CONTEXT
The Education Act and DECS Guidelines state that children may commence schooling on or after their fifth birthday and must be enrolled and attending prior to their sixth birthday. This policy would be reviewed in the event of a change in DECS policy.

TERMS IN JUNIOR PRIMARY
The length of time a child is in junior primary (reception to year 2) will vary depending upon the term in which they commence school.
- **Term 1 & 2**
  Children who commence reception in term 1 or term 2 will, under normal circumstances, be placed into year 1 the following year. These children will have the minimum number of terms in junior primary, ie 12 or 11 respectively.
- **Term 3 & 4**
  Children commencing reception in term 3 or term 4 will be placed as receptions for the following year. These children will have the maximum number of terms in junior primary, ie 14 or 13 respectively.

ADMISSION
Children are admitted into reception classes on the first Monday of the next school term after their fifth birthday. This enables children to begin as part of a group and enables the teacher to plan the program.

TRANSITION
A series of orientation visits are arranged for children and parents near the end of the term immediately preceding their start to school. The principal will also convene an orientation meeting for new parents to coincide with the first visit.
Visit 1 - Tuesday 9.15am to 10.30am
Visit 2 - Thursday 9am to 11am
Visit 3 – Tuesday 9am to 12 noon.

EXCEPTIONS
- **First Week Flexibility**
  As with other DECS schools in the district, children whose birthday falls within the first full week of a new term may be part of that term’s intake. However, these children may not start until their birthday or the next Monday.
- **Gifted Children**
  Children can be admitted up to one term earlier than their normal commencement date under DECS policy. Children need to be assessed by a registered psychologist or guidance officer and test results indicated that they are in the 97th percentile or above. Further, the professional needs to recommend an earlier start to school as part of their official report. A final decision is taken by the principal after taking available advice into account.
- **Exceptional circumstances**
  There are times when the principal may approve an exception. This would normally be based upon wider school need and may be related to total school enrolment. Children admitted to school under this criteria would still need to be five years old at the time that they commence.

ATTENDANCE
Once children have commenced school they are under compulsion to attend. Normal school times are 8.50am to 3.25pm Monday to Friday. Enrolment forms must be completed and lodged with the front office prior to commencement.
Parents may negotiate a shorter school day in the early weeks if they feel their child needs this. Children may also vary attendance times as part of an official Negotiated Education Plan process. This agreement would include the parents, teacher and senior staff.