



Toowoomba  
Christian  
College



# 2020 PREP INFORMATION



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## 1 Contact Information



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Principal



Mrs Juanita Lodder  
Head of Primary

College Office Hours	8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday
Primary Reception	8:10am to 3:45pm Monday to Friday
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	07 4630 8444
	<a href="mailto:admin@tccollege.com.au">admin@tccollege.com.au</a>
	<a href="https://www.tccollege.qld.edu.au">https://www.tccollege.qld.edu.au</a>

## 2 Key Scriptures for the School

<b>3 John 1:4</b> (NIV)	I have no greater joy than to hear that My children are walking in the truth
<b>Mal 2:15</b> (CEV)	Didn't God create you to become like one person with your wife? And why did He do this? It was so you would have children, and then lead them to become God's people.
<b>Psalms 71:17</b> (NIV)	Since my youth, O God, You have taught me, and to this day I declare Your marvellous deeds.
<b>Psalms 78:4-5</b> (NIV)	We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which He commanded our forefathers to teach their children.
<b>Isa 62:6-7</b> (NIV)	I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give Him no rest till He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.







### 3 College Map





#### 4 Prep at Toowoomba Christian College

*Toowoomba Christian College exists to provide a Christian education that will prepare young people to serve the Living God in today's world: Our Motto. We present to all children the truth of Jesus Christ as the Saviour who died for all people, that through His death and resurrection it is possible for all people to have a real relationship with God. The Bible is presented daily as the Word of God and the basis for understanding how life is meant to be lived.*

The school believes very much in the education of the whole child, and sees its role as far more than just giving students an education of the mind. It is our desire to see your child learning to live life according to God's ways and His standards.



Prep is a wonderful year of growing and learning, and provides important foundational learning experiences. It teaches your child to become a student who loves to learn, as they take their first step into the "world of school".

Schools are special places and are very different to kindergarten programs and day care settings. What is special about schools is that there is often a larger group of students of various age-groups and quite definite rules and ways of doing things; children need to learn to adjust to this new environment. The Prep Program will help your child as they begin their schooling journey.

In Prep at Toowoomba Christian College:

- We strive to develop your child's independence through social learning, language skills and health and physical development.
- We allow children to use their creativity and imagination as they participate in hands-on and engaging activities.
- We implement the Australian Curriculum and the principles of the Early Years Learning Framework. .
- We encourage strong partnerships with parents through email, regular newsletters, parent teacher interviews and parent friendly events.
- We seek to provide a warm, caring and nurturing family atmosphere within an academic environment.
- We have trained, experienced and dedicated Teacher Aides in Prep.
- We teach through play focused teaching, learning, investigations, real-life situations, creative play, routine and transitions.
- We have weekly lessons with specialist teachers in Music and Physical Education as well as Library lessons.
- We have various visitors to the school who contribute to the teaching and learning.
- We participate in extra-curricular activities such as Cross Country, Ball Games, Athletics Carnival's and Swimming lessons and Carnival.
- We attend Praise and Worship, have daily morning devotions and we integrate Christian Education in all our curriculum.



## 5 Prep Uniform

Parents are asked to become familiar with the [Primary School Uniform Policy](https://www.tccollege.qld.edu.au), which is available on our School website (<https://www.tccollege.qld.edu.au>), under our Policies section. The Primary School Uniform Policy provides information regarding what uniform the students should wear, as well as instructions regarding how the uniform is to be worn. Students are encouraged and taught to take pride in their school uniform and to wear it correctly. It is also an important part of learning to take responsibility for their possessions.

The school uniform needs to be worn correctly and any exceptions need to be discussed with the Class Teacher. The hair of female students needs to be tied back with the appropriate colour hair accessories, if too long to be left loose. We request that for the duration of the Prep year that your child's shoes have Velcro fasteners unless they can tie their own shoelaces.

