

The Scots Journey

A typical day in ...



The Scots College
Sydney Australia

A typical day at Scots Rose Early Years Centre Long Day



I turn 3 before April

Overview

The Scots College Early Years Centre (EYC) is a long day care centre offering a rich and nurturing program for boys aged three to five.

The EYC has been accredited, receiving the highest award for exceeding all National Quality Standards and upholding practices that ensure that all boys are engaged, happy and safe in our environment.

Program and philosophy

The program at the EYC reflects the values of Reggio Emilia pedagogy. Originating in Italy, the framework celebrates children as creative, capable and curious learners and reflects the Colleges value of enquiry based and experiential learning.

The EYC actively engages children in developing positive social skills such as confidence, persistence and organisation.

Attendance

The EYC is open for 48 weeks a year, Monday to Friday from 7:30am until 6:00pm.

Our pre-school program is offered to boys aged three to five years and boys must turn three years of age by 30 April in order to start at the EYC.

The EYC offers a three types of attendance schedules:

- Five days a week (Monday – Friday)
- Three days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Two days a week (Thursday and Friday)

The EYC does not close for school holidays (apart from 4 weeks over

Christmas). We often include exciting events such as dress up days and Teddy Bear picnics in our School Holiday Program.

Our Day

Arrival

Boys may arrive at the EYC any time from 7:30am, however we often begin our investigations from 9:45am.

In line with the school ethos of being a fine Scots boy, boys doff their hats to the teachers and shake hands.

Morning session

For the boys arriving before 8am, the educators prepare breakfast which usually includes toast with vegemite, honey or avocado.

The morning sessions includes class discussions, small group

Bay y Care



spontaneous investigations, intentional and planned teaching session or specialist lessons.

Specialist teachers from the Bellevue Hill Campus travel to the EYC several times a week to lead lessons in Art, Music, Christian Studies and Sport.

There is a strong connection between the EYC (Rose Bay) and ELC (Mansion Road) campuses. The EYC boys often visit the Mansion Road campus for regular Library visits, Easter and Christmas Chapel, Drama and Dance events.

Community walks are a regular occurrence as boys experience walks around Rose Bay. They often visit Parisi's Food Hall to buy ingredients for cooking, the Post Office, the nursery as well as Rose Bay beach and Lyne Park.

Meal times

The EYC offers delicious and nutritious food prepared by the chefs and designed and approved by a nutritionist.

Children are offered the following meals:

- Breakfast
- Morning tea
- Lunch
- Afternoon tea
- Late snack
- Rest and relaxation

Each boy has his own sleeping bag. They may choose to have a sleep or relax with some toys or books. Music and audio books are often played to create a relaxing atmosphere.

Afternoon session

In the afternoons the learning continues with boys participating in a variety of learning experiences and specialised programs.

PreLit is a specialised program developed by Macquarie University that fosters the development of early literacy skills. This program is led by one of our teachers for all Lion boys in several structured lessons.

The ELLA program is also embedded in the everyday practices at the Centre. Boys are exposed to experiences such as counting, cooking and naming colours in Mandarin therefore practicing and applying their knowledge.

After afternoon tea the boys have an opportunity to play. Our busy day concludes at 6pm.

A Typical day in the **Early Learning** **Mansion Road** Transition Cub



A School Based NESAs program at Mansion Road, 500 metres from the main campus

I turn 3 before April

The Mansion Road campus caters for the school-based program offered to the youngest boys of the College. It is a carefully designed learning space intended to nurture the needs of all the boys.

Harnessing the boys' natural curiosity, our program is informed by the Reggio Emilia educational principles. Throughout the day the boys have many opportunities to engage in fun, purposeful play-based experiences and investigations, which can be both teacher-directed, child-initiated or spontaneously derived from boys' interests. These learning experiences give the boys opportunities to

investigate, create, practise, and discover.

The learning environments allow for boys to be independent; making decisions and choices for their own learning. This approach also encourages collaboration and the fostering of social skills. Boys are encouraged to develop independence, resilience, honesty, respect and empathy.

Term 2, boys are screened by our in-school Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy specialists. This is a significant opportunity for boys to receive early intervention to develop their foundational skills that underpin all areas of learning. Similarly, boys with an EAL/D background are supported with additional English classes.

