



What makes for a special Prep year at Parkmore Primary School?

Comprehensive Prep Transition Program

At Parkmore we offer a comprehensive Prep transition program. In Term 4, for our enrolled Prep students for the following year and their families, we have a parent information night where parents can learn all about their child's education at Parkmore Primary School. Our Prep transition sessions provide an experience that mirrors kindergarten, allowing children to feel comfortable and explore this new environment in a way that is familiar to them. We structure hands-on activity stations and play based learning opportunities to allow the children to interact with each other, revise their skills and be present in what will be their new education environment. This transition allows our incoming Prep students to feel like they already belong at Parkmore, and gives them some familiar faces and social connections to look forward to!



Multisensory Phonics Program

At Parkmore, we have a multisensory Phonics program. We use visual, auditory, kinaesthetic and tactile activities to enhance learning and memory. Our multisensory techniques are motivating and engaging! Students are introduced to single letter sounds in Term 1, gradually building to digraph sounds and alternative spellings in Term 2 and Term 3. Our students are taught through multiple exposures, meaning that they are exposed to this information over and over again in order to consolidate their learning. Our students learn how to form their letters correctly, write on lines and construct a sentence. We promote a love of reading and writing at Parkmore Primary School. Sight words are taught, with resources sent home for practice. Our students are excited about their literacy learning, and we love watching them bloom and grow throughout the year!



Play Based Learning

We incorporate play based learning approaches in the Junior School, with a focus on language development. Small world play in response to current world events or aligned with our Inquiry unit topics are regularly included in the learning space. This kind of learning develops our students' critical and creative thinking, as well as problem solving and interpersonal skills. Play based learning also assists with the development of fine and gross motor skills.



Buddies

Our Preps have Grade 6 Buddies. Our Grade 6 students are all seen as the leaders of the school, and we give them the very special job of supporting our Prep students during their first year at Parkmore Primary School. During our dedicated Buddies sessions, our Grade 6 students work in collaboration with our Prep students on learning tasks across the curriculum. Our Preps are also supported by their Grade 6 Buddies in the playground and during our regular whole school activities.



Hands-on Mathematics

Maths is hands on and so much fun! Our students learn through the use of concrete materials and resources, as well as by having multiple exposures to a concept. Maths lessons are planned and designed to incorporate relevant, hands on activities to support learning. Students are encouraged to investigate concepts through trial and error, experience making mistakes and understand maths ideas in theory and in practice. We aspire to ensure that students understand that maths is all around them and to give them knowledge and experiences that they can use every day!



Positive Education

We offer an Award-Winning Positive Education approach at Parkmore Primary School. This approach led to our school being named a 2018 Finalist in the Australian Education Awards for Best School Wellbeing. Below are some of the aspects of our Positive Education approach.



Visible Wellbeing

Parkmore Primary School is a Visible Wellbeing (VWB) Partner School. This partnership combines the science of wellbeing and the science of teaching and learning to make wellbeing visible and tangible across the whole school community. Designed by Professor Lea Waters, the partnership aims to support all members of the school community thrive and sustain a culture of wellbeing.



Character Strengths

Strengths are ways of thinking, feeling and behaving that come naturally and easily to a person and enable high functioning and performance. Significant research by Peterson and Seligman resulted in the creation and validation of the Values in Action (VIA) Signature Strengths Survey which measures 24 character strengths. Further research has shown that utilising your top 5 strengths (Signature Strengths) on a regular basis increases wellbeing.

Here at Parkmore Primary School, our students interact with the VIA Character Strengths on a daily basis. The students are encouraged to articulate their Signature Strengths and the strengths of their peers. The demonstration of character strengths are recognised formally across all levels of the school through our Student of the Week program, with students receiving acknowledgement at our Whole School Assemblies.



Learning Spaces

Our modern and spacious classrooms offer flexible seating options. There is also a 'Shared Space' where the Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students meet to learn and collaborate.



School Community

We are fortunate enough to offer small class sizes at Parkmore which enables us to cater to individual learning needs and styles. A huge benefit of the size of our school is that all of the teachers know all of the students and all of the students know all of the teachers. Our whole school activities and events allow interaction between students across the year levels. This creates an incredibly caring community which enables our students to feel safe and see familiar faces throughout the school.

We are a small caring school with excellent results – Top 4 rating in the Inner East for Mathematics growth in NAPLAN. We also have a 100% Parent Satisfaction Rating.