The Prep uniform consists of:

- TCC Sports Top (Navy with Sky Blue/Yellow stripe) & Monogram
- TCC Navy Shorts with lettering
- TCC Navy tracksuit with lettering
- Joggers with Velcro
- TCC Navy Padded Hat with School Emblem 'Ozhatz' (to be worn to and from school)
- A yellow hat is provided by the school, to be worn at school and remains at school for the purpose of assisting staff and older students with the identification of Prep students when moving around the school
- TCC Sports Socks
- Optional Navy duffel coat with blue/blue checked lining if possible



*Prep Uniform*

Jewellery excerpt from College Uniform Policy:

- a) All students are permitted to wear a watch. In addition to this, female students are permitted to wear one earring in the lobe of each ear. These earrings are to be plain and small. They are to be either silver or gold studs or sleepers. Stones (clear or coloured), pearls, hoops etc are not acceptable.
- b) Boys are not permitted to wear an earring.
- c) Rings, bracelets, necklaces and arm bands are not permitted. Inappropriate jewellery is likely to be confiscated.

Please note: If students need additional layers of clothing during the winter months, only the regulation uniform is to be visible.

Uniform Purchasing Options:

- The Toowoomba Christian College 'Uniform Shop': Tuesday 1.00 to 1.30pm and Wednesday 3:00pm to 3:45pm. The uniform shop sells the house shirts and hats.
- Hannas







## 6 Prep Curriculum

In Prep we implement Australian Curriculum. This is taught together with the Early Years Learning Framework which encourages a play based learning experience. The Curriculum content is taught in such a way that students become more independent throughout the year. Further information regarding the Australian Curriculum can be found at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au).

### A. English

The English Curriculum is built around three interrelated strands of:

- Language
- Literature
- Literacy

These 3 strands focus on developing knowledge, understanding and skills in speaking, listening, reading, viewing, and writing and creating. The learning experiences in English will involve learning about the purpose of using both oral and written language, the patterns and conventions of language, the concepts of print, phonemic awareness and alphabetic knowledge.

In the Prep Year students communicate and engage with the following:

- peers, teacher and known adults and students from other classes
- variety of texts for enjoyment
- phonemic awareness, recognise the alphabet and the sounds they represent
- sight-word recognition for reading
- begin to blend sounds

At the same time they:

- continue to love learning
- learn the importance of listening
- develop confidence in sharing stories and contributing ideas
- experience a variety of texts



### B. Mathematics

Mathematics is organised into 3 content strands:

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Mathematics is learned through active, hands-on experiences which include focused learning and teaching sessions, real-life situations through play.

As we explore and learn, students gain the skills to:

- connect names, numerals and quantities
- count numbers in sequence and continue patterns
- through intentional play use various materials to problem solve
- sort objects, compare the lengths of objects and discover shapes





## C. Science

In Prep students interact with knowledge and understanding of living things, familiar objects and how they move as well as daily and seasonal change. They explore change in the world around them, including changes that impact on them, such as the weather, and changes they can effect, such as making things move or change shape. As they gain new understandings we marvel in God's creation and wonder, and appreciate that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength (Phil 4:13).

## D. Humanities and Social Science

In Prep students focus on developing their understanding of their personal worlds, including their personal and family histories and the places they and their families live in and belong to. The emphasis is on the student's own history and their own place. They explore why places are special to them and others. They may also study places of similar size that are familiar to them or that they are curious about, coming to see how people feel about and look after places.

## E. Handwriting

In Prep we use the Queensland Beginner's Font for handwriting. We write the children's names using this font and would encourage you to also model writing your child's name using this font at home. When working with your child, please consistently use a capital for the initial letter only and write the rest in lower case. You will find a copy of your child's name written in this font in their homework satchel in the first week of the year. Please see the section at the back of this book for a handwriting font example.

## F. Health and PE

Children develop gross motor skills through daily opportunities in using them. We use an Obstacle Course that includes activities such as balancing beam, monkey bars, tunnels, climbing ladders, running around markers and throwing bean bags into goals. In Physical Education lessons, the children learn modified sports to practice their team skills as well as learning throwing, catching, shooting goals, running, ball-handling, coordination and fair-play.



## G. Arts

Music, Visual Art and Drama are areas of the Arts that we believe students at a prep age intrinsically love and enjoy interacting in. These three areas will be very much integrated into all class work, play and learning, however students will also be included in specialist lessons for Music on a weekly basis. Class interaction around these three areas will be for enjoyment and entertainment while the specialized lessons will focus more on specific beginner concepts.

## 7 How Does Prep Prepare My Child for Year One?

As of 2017 Prep is a compulsory part of student's schooling. The Prep Year and Program is a necessary and important step to gaining the basics required to succeed in Year One. It sets an important foundation upon which future learning is built.