Transition Cubs can be dropped off in the Cubs classroom between 8:30am and 9:00am via the Cubs playground. Parents are asked to sign in and assist the boys in greeting their teachers by doffing their cap, unpack their bags and then move onto outdoor play. This routine helps the boys in developing independence and organisation of their time and belongings throughout the day. At 9:00am, the boys come into the classroom and participate in a group learning experience. Group times are designed to allow involvement of all boys to engage in experiences that are age appropriate, skill-based and reflect their interests and investigations. Boys move on to engage in the different learning experiences such as construction, art, dramatic play, investigative work and literacy and numeracy experiences.

Learning Centre

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Transition Cubs offers families a five-day, three-day or two-day program. Whilst all Cubs boys engage with, and participate in, varied experiences designed to stimulate and inspire class learning and individual exploration, the tailored Cubs Program differentiates between two-day, three-day and five-day boys.

Two-day boys engage in exploring new and wondrous things; becoming familiar with the learning environment whilst developing social skills. While three-day boys revel in the extra day to engage in investigations in a more sustained way. Both part time groups benefit from a shared classroom with the full time (five-day) boys, who encounter the full gamut of the programs on offer at the College.

The Early Learning Centre timetable is designed across a weekly basis, Students encounter different specialist lessons depending on the days they attend. Specialist classes include Art, Music, Dance and Drama, Physical Education, Library and Christian Studies. This gentle transition into school life, prepares them to move to the Lions year group smoothly the following year.

Visits to our local park, Cooper Park are scheduled frequently throughout the year as part of our outdoor experiential learning. Every visit assists the boys to become more familiar with the natural environment that they are able to create connections and build relationships with the place. They become more confident with their natural surroundings and interact with nature in various ways.

After a busy day, boys enjoy a rest time after lunch. This is an important part of the day where they rest their bodies and minds. Some boys use this time to have a short nap if desired. Boys are expected to be toilet trained and have the ability to go to the toilet independently during the day.

The afternoon signals the final part of the Cubs day with either indoor or outdoor play. This is also the time where boys are encouraged to help and tidy up their environment and pack their belongings to prepare for dismissal. Between 2:30pm to 3:00pm parents/carers arrive to pick up their boy.

A typical day in **Transition Lions**



I turn 4 before April

The ELC Mansion Rd Transition Lions environment is designed to foster the boys' natural curiosity, provoke wonder and creativity, challenge the boys' thinking and encourage them to construct their own theories and build an understanding of the world in which they live. Our program reflects the College's educational philosophy of Brave Hearts and Bold Minds and the principles of the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

In Lions we welcome new boys to our environment as well as our upcoming Cubs boys. These create our three classes for the year with two educators per class. Throughout each day the boys rotate across two indoor learning spaces and one outdoor area. Each area offers the boys various learning experiences that cater for literacy,

numeracy, arts, and, science and technology.

Social skills play a vital part of our program as the boys engage in planned and spontaneous experiences that foster independence, resilience, honesty, respect, and empathy.

At the start of the year, the Transition Lions boys enjoy a home visit from their teacher. A boy's home is a large part of his world. It is important that the transition between home and school includes some crossover involvement so that one experience is not totally detached from the other.

The Transition Lions day begins between 8:30am and 8:55am, entering through the Transition playground. They greet their teachers by doffing their cap, unpack their own bags and then move onto outdoor play.

The official start of the boys' day is 8:55am.

Before morning tea and lunchtime boys are engaged in class group times. This may include stories, songs, discussions and class meetings.

Transition Lions celebrate the boys' learning in various ways. This includes excursions and special visits from guests. Events as such are organised to link with current investigations and give us opportunities to connect with our stakeholders and wider community.

After lunch, it is 'rest time'. This is an important part of the boys' day where they are able to rest and relax before the afternoon session. This gives the opportunity to collect and sort their ideas and thoughts and wonder and reflect of the day's events.

ions



The afternoon session signals their final part of the day, either indoor or outdoor. At the conclusion of this session boys independently pack their bags and prepare for home time. Dismissal Time is from 2:50pm to 3:00pm.

Technology is evident in the classroom through the use of the CommBox, iPads, digital cameras, and projectors. iPad Apps are pre-selected and chosen by teachers that promote constructive thinking. The introduction of the ELLA App provides boys with learning the Mandarin language in a fun and independent way.

