



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: June 2021

Centre number: 4630

Centre name: Lobethal Community Kindergarten

1. General information

- Acting Preschool Director – Deanna Gardner
- Postal address
1 Reserve Avenue
Lobethal SA 5241
- Location address
1 Reserve Avenue
Lobethal SA 5241
- DfE Partnership
- Torrens Valley partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
Approximately 42 kms from GPO. Located in the Adelaide Hills
- Telephone number
8389 6321
- Fax number
8389 5153
- Preschool website address:
<http://lobethalkgn.sa.edu.au>

- Preschool e-mail address
dl.4630.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
- 2016: Enrolment: 33 Attendance: 32
- 2017: Enrolment: 53 Attendance: 48
- 2018: Enrolment: 55 Attendance: 51
- 2019: Enrolment: 33 Attendance: 32
- 2020: Enrolment: 59 Attendance: 50
- 2021: Enrolment: 38 Attendance: 38
- 2022: Enrolment: 48 Attendance: 47

- Co-located/stand-alone:
Stand alone
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - ❖ Full Day Program including lunch care
 - ❖ Bilingual Support
 - ❖ Preschool Support
 - ❖ Playgroup – once per week on non-session days
 - ❖ Associated Programs: Nature Connect Bush Kindy program (runs during term 2 each year from Lobethal Bushland Park), Pre entry transitions sessions or play and stay sessions run during term 4 as part of our transition into kindergarten program, Early entry available if capacity and resourcing allows.

2. Key Centre Policies

See Lobethal Community Kindergarten's philosophy statement for a detailed description of our philosophy and practices

Centre Priorities:

- Nature Pedagogy
- STEM
- Community connectedness
- Quality learning environments
- High quality teaching and learning

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
Educators at Lobethal kindy use the Early Years Learning Framework's principles and practices to create learning environments that are thought provoking, inviting, child centred and provide appropriate levels of support, trust and challenge to enable children to learn and grow and be successful and powerful learners.
- Core Values: trust, humour, respect and challenge
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:
Nature Connect Bush kindy program- an off-site bush kindy program that runs during term 2 each year from local heritage listed bushland at Lobethal Bushland Park. The centre has a strong nature-based program and pedagogy both onsite and at our bush location which constantly evolves with the needs of our children and community.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Acting Preschool Director 1.0 PSD1 T1 2022: Deanna Gardner
Preschool Teacher 1.0: Kerry Harten
Preschool Teacher 0.2 U.A: Ailsa Zadow
Preschool Teacher 0.2 U.A: Michelle Beauchesne
Early Childhood Worker and admin duties) 0.8: Janice Jenkin
Early Childhood Worker and Preschool Support: Nicole Wood (hours based on IESP grant and needs)
- Performance Management Program: DfE performance management processes used which include an annual meeting in term 1 to set personal goals and goals and actions which are aligned with our site's PQIP as well as

identifying training needs and supports. This process involves a 6 monthly and 12-month review process.

- Access to special support staff- DfE support services behaviour coach, special educator and speech pathologist

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: The kindergarten was relocated to the current site in 1966, moving from the local church building. The land was donated by a local family and is located on a house block adjacent to a reserve and is set in the back streets of the Lobethal township in the residential area. The building is quite small, but the outdoor learning environment provides plenty of space for children to explore and learn. Recent additions/improvements to the building include a new kitchen, and newly installed concertina doors which provide a range of spaces for children to engage in a range of different experiences.
The outdoor learning environment is well spaced out and is set amongst beautiful well established deciduous trees and an apple tree. There is a shade structure over the sandpit and a mud kitchen inside a custom-built gazebo. Children can access plants to pick and experiment and create with from the sensory/herb garden. There is a digging patch and a water course along with a chook shed and a boardwalk surrounded by indigenous bird and butterfly attracting plants. There is an adjoining park which is accessed for daily park play.
- Capacity 30 children per session
- Centre Ownership: Department for Education
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
No wheelchair provisions at present

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:

The kindergarten serves a growing community including several smaller townships, orchards and farms up to 30kms away. The Lobethal township and surrounds are known for their apple, pear and wine production, cherry orchards, strawberry farms and vineyards. The history of Lobethal has a strong German heritage, however the majority of families is now mainly Anglo-Australian. We have had a recent change to our community's cultural context with many Vietnamese families moving to the area to engaging in contractual work for the Thomas Foods International.

Many families commute from Lobethal to the city and across the hills to work. The parent community is strong and provides a rich sense of community spirit through active engagement with the centre.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: There has traditionally been a high level of parent interest and engagement in the kindergarten. Governing council run a major fundraiser each year which focusses on bringing the community together at an event. Community support comes from local service clubs, businesses and a general whole of community interest in the kindergarten and willingness to help and provide support when needed.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Lobethal Primary School, Lobethal Lutheran School, Lenswood Primary School, Woodside Primary School, Gumeracha Primary School, Mt Torrens Christian School, Birdwood Primary School, Kersbrook Primary School, Oakbank Area School, Hills Christian Community School, St Francis de Sales College.
- Other local care and educational facilities,
Lobethal Primary School OSHC, Torrens Valley Children's centre (Gumeracha) and Goodstart Early Learning at Oakbank.
Lobethal has two primary schools (one government owned and an independent Lutheran school). The nearest high schools are located at Birdwood and Oakbank Area School (R-12).
Lobethal primary School operates an OSHC and vacation care.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Kloses Foodland supermarket is located a block away from the kindergarten. The main street is within close proximity (two-minute walk) and has many local businesses such as coffee shops, butcher, hairdresser, newsagent and post office. We no longer have a bank in the town. The local old Woollen Mill is home to many light industrial businesses such as Emmalines, Udder Delights and Tweedvale Milk. We have Hughes Construction operate on the outskirts of town.

- Other local facilities: Dentist, Medical centres, Physio, Chiropractor, two hotels, an occasionally run cinema in the Centennial Hall. There are two playgrounds located in the town and Bushland Park walking trails are located on the outskirts of town.
- Lobethal's main oval is located a short 5-minute walk from the main street and is home to local football, netball, tennis, polocrosse and cricket teams. Lobethal Lutheran Church is located in the school and also has its own netball club. All of these clubs are heavily patronised by a large percentage of the community.
- Availability of staff housing
No Government housing available but private rental and house sales are available.
- Accessibility
Adelaide Metro bus service available and stops in the main street.
- Local Government: Adelaide Hills Council

7. Further Comments

Partnership arrangements with other groups:

- The kindergarten is part of the Torrens Valley Partnership of local schools and preschools and is part of the Para Hills 4 Portfolio.
The kindergarten works closely with local stakeholders and Friends of Bushland Park, Adelaide hills Council, NRME and Trees for Life.
- Lobethal Community Kindergarten was awarded the EXCELLENT rating from ACECQA in December of 2018 based on our work as a STEM Lead Learning site, spreading and sharing our work on Nature Pedagogy and our advocacy for the rights of our children in our community.
- Lobethal Community Kindergarten was re-awarded the EXCELLENT rating in 2021 for our continued work as a STEM Lead Learning site, spreading and sharing our work on Nature Pedagogy and our advocacy for the rights of our children in our community.