International research has identified several factors that influence success at school. These are taught and encouraged from Prep onwards:

- independence
- language development
- a positive approach to learning
- social learning
- ability to think and solve problems
- early understanding of Literacy and Numeracy
- health and physical development
- imagination and creativity





## 8 Preparing for Prep

We have provided a checklist which will assist you in knowing what areas you can work on to prepare your child for their transition into Prep. As a guide, we would expect that students starting Prep would have the majority of ticks in the 'Always' or 'Can Do Sometimes' columns. If you have any concerns, please approach the school to talk to someone about your concerns.

<b>SOCIAL SKILLS</b> Can your child..... ?	Always does this very well	Can do this sometimes	Usually needs assistance
Comply with requests, eg. Cease activity when requested			
Recognise and verbalise their frustrations			
Remain focused on a task other than technology, eg. Puzzle for 10 minutes			
Separate from parents with ease			
Play co-operatively (indoors and outdoors)			
<b>INDEPENDENCE SKILLS</b> Can your child..... ?	Always does this very well	Can do this sometimes	Usually needs assistance
Put on/remove socks, Velcro shoes and jumper			
Go to the toilet and wash hands independently			
Use a handkerchief or tissue			
Manage eating from a lunchbox eg. Unwrap, unscrew, unseal			
Recognise own named belongings			
Tidy up and pack away when requested			
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> Can your child..... ?	Always does this very well	Can do this sometimes	Usually needs assistance
Speak with appropriate volume eg. Without shouting or whispering			
Describe recent experiences			
Understand requests and instructions and seek clarification			
Listen attentively and answer questions in a group/family situation			
Wait their turn			
<b>FINE MOTOR &amp; COGNITIVE SKILLS</b> Can your child..... ?	Always does this very well	Can do this sometimes	Usually needs assistance
Recognise their own name			
Hold a pencil with an appropriate grip			
Complete interlocking puzzles of 8 – 10 pieces			
Count objects with 10 or more in the group			
Enjoy interactive reading and answer questions about stories in a 1:1 setting			
Attempt to solve everyday problems independently			
Handle and control scissors			
<b>GROSS MOTOR &amp; ORIENTATION SKILLS</b> Can your child..... ?	Always does this very well	Can do this sometimes	Usually needs assistance
Manage unfamiliar environments			
Catch and throw a ball with a partner			
Hop and skip (without a skipping rope)			
Confidently play on general play equipment			



## Building children's capacity for school

As the KidsMatter Early Childhood initiative explains (KidsMatter Transition to School: Parent Initiative, Parent and Carer Booklet 1), to enjoy and succeed in school, children will need personal, relationship and learning skills.

- Personal skills include the ability to look after yourself and your belongings, manage your time and get tasks done and understand that particular rules and routines apply in each situation.
- Relationship skills include being able to join in games, take turns, make and maintain friends and learn how to talk with less familiar adults.
- Learning skills include being able to keep going with a task, knowing how to ask and answer questions, how to listen to and follow instructions and having a positive disposition or attitude towards learning new things.

'Parents are the safe base from which children can move out to explore the world, to learn and grow and become socially confident, responsible young people.'

### Things you can do...

... to build your child's personal, social and learning capacity

- ☐ Gradually ask your child to take responsibility for organising their belongings, e.g. setting out clothes for the next day, sorting and storing their socks, shoes and coats.
- ☐ Give your child small, manageable responsibilities at home, such as putting out the pet food, cleaning up, setting the table, clearing their plate, putting their toys away.
- ☐ Involve your child in family decisions according to their age and ability; offer them choices about what to wear, what they want to eat, or where the family could go on an outing.
- ☐ Talk about the different rules that apply at the pool, in the park, in church or at the cinema and why we have rules such as wearing a seat belt in the car.
- ☐ Play games as a family and remind children about rules and turn-taking.
- ☐ Invite children over to play and guide your child into joining in and making friends. Let your kindness and respect in your own relationships with adults and children serve as a model for your child.
- ☐ Sit with your child doing small tasks, encouraging them to persist and solve problems.
- ☐ Read books and develop your child's listening skills, concentration, thinking and conversation.
- ☐ Encourage your child to explore, be curious, come up with questions and investigate how things work.
- ☐ With your child, join in community activities which involve learning to socialise with less familiar people, such as going to playgroup, joining a club, attending story time at the local library etc.