Specialist classes in the areas of Art, Dance and Drama, Physical Education, Music, Library and Christian Studies occur throughout the boys' week. Boys also attend ELC Chapel once a week with the Kindergarten and Year 1 boys.

Our frequent scheduled visits to Cooper Park are part of our outdoor experiential learning. The aim of the visits is for boys to engage and interact with our local natural environment on a regular basis.

At the start of the year new boys are screened by our in-school Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy specialists. This is a significant opportunity for boys to receive early intervention to develop their foundational skills that underpin all areas of learning. Similarly, boys with an EAL/D background is supported with additional English classes.

If required, Before and After School Care is offered to boys in Lions, Kindergarten and Year 1. Before School Care is located in the Year 2-4 Preparatory campus and is available from 7:00am. After School Care is held in the Rotunda on the ELC campus from 3:15pm to 6:00pm.

A typical day in **Kindergarten**



I turn 5 before April

This is the age group where we begin using the curriculum set for us by the New South Wales Board of Studies. This is the beginning of 'Big School'.

The Kindergarten day begins from 8:20am with line-up being 8:40am. As boys arrive they greet staff by doffing their cap as they enter the school. Some boys may have begun the day a little earlier as there are some before school programs that will be running for the Kindergarten age boys.

Kindergarten day begins as the boys gather for morning assembly on the Kindergarten playground at the rear of Foreland House.

Each day brings a variety of exciting learning experiences. Boys engage in English and Mathematic activities on a daily basis. These are both whole class and small group experiences. In addition, boys spend time involved in their Investigations Program for the term.

They are also involved in specialist lessons in and out of the classroom including:

- PE
- PDH (Personal Development and Health)
- Dance and Drama
- Music
- Christian Studies
- Library / Information Studies
- Art

Lunchtime sees the boys sitting to eat their lunch and chat with friends before playing in the Kindergarten playground.

The boys end their day at 3:05pm and are dismissed by their class teacher.





New boys

In Kindergarten, we move to four classes. This point of entry to Scots is a great time for new boys to join the Scots family with other new boys. All new boys to the College are screened for Speech and Occupational Therapy to better target support and development and Parents receive these reports.

Social Skills

The focus of our social program is to develop the fine Scots boy attributes of sincerity, perseverance, empathy, resilience, honesty and respect. Skills are taught to assist boys making friends, asking to join games, being aware of appropriate behaviour for indoor and outdoor activities.

We have a strong emphasis on literacy and apply a balanced approach whereby reading, writing and talking

and listening are integrated into other subjects. Literacy learning in Kindergarten comprises of the five pillars; phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension.

We focus on phonics through the use of the Synthetic Phonic Programs where we discover sound combinations and spelling choices and sight words through our Magic Words Program.

Reading is modelled by the teacher, and boys take part in shared reading, and small guided reading groups according to ability and individual progress. Home reading programs begin at this age.

Grammar, punctuation, spelling and handwriting are taught in context for example editing own work, use of personal dictionaries and grammar

focus during both reading and writing activities.

Handwriting is a crucial skill in Kindergarten with strong attention placed on correct starting points and letter formation.

There are many opportunities for talking and listening through class discussions, news presentations, and assembly hosting where one class each week shares their classes learning.

Mathematics

During Mathematical activities, boys ask questions and explore problems. They use everyday language and materials to record, explore and formalise mathematical ideas and strategies. Kindergarten boys investigate number, number operations, 2D and 3D shapes, patterns, measurement and data.



Investigations and Inquiry Learning

These Science, History and Geography investigations focus on fostering students' curiosity and wonder, while developing their skills in questioning and exploring their world. We use hands on materials to observe and manipulate objects from our environment. Thinking routines are an integral part of our investigations and encourage reflection and synthesis of ideas and information. Inquiry skills are developed that equip the boys with the tools to be successful in life beyond Scots (researching, reasoning, being creative, culture of thinking).

Information Technology

The interactive whiteboard and individual iPads are used throughout daily learning experiences to access Internet websites and apps, for research, design tasks and to meet the learning styles of different boys.

Kindergarten students have passwords to access a large range of programs including Mathletics and Literacy Planet websites at school and at home to consolidate their learning.

