



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 01/2023

Centre number: 5621

Centre name: JEAN HORAN FLINDERS PARK KINDERGARTEN



1. General information

- Preschool Director: Julienne Muirhead
- Location: 25 Ross Avenue, Flinders Park. S.A. 5025
- DfE Partnership/Portfolio: West Torrens/Flinders 2
- Geographical location –10 km west of the GPO (Adelaide CBD) in the City of Charles Sturt Council District
- Telephone number: (08) 8346 1668
- Fax number: (08) 8351 9732
- Preschool website address: www.jeanhorankgn.sa.edu.au

- Preschool e-mail address: dl.5621.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance – Full-time Kindergarten offering up to 15 hours of Preschool for children in the year before they commence School
Enrolment up to 44 children
- Stand-Alone Preschool Site
- Programs operating at the preschool include: -
 - ⊞ Kindergarten sessions for eligible children: 15 hours per week - 5 sessions (3-hour duration). Our centre offers flexibility in how sessions are provided i.e. full days or a combination of full and half days (mornings).
Monday to Friday mornings (8.45 am to 11.45 am)
And/or full days available on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (8.45 am to 3.15 pm).
 - ⊞ Family Playgroup for parents/carers and their children held on Friday
12 noon – 1.30 pm (Weeks 1-9 of the school term)
 - ⊞ Bilingual Support: As allocated by DfE for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) children who have English as a second language.
 - ⊞ Preschool Student Support Services: As allocated by DfE for children with Student Support Services after a Referral process

2. Key Centre Policies

Please see our website www.jeanhorankgn.sa.edu.au for DfE and Centre specific policies.

Jean Horan Kindergarten – Statement of Philosophy

Our Centre: Jean Horan Flinders Park Kindergarten (JHK) was established in 1953. We are a government funded preschool, part of the South Australian Department for Education (DfE). JHK is staffed by fully qualified Early Childhood trained Teachers and Early Childhood Workers (ECW's). Our kindergarten offers high quality Early Childhood programs. Staff work in partnership with families to provide children with a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which to grow and learn. JHK is in a beautiful community park setting and has a reputation for providing an inclusive and welcoming environment. We have spacious indoor and outdoor areas that inspire and consolidate 'hands on' learning. Our extensive playground has space to run, a large sandpit area, swings, climbing equipment and places to garden. The grounds have been developed to meet the needs of preschool children with authentic challenges and stimulation as well as established trees that provide plenty of shade

in summer, areas for both active play and quiet relaxation. At JHK we strive to inspire an appreciation of nature and a love of the outdoors in the lives of our children and families, giving them a foundation to become aware and responsible for their local and global environment. We have a wide shady veranda area which can be used in all weather. Our indoor areas are well appointed with age-appropriate resources. We also have an excellent library of high-quality children's literature. Staff and our Governing Council ensure the building and grounds are safe and secure, well-maintained in addition to being aesthetically pleasing to promote a high standard of care. There is plenty of car parking available in the quiet residential streets that surround us. Children enjoy our age-appropriate resources and stimulating play-based program. Educators plan the curriculum using the Australian Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) called 'Belonging, Being and Becoming'. We use the National Quality Standards (NQS), DfE Literacy and Numeracy Guidebooks, and Respect Reflect Relate (RRR) and the DfE to ensure reflective practice and a cycle of continuous improvement. Our Staff provide an environment and programs to meet the diverse needs of children accessing our service. Our Educators value and encourage individuality of all children including those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, those of Australian Indigenous descent, and children with specific learning requirements. Bilingual and Support Staff are arranged through DfE on a needs basis to assist children and families settling in. We encourage and support links with other Early Year professionals, and others within our community.

Our Vision: JHK aims for excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care - growth for every child. Our Educators strive toward a high level of professionalism and family involvement in an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Our Beliefs: At JHK we believe each child is unique, developing at his or her own rate and with individual capabilities, interests, and strengths. Our program is strengths-based, and each child's agency (voice) is promoted inviting them to make a range of choices and decisions. We believe the health, safety and wellbeing of each child is paramount. Our curriculum demonstrates respect, caring and understanding for all children and Staff. At JHK we believe that children: Have the right to feel safe, secure and happy - Are all competent and capable learners - Learn best through PLAY in an environment rich in oral language and the foundation skills of Literacy and Numeracy - Learn best when parents and staff work in partnership - Require opportunities that meet their individual capabilities in order to develop to their potential - be involved in programs that foster self-esteem and responsibility for themselves, others and the environment - Have the right to have family and cultural values respected - Benefit from Nature Play and interacting with natural materials.

