gmail.com or they are available on our website.

Registration Process

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten participates in the Central Registration scheme operated by Bayside City Council. Registration for 2024 kindergarten must be completed online via Bayside City Council. The registration period for 2024 commences on the 1st May through until 30th June 2023. Offers are then issued to families by email via Bayside Council from the 24th July 2023. To register from 1st May go to <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/kindergarten>. Note that children must be fully vaccinated for their age in order to attend kindergarten.

Places for the kindergarten program within the City of Bayside are allocated according to a number of criteria which are regularly reviewed. Information regarding the criteria for the Bayside Central Registration scheme can be obtained from the Council's website at: <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/kindergarten>.

Children enrolling for a **three-year-old** program must **turn three by the 30 April** of the year they attend. (Due to staff:child ratios that are based on age, a child cannot commence at the service until they have turned three years old.) **To Enrol for 3yo kinder 2024 - Born before 1 May 2021**

Children enrolling for a **four-year-old** program must **turn four by the 30 April of the year they attend**. A child may start four-year-old kindergarten at the commencement of the kindergarten year even if they have not yet turned four. **To Enrol for 4yo kinder 2022 - Born before 1 May 2020**

Current year vacancies

We are currently full for enrolments for the 2023 kindergarten year. If you would like to go on a waitlist for 2023 kindergarten please contact Bayside Council.

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten has been rated Exceeding under the National Quality Standard.

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten has a zero-tolerance to child abuse and racism. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and will be supported to express and enjoy their cultural rights. To create and maintain a child safe environment, Olympic Avenue Kindergarten apply Child Safe Standards and adhere to the Reportable Conduct Scheme (RCS). This applies to all workers, volunteers and parent helpers at Olympic Avenue Kindergarten. Refer to www.ccyv.vic.gov.au for more information about Child Safe Standards and the RCS.