In the first year of school, it is particularly important that your child knows you are there for them and that you will listen, understand, comfort and support them and follow up any concerns about school on their behalf.

Parents are the safe base from which children can move out to explore the world, to learn and grow and become socially confident, responsible young people.

Source - *Your Child's First Year at School—A Guide for Parents*  
Jenni Connor and Pam Linke



### Healthy eating

Children in the first years of school are busy and energetic, so they need nutritious lunches and snacks during the school day.

'It usually works best not to make a fuss over what children eat ... just make sure they have access to healthy food.'



### Things you can do...

#### ... to support healthy eating

- ☐ The best way to get your children to eat lunch at school is to pack what you know they like; even then they may be too excited or busy to eat all their lunch.
- ☐ Encourage them to bring home uneaten food so you can monitor whether they're getting a balanced diet and adjust their food intake at home if necessary.
- ☐ Children often don't eat things that go soggy, for example tomato sandwiches—but tiny cherry tomatoes in a salad of lettuce, celery, cheese, gherkin and grated carrot can make an enjoyable lunch if your child likes these.
- ☐ Water is the best thirst quencher and milk and juice do not always survive well in warm classrooms; pack a frozen drink in the lunch box in summer to help keep the food cold.
- ☐ Keep foods separate and well wrapped, making sure that little fingers can open each pack.
- ☐ Try different kinds of rolls, muffins and biscuits to offer variety—we wouldn't like to sit down to the same lunch every day!
- ☐ Include an occasional treat for your child, but don't send food to be shared with your child's friends, because there may be problems with allergies or cultural food requirements.
- ☐ If your child's school has a tuckshop or canteen, find out about the healthy and safe options available and plan with your child what they will choose for lunch.
- ☐ Have something for children to eat as soon as they get home after school—or even in the car if you will be driving for a while. This gives children some energy and stops them feeling so tired.
- ☐ It usually works best not to make a fuss over what children eat, even if you notice that they have not eaten much of their lunch. Just make sure they have access to healthy food when they get home.
- ☐ Often children are hungry when they get home and then too tired to eat well when the family has their meal. Providing a nourishing sandwich and piece of fruit after school is a healthy solution.

Source - *Your Child's First Year at School—A Guide for Parents*  
Jenni Connor and Pam Linke



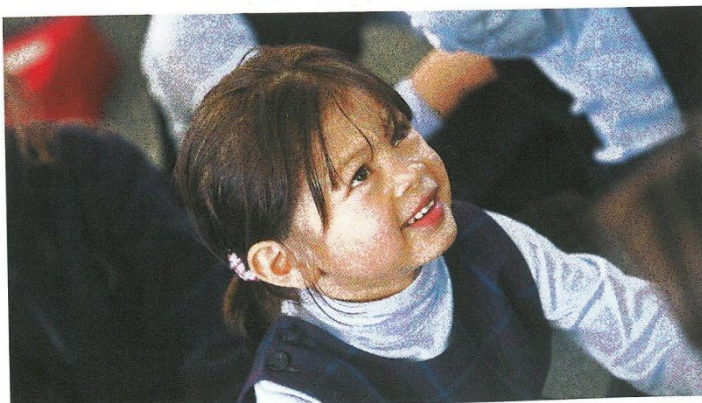


Children tell us how they feel about starting school and what is important to them. Sensitive parents and teachers listen to these messages and ease children over the first-day hurdles.

### Things you can do...

... to help your child to feel positive about starting school

- ☐ Show your child how they will get to school each day and where they will be collected.
- ☐ Practise getting ready for school, dressing, packing the lunch, bag, sunhat, spare clothes.
- ☐ Make sure your child can manage things such as taking jumpers and coats on and off at school.
- ☐ Use shoes with Velcro fasteners until your child can manage laces.
- ☐ Check that your child can open their lunch box and drink bottle and involve them in choosing the contents.
- ☐ Make sure your child can go to the toilet independently, or talk with the teacher about how to manage toilet problems.
- ☐ Label all belongings—including shoes!—and provide spare, labelled undies in case of accidents; putting labels on the outside of clothing minimises accidental 'swaps'.



