

Early Learning Centre

Curriculum Guide

2024

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS



KOROWA
ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

Welcome

ELC MISSION

To create a social and physical environment that promotes the wonder of learning and its value as a lifelong pursuit. We appreciate and respect each individual child and the particular interests, skills and abilities they bring to the setting. Our aim is to create a learning environment which allows for rich play experiences that support the development of each individual child.

It is in our ELC where our youngest learners have the opportunity to explore the world. With an emphasis on play-based learning, Korowa's ELC fosters discovery at your child's pace, within a curriculum that is stimulating and informed by current research and frameworks. The environment challenges and provokes children's thinking. It reflects the interests of a community of learners and provides opportunities for exploring different learning styles. We acknowledge children as individuals, recognising and accepting differences of gender and cultural relevance. These differences are valued and celebrated. We view children as curious, capable inquirers who actively and collaboratively participate in their learning journey.

The School community plays an invaluable role at Korowa and time is taken to promote respectful partnerships. Collaboration and communication, with and between children, parents and staff, are vital to the learning process.

As an ELC to Year 12 campus, children can make use of facilities around the school including: art room, music facilities, the Sports and Wellbeing Centre and the library. Our ELC children also have access to dedicated classrooms and a playground.

Miss Joanne Barker
Head of Junior School

At Korowa's ELC, children are the primary focus of what shapes our learning environment and programs. Korowa's passionate, creative and knowledgeable educators, work together cohesively to create a warm and inviting space for children to discover a deep love of learning.

Through a play-based program, children are encouraged and supported to develop valuable life skills such as emotional, social, physical, language and cognitive development. We love to utilise the world around us and often use and cherish natural resources while teaching the children about caring for their environment.

The flexibility of the program at Korowa, allows children to construct meaning from the world around them while drawing on and applying previous knowledge to new experiences within the environment.

We aspire to create a sense of belonging within the ELC and value the importance of a child's relationship with their family, peers and educators and acknowledge that each child's identity is made up of their own family values, history and culture.

Over the course of a year, it is truly rewarding to watch the children develop and grow, as they discover new concepts and interests in their own learning journey.

Ms Andréa Werkmeister
Early Learning Centre Coordinator and Lead

Belonging, Being, Becoming

3 YEAR OLD

Our 3 Year old program focuses on helping young children develop independence and social skills while finding their place in the world. Educators support children to work with others, extending their language and problem solving skills. The program encourages children to make decisions and ask questions. Children are introduced to specialist subjects and intentional teaching experiences both indoors and outdoors. During our afternoon program, children are able to rest if they wish to do so.

4 YEAR OLD

Our 4 Year old program provides a rich learning experience where children form strong connections; are introduced to the foundations for Literacy and Numeracy; learn to work together and independently, and investigate and problem solve through developing critical and creative thinking skills. The program focuses on developing a greater sense of personal responsibility; developing an area of interest and investigating it in greater depth; participating in specialist classes; and intentional teaching experiences both indoors and outdoors. Children are encouraged to take initiative, make decisions and reflect on their learning throughout the year.



Express Yourself!

ART

In ELC, we emphasise joyful exploration and discovery. Each week students attend art with a primary specialist art teacher who encourages the children to explore art in the world around them and develop the ability to see their immediate environment through visual images. Students are introduced to and learn to use a variety of art tools, materials and equipment, and engage in painting, drawing and printmaking. They learn about the art elements and principles, and begin to develop visual ideas, using imagination and observation.

MUSIC

In ELC Music, we love to sing, move, dance, perform, make and experiment with music. With a specialist primary music teacher, students explore a wide range of repertoire in our lessons, including songs from all over the world. The primary focus, however, is on songs and rhymes that are appropriate to their developmental stage and are songs they naturally sing in the playground. Songs like these are sung and performed in repetition, where new skills are taught and pre-existing skills built upon.

STEAM – Future Builders

SCIENCE

Children in the ELC learn through play. Korowa's added Science component fosters children's curiosity and interest in the world around them in a fun, hands on way. Children are encouraged to explore, question and make discoveries in a safe learning environment through experiments such as cooking and trial and error, working individually and with their peers and educators.

A Lifetime of Wellness

Korowa's Sports and Wellbeing Centre has something for every student. This complex provides students with state-of-the-art facilities including a swimming pool, dance studios, netball courts, PMP studio, pilates space, drama room and cafe and piazza.

SWIMMING

Our ELC 4 students participate in fortnightly swimming lessons. Recent studies suggest that water survival skills training and swimming lessons can significantly help reduce the risk of drowning for children aged between one and four years. Being able to swim is an important life skill.

This program develops children's independence and confidence. Swimming in small groups with our swimming instructors, they will develop a range of skills including; how to enter and exit the water safely, torpedo gliding, strong kicking legs and floating whilst wearing a life jacket.

PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM

In our new purpose built PMP space, ELC 3 to Year 2 students are involved in a movement-based program which helps younger students improve their eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, fitness, balance, locomotion and eye-tracking skills. Instructed by our trained PE staff, students are given the opportunity to develop in the following areas:

- Gross motor activities
- Visual motor activities
- Auditory motor activities
- Tactile activities
- Lateralisation activities
- Body awareness
- Spatial awareness

YOGA

As part of our ELC students' wellbeing, children participate in regular online Yoga sessions using an online program called 'Cosmic Kids Yoga.' These sessions assist children in building up strength within their bodies while also finding a calm sense of selves through breathing and focus. Children enjoy taking some time out for themselves to wind down in a calm environment while listening to a story as they move their body.