Your Child's Development: JHK offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum 'Belonging, Being and Becoming' (BBB) which focuses on the individual child's strengths, interests and prior experiences. This is an Australia-wide framework used by our Educators to promote the best learning and developmental gains for children. It has a strong emphasis on play-based learning. Research says that PLAY is the best vehicle for young children's learning and provides the most stimuli for brain development. As a priority we believe feeling safe and secure is essential to the foundation of children's learning and wellbeing. We aim to develop respectful and meaningful relationships with the children and their families. Our programs are

inclusive and value diversity - including culture, gender, and additional learning needs.

Educator Team: One of the most important assets at JHK is our caring, experienced, and enthusiastic Educator Team. We are committed to professional and personal staff-development which we believe is integral to providing a high-quality service. Our policies reflect a commitment to the safety and protection of children. All Staff and Volunteers working with children at JHK undergo a 'Working with Children Check' (WWCC) and hold First Aid and 'Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care' (RRHAN-EC) certification.

Health and Safety: Our Centre is committed to the health and safety of every child in our care from the policies and procedures we follow to the supervision and curriculum we provide. Health - We provide a safe and hygienic environment that promotes the health and active participation of children and Staff. We have a strong healthy eating and active play emphasis. As a general principle children and adults should not come to the Centre unless they are well and able to cope adequately with the normal daily routines and activities. Safety - Our Staff provide a safe environment in which children can develop toward their potential.

- The Curriculum we use is the Australian **Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) 'Belonging, Being and Becoming'**. Our centre prioritizes foundation skills in Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing.
- The following EYLF learning outcomes are emphasised: -
 - Children have a strong sense of identity
 - Children are effective communicators
 - Children are connected with and contribute to their world
 - Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
 - Children are confident and involved learners
- DfE '**Reflect, Respect, Relate**' *Assessing for Learning and Development in the Early Years* is used as a tool for on-going improvement and reflection also **DfE Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy**.
- Jean Horan Kindergarten Educators have a strong pedagogical belief in preschool children **learning through play** and an emphasis on discovery-based learning in a **natural** playscape. We have a spacious indoor / outdoor environment perfect for physical, active and energetic play.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects include: -
 - Oral Language, Nature Play Pedagogy, 'Wonder Full' Environment – Inquiry Learning, STEM Dispositions, Sustainability Education and Healthy Eating - Physically Active Play, Emergent Literacy and Numeracy.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile (As funded by DfE)
Director/Teacher (full time)
Teacher (full time)
Early Childhood Workers (ECW) according to enrolment numbers and DfE funding. Educator to Child ratio is 1:11
Additional ECW's as required to support children with student support needs (including Bi-lingual ECW's) and to supervise children during their lunch period.
- Our DfE Preschool Quality Improvement Planning and Performance and Development Policy for Educators supports all staff with keeping up-to-date with their professional learning and teaching pedagogy. A 'learning community' mind-set and reflective learning design (inquiry based) is seen as essential in providing a high-quality service for children and families. It enriches individual staff commitment and work satisfaction. In support of our staff team we aim for a positive work/life balance and strive to be a family friendly workplace.
- Access to Student Support Services – As required

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Jean Horan Kindergarten was established in 1953 and is located in suburban Flinders Park. It is adjacent to a green and shady recreational park and is leased from the City of Charles Sturt Council. It has spacious indoor/outdoor learning spaces and the building and grounds are in good condition, well-resourced and well maintained. Air-conditioned and large shady grounds.
- Capacity (per session) – a maximum of 45 children
- Centre Ownership – City of Charles Sturt Council. Site managed and maintained by DfE
- Access for children and staff with disabilities – Individual modifications and needs will need to be discussed and catered for.

6. Further Comments

Children attending JHK are mainly from local families representing a range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds including Indigenous and 'Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families.

Partnership arrangements with other groups:

JHK is a member of the DfE West Torren's Partnership (WTP) and the Flinders 2 Portfolio - which comprises of local DfE schools and preschool sites. Working with other education sites in this model of professional collaboration has greatly increased our awareness about the many local services and programs available to children and families. We are able to pass on this information to our community – and we look forward to a continuation of this important networking. Our DfE vision is 'To build a stronger future for our children by making South Australia's education system world-class'.

Feeder Schools: Our children transition to many local public and private schools and we have good working relationships with all our feeder schools communicating as needed. Flinders Park Primary School is our closest public school and we have partnered with them to do DfE transition programs, staff development and other shared projects.