### Starting school: practical issues

#### Things parents ask:

**Food:** Am I packing enough lunch? Did she eat all her lunch?

**Toileting:** I think he'll be OK but ... He might get stressed and ... He gets constipated so if you see him ...

**Learning:** He has a short attention span ...

**Class size:** How many children are in the group?

**Clothes:** What should the spare clothes be like? Do they have to be uniform, or casual?

**Wellbeing:** When should I leave? What's a good time to go? How was she?

**Attendance:** Should I keep her home if she's unwell?

**Daily routines:** When is snack time and lunch time?

'Think ahead and plan for the practical details of your child starting school.'

Source - *Your Child's First Year at School—A Guide for Parents*  
Jenni Connor and Pam Linke





## 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO help your child learn to write

1

**Write in front of your child** and talk about what you are writing, for example shopping lists, cards, letters and notes.

2

**Display paintings, drawings and pieces of writing** that your child brings home from school or pre-school.

3

**Give your child different types of paper and different pens**, pencils, crayons, chalk and textas for drawing and writing.

4

**Encourage your child to draw and to write about their drawing.** They might like to keep a scrap book or photo album where they can keep their pictures. Help them to write labels for their photos and drawings.

5

**Play word games.** Play 'I Spy' or 'Scrabble' together. Help your child to find little words in big words and to write them down.

6

**Encourage your child to write.** They could write messages to you and other family members, or cards, menus, invitations and letters to friends, family, neighbours and school teachers.

7

**Encourage your child to write around the home.** They might like to write signs, poems, favourite recipes and instructions, or to label things that they design and make.

8

**Praise your child** for trying to write words that are new to them.

9

**Encourage your child to use technology** to help with their writing.

10

**Encourage your child to keep a diary** and to write in it regularly.

Source – *Helping Your Child to Write —A Guide for Parents*  
NSW Board of Studies



## 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO to help your child learn to read

1

**Create a positive reading environment at home.**

Be a reader yourself and encourage your child to read for pleasure as well as information.

2

**Make learning to read part of every day.**

Show your child the written words and symbols that are all around us.

3

**Make reading an activity that you and your child can both enjoy.**

Let your child participate in the reading.

4

**Provide a variety of texts at the level your child can read with you.**

Stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines and children's recipe books all help your child to read.

5

**Re-read books.**

Let your child become familiar with the words, the story and the fluency of an adult reader.

6

**Be confident in your child's abilities and proud of their achievements.**

7

**Don't expect too much too soon.**

It takes time for children to learn to read so be guided by the pace they set. If your child becomes distressed or loses interest when reading at home, take a break from reading and try again later.

8

**Work with your child's teacher.** Complete home readers and sight words with your child and speak to the teacher if you have any concerns.

9

**Set aside a special time for reading with your child.**

Aim for 15 to 25 minutes with no interruptions each day.

10

**Talk to your child.**

Engage them in your conversations so they learn new words and ways to express themselves.

Source – *Helping Your Child to Read — A Guide for Parents*  
NSW Board of Studies





## 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO help your child learn mathematics

1

Play games together (number games, card games, board games, dice games, computer games).

2

Use the language of mathematics – words like ‘under’, ‘over’, ‘bigger’, ‘smaller’ when your child is young or ‘prism’, ‘pyramid’, ‘cone’ when your child is older.

3

Discuss the mathematics your child is learning at school. Ask your child to explain what they have learnt and how they can use the ideas.

4

Show your child the mathematics that people use every day – for example, in an Australian Rules football game you need to count in sixes for goals and ones for behinds.

5

Show your child the mathematics that you use every day – for example, in the kitchen you measure ingredients or use a timer.

6

Show your child the mathematics that is all around them, such as money, maps, distances, patterns, time.

7

Solve mathematical problems with your child, discussing and comparing different strategies. Remember that there may be several ways to solve the same problem.

8

Encourage your child to try different strategies when solving problems, including the use of diagrams, and to check solutions for accuracy.

9

Provide opportunities for your child to investigate mathematical ideas such as estimating; probability; 2D and 3D.

10

Use technology, including calculators and computers, to solve problems, and graphics programs to create shapes.

Source – *Helping Your Child Learn to do Mathematics – A Guide for Parents*  
NSW Board of Studies



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Toowoomba Christian College exists to  
provide a Christian education  
that will prepare students  
in spirit, soul and body,  
to serve the Living God  
in today's world.*