Thank you for your interest in Chevallum State Prep as an option for the education of your Prep child. We understand what an incredibly important decision this is to make and how many different options you are faced with for this first compulsory year of your child's education. Hopefully reading this booklet will help you towards making an informed decision about your child's Prep year.

We realise you may be considering a few options. Amongst these may be Child Care Centres, other State Preps and Private Preps (both Crèche & Kindergarten) centres and those attached to Private Schools). Each centre has its own unique blend of advantages and each teacher and assistant has their own personality and qualities to add to your child's Prep year. We suggest you take time to visit each centre you are considering. It's a good idea to have some questions listed to ask the teachers. Allow time to spend half an hour or so in the environment to see if you could imagine your child being comfortable there and receiving the form of early childhood education that most suits your child, your beliefs and requirements.

If this is your first experience with State Prep, it may be helpful to consider some of the advantages State Education has in Queensland.

- A balanced approach to education, play and care
- Nurturing environment
- State-funded with minimal parent contributions
- Manageable group sizes
- Experienced, qualified staff
- State funded on-going teacher support and training
- Consistent group of children
- Attached to a school where your child can attend as a natural progression in education, with children they know
- Attached to a school with access to state-funded specialists such as Second Language Lessons, Speech Therapy, Learning Support etc., with the possibility of Out of School Hours Care available from 6:45-8.30 a.m. and 2.50-6:00 p.m. Vacation Care is also available.
Why Choose Chevallum Prep?

Our Culture
Chevallum is a State Prep with a unique culture. Aspects of this culture overflow from the Chevallum State School which remains at the cutting edge of educational practice; providing an education for the individual, retaining the fun of childhood in formal schooling. Chevallum State School has multi-age family grouping from Prep to Yr 6, values a broad education, acknowledging Howard Gardner’s multiple intelligences and recognising the importance of life-skills. Chevallum has behaviour management policies based on William Glasser and Restorative Practice, teaching children to live well with others without damaging their self-worth and confidence. Chevallum families come from a rich variety of backgrounds equipped with an array of work and life skills, which benefit the education of all our students. Parents initiated our permaculture garden which now supplies fresh produce for our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, while others with theatrical, artistic and musical careers organise special projects throughout the year. Whether you are looking at Chevallum Prep only or are intending to continue on to school, you will enjoy the benefits of this culturally rich environment.

Your Child
Your child is the most important part of what happens at our Prep. They come into our environment with a personality, knowledge, abilities and a range of intelligences all of their own. Our task is to get to know your child as an individual, discover where they are along their development pathway, and help them towards reaching their full potential during their time with us.

You as a Parent
You are a very important part of what happens at our Prep. It’s you who has been the main educator of your child so far and you who has a lot of valuable information to share with us about your child. The family life at home will continue to be the single most important influence on your child as they learn and grow. Your child’s development is most effective when home and Prep work together in a partnership, so we appreciate whatever involvement parents can offer.
The Unique Chevallum Prep Curriculum

Our Prep program allows children to learn important prepatory knowledge, skills and experiences to transition them into their formal education. This will include the foundations of early reading, writing and maths learning. Our personalised curriculum implementation is underpinned by our belief in educating the whole child. This approach ensures a balanced program, which embraces active learning processes, social and personal learning, and health and physical learning.

In addition Chevallum Prep children enjoy:
- “Thinking Play” based on Reggio Emilia principles
- Opportunities for drama/performance and creative expression
- Experiences which provide intellectual rigour whilst embracing the fun of childhood
- A learning environment which takes time to nurture the child's personality and individuality
- Excursions into the community
- Daily perceptual motor/physical program
- Specialist lessons (e.g. Italian, Library, Music)

School Integration

Our children have an allocated Prep playground space adjacent to the Prep rooms, which is separate from the play areas for older children. In the second semester they will have the option of integrating with the lower school during play times. In the fourth term, Chevallum has a school readiness program that promotes a smooth transition into the Year 1 playground. Students will also access regular Library, Italian and Music lessons during their Prep program.

Multiage Prep/Year 1 Classes

Our Prep rooms reflect the philosophy of the school and provide multi-aged learning environments where Prep children learn along side Year 1 children. Your child will experience the educational advantages of a stable class structure with half the students remaining for the second year as well as two age levels working together in a co-operative learning environment, enabling exposure and access to Year 1 content, smoothing the transition from Prep to Year 1. They will also experience two years with the same teachers and a low ratio of 12 new Preps to one teacher each year. Our multi-age approach also provides opportunity for Year 1 students to nurture Preps and model for them, appropriate behaviour within the learning environment.