Collaboration

Kindergarten teachers collaborate to plan stimulating units of work. They also teach collaboratively with teaching assistants and learning support staff to deliver a program to meet the different needs of all the boys in the Kindergarten classes.

Support

The Learning Support teamwork closely with boys who need some extra support with literacy and numeracy skills across the Kindergarten year. They implement intensive and games-based programs to explicitly give these students the basic skills and confidence to apply

their skills across the curriculum. Speech pathologists and Occupational therapists also work with identified boys at this stage.

Honours

The Honours Program caters for students who are working well beyond year level in the areas of English and Mathematics. The groups are fluid to respond to the significant variations in pace and level of achievement that emerge among boys during the Kindergarten year.

Community Involvement and How Parents Can help

Parents can help in many ways. We are all experts in something and our parents are encouraged to share their expertise with us. Parents are also invited to join us for excursions and given opportunities to participate in other special events at school.



Routines

We encourage parents to establish a routine with their son at home giving him responsibility and encouraging independence.

Displaying class timetables and discussing morning routines before arriving at school, will help with preparations for each day. On arrival, from 8:20am each day, boys place their bag and Scots cap in their locker, put their white sunhat on their head, complete class organisation of pouches and morning tea, and then play on the Kindergarten playground. If you are late to school (after 8:40am) please go to the ELC Office to sign your son into the late book before accompanying him to his classroom. In the afternoons, boys are dismissed from their classrooms at 3:05pm.

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Before and After School Care

If required, Before and After School Care is offered to Lions, Kindergarten and Year 1 boys. Before School Care is located on the Years 2 to 4 Preparatory campus and is available from 7:00am. After School Care is held in the Rotunda on the ELC campus from 3:15pm to 6:00pm. Fees are charged to accounts.



A typical day in Year 1



In Year 1 we continue to use the curriculum set for us by the New South Wales Board of Studies. Year 1 boys are the eldest boys on the ELC campus. They have been working with formal curriculum for a year before they start in Year 1. They move to the next step where they not only write stories but edit them too!

The Year 1 day begins from 8:20am with the boys lining up with the teacher on duty in the rear playground. They then move across to their Mansion Road playground.

Before lining up for morning play, the Year 1 boys

complete their organisational jobs for the day. These include, placing their bags in their lockers, putting their pouch in the class pouch basket and handing in homework on Fridays. After these jobs are completed the boys put their white hats on and move to the Years 2 to 4 playground for morning play. At 8:40am the boys line up at the Year 1 playground.

Each day brings with it a variety of engaging and thought provoking learning experiences. Boys are involved in English and Mathematic activities on a daily basis.

These experiences include differentiated whole class, small group and independent learning activities. In addition, boys spend time engaged in class Investigations focusing on the Key Learning Areas of Science, History and Geography.

They are also involved in specialist lessons in and out of the classroom including:

- PE
- PDH (Personal Development and Health)
- Dance and Drama
- Music
- Christian Studies
- Library / Information Studies
- Art

Lunchtime sees the boys sitting in the Years 2 to 4 playground to eat their lunch before playing on the basketball courts, and using the variety of equipment available and the sandpit.

The boys end their day at 3:05pm and are dismissed by their class teacher. They practice the courtesy of doffing their cap and shaking hands with their teacher to say good afternoon.



English

The English Program in Year 1 is designed to further extend and challenge the boy's skills in reading and viewing, writing and representing, speaking and listening, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, spelling and handwriting.

The Program caters for the boys increasing competency with their English skills. There is a strong emphasis on explicitly teaching reading, writing, grammar, punctuation, spelling and handwriting skills, as well as integrating English skills across other Key Learning Areas.

Mathematics

In Year 1, there is a heavy emphasis on developing the boy's problem solving skills as well as furthering their mathematical skills and strategies. Boys engage in a variety

of problem solving activities that support the development of skills such as collaboration, communication and critical thinking. Mathematical 'toolbox' strategies are explicitly taught throughout the year and the boys are supported in applying these strategies during authentic problem solving experiences.

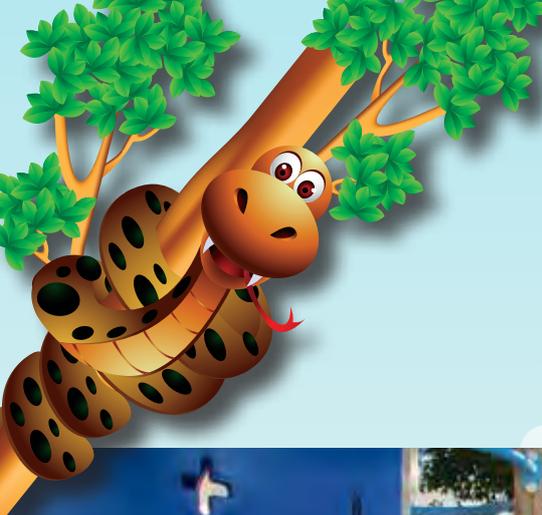
During Mathematics, Year 1 boys will explore and develop their understanding of number, measurement, geometry, statistics and probability as well as the ability to work mathematically. Throughout their learning the boys will participate in both whole class, small group and independent experiences. The learning is differentiated to provide for the boys' individual learning differences and abilities in Mathematics.

Investigations and Inquiry learning

An integral part of the Year 1 Investigation Program includes 'thinking routines', where the boys can delve into deeper understanding of the world around them and develop their skills in creativity and inquiry. Inquiry skills are developed that equip the boys with the tools to be successful in life beyond Scots (researching, reasoning, being creative). The Science, History and Geography Investigations focus on fostering students' curiosity and wonder, while developing their skills in questioning, researching and exploration.

Information Technology

The interactive whiteboard, classroom computers, laptops and iPads are used throughout the day at school to provide the boys with 'digital' learning experiences. They can access Internet websites and information,



as well as applications on the I pads. The integration of information and technology helps facilitate the boys' skills in researching, publishing work digitally and design tasks, as well as catering for the different learning styles of the boys. Year 1 boys receive passwords to access Mathletics and Literacy Planet websites at school and at home to consolidate their learning in the Key Learning Areas of English and Mathematics.

Collaboration

Year 1 teachers program collaboratively to provide engaging, challenging and rigorous learning experiences for the boys. They also teach collaboratively with teaching assistants and Learning Enrichment staff to deliver personalised learning programs that cater for the boy's individual needs. In addition, Year 1 staff also liaise closely with Year 2

staff as part of the Stage One team and in particular with the transition of the boys moving from Year 1 to Year 2.

Term 4 of Year 1 sees the boys participating in transitional activities such as visiting the Year 2 classrooms, attending Years 2 to 4 Assemblies and Chapel services.

Crusaders

The Year 1 Crusaders Program run by our Christian Studies teacher happens each Tuesday at lunchtime, where the Year 1 boys can choose to attend and be involved in a variety of exciting activities exploring the Bible and Christianity.

Support

The Learning Enrichment team work closely with boys who are identified in needing extra support and intervention with their English

and Mathematic skills. MiniLit is an intensive reading/phonics-based Program in Year 1, where a small group of targeted boys are selected to work with Learning Support staff to help develop their English skills. Selected boys from each Year 1 class are also supported with Literacy Booster groups, focusing on their spelling development. Learning Support is also provided during Maths in Year 1.

Extension

The Honours Program caters for boys who are working well beyond year level in the areas of English and Mathematics. The Year 1 Honours Program in English and Mathematics sees the withdrawal of a small group of identified and targeted boys for five periods a week.



Community Involvement and How Parents Can Help

Parents of Year 1 boys can help in many ways throughout the school year. The many events where help would be appreciated include: Year 1 Musical, excursions, Athletics Carnivals and Open Days. Also during class investigations, if you have an area of expertise that links to your son’s class investigation, teachers would be more than grateful for you to share your expertise with the boys.

Routines

We encourage you to establish a routine with your son at home giving him responsibility and encouraging independence. Displaying your class timetable and discussing morning routines before arriving at school, will help with preparations for each day. On arrival, from 8:20am each day, boys place their bag and Scots cap in

their locker, put their white sunhat on, complete class organisation of pouches and then move to the Years 2 to 4 playground for morning play from 8:20 to 8:40am. If you are late to school (after 8:40am) please go to the ELC Office to sign him in the late book before accompanying him to his classroom. In the afternoons boys are dismissed from their classrooms at 3:05pm.

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