Days and Times

Our times are 8:35 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. every school day.
(Out-of-hours care is available both before and after school)
Teaching Staff
Our Early Years staff has a strong commitment to provide quality education in an environment that promotes intentional play as an important component of a well-balanced program that utilises a range of age-appropriate teaching strategies. Our staff also has a strong affinity with Chevallum, with some staff having 20 years experience working at the school as well as past students returning to work with our community of learners. It is this ongoing professional and emotional investment in Chevallum that brings out the best in our staff to the benefit of our students.

Teacher Assistants
At Chevallum, we are fortunate to have each Prep group supported by their own Teacher Assistant. Our Teacher Assistants have significant experience within the Prep area and provide caring, professional and skilled support to our Prep students and staff.

Chevallum Prep Considerations

Entry Age
As the person who knows your child best, you as a parent, have options as to when your child begins Prep. It is NOT compulsory for your child to attend the Prep year as soon as they are old enough i.e. 4 on or before June 30 in the year prior to Prep entry. You as a parent, have the option to delay your child's entry to Prep by one year if you feel that having another year before starting Prep would be advantageous for your child. If you choose this option, when your child does start school they would still start in the Prep year, as Prep is now a compulsory year prior to Year 1 for all Queensland children. No formal documentation, assessment or approval is required for delayed entry to Prep. This is entirely at the discretion of the parent/s. While some parents may choose to discuss their decision to delay entry to Prep with the school, Early Years staff or prior to Prep provider, it is not necessary to do so. Parents who decide to delay their child's start in Prep may choose to keep their child at home or enrol them in any of the available Early Childhood Education and Care Services eg Kindergartens, Day Care Centres etc. Birth certificates need to be cited prior to entry into Prep. You are welcome to speak to our experienced staff about your options if you have any queries or concerns.

Attendance
Prep is a full day program, five days a week. If your child has a birthdate in May or June, or if you are concerned as to how your child will cope with a full school day, every day of the week, please speak to one of our experienced Early Years staff to discuss your concerns and your options.

Daily Sleep/Rest
There is no official 'sleep' time; however, at the beginning of the year, a rest and relaxation time is encouraged each day.
Uniform
Prep Polo Shirts from our uniform shop can be ordered during our Parent Information Evening or the children's orientation visits in Term 4. Each child will require at least two Prep Polo shirts to hand paint. Black shorts, skorts, hats, vests, jumpers, Sports House shirts and backpacks are also available at the Uniform Shop.

Preparation
There are a number of ways you can help to prepare your child prior to starting Prep at Chevallum.
- Attend the Parent Information Evening and Orientation Sessions to ensure you are fully informed and your child is gaining valuable experience in the Prep environment
- Meet other families at your Prep visits who may be happy to get together for play days so your child becomes familiar with at least one other child prior to starting Prep
- Talk with your child and listen to their thoughts about starting Prep
- Take photos of your child at the centre for them to share “their Prep” with friends and family
- Purchase their uniform so they can dress up and show family and friends
- Take your Prep child on a special shopping trip to organize their Prep things, then get them to practise packing and unpacking their own bag, lunchbox etc.
- Practise new routines eg breakfast, dressing, in the car by a certain time etc
- Let them over-hear you talking positively about them starting Prep so they catch your positive, confident attitude about school
- Come along to Strawbfest so they can have another positive experience at “their Prep” before they start.

Enrolment Information
Your child is eligible for Prep if they turn 4 or 5 years old on or before June 30th in the year prior to Prep entry. To enrol your child:
- Place your child’s name on a waiting list.
- We will contact you before your child is due to come to Prep, asking you to confirm your child’s position and informing you of Prep Orientation details in Terms 3 & 4. At this time you can express a group preference and friend your child may wish to be with. Remember this is only a preference to be considered. Waiting list procedures will be adhered to.
- Orientation will consist of a Parent Information Evening and two classroom sessions at school usually held in Term 4.
- During Orientation your child will become familiar with the Prep environment, meet teachers, paint Prep shirts and meet some new friends for the following year. You will be given information about the Prep program, a list of things for your child to bring to Prep and an opportunity to order/purchase uniforms.
- An interview will take place after the Orientation Sessions where you will have individual time with one of the Early Years Teachers to let us know all about your child.
We hope you find this booklet helpful and look forward to a great Prep year together for those of you who choose our centre.

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