

ENROLMENT POLICY

Compulsory Department for Education school requirements:

Compulsory school age:

All children living in South Australia must be enrolled and attend school from the age of 6 until they turn 16 years of age. This is known as the compulsory school age under the Education and Children's Services Act 2019 (SA)

Eligibility for enrolment:

All compulsory school aged children or young people can enrol in a government school provided the child or young person lives in SA, and:

- Has Australian citizenship or permanent residency, or
- Is a student with a relevant specified visa or ImmiCard. Enrolment is subject to certain conditions, which may include payment of student fees

Proof of age:

At the time of enrolment, parents/guardians are required to provide proof of their child's age. The following documents will be accepted by schools in this regard:

- Passport, Birth Certificate, or Official Centerlink documentation stating the child's name and birth date

Starting school:

Government schools have 2 intakes per year for children starting primary school (the first year is known as Reception) in term 1 and term 3.

A child who turns 5 years of age before 1 May can start primary school at the beginning of the year. A child who turns 5 years of age on or after 1 May but before the 31st of October can start primary school in the mid-year intake or the following year.

A child must be enrolled at a school by their sixth birthday. It is recommended a child who will turn 6 years of age during the school year start school on the first day of term 1 of that school year.

Early entry to school:

You might be able to enrol your child earlier than the age of 5 if it will benefit their education. If you think this applies to your child, talk to the principal about meeting the specific criteria.

Children who turn 5 years of age on or after 1 May will also be eligible for early entry at a government school if the principal is satisfied the child will turn 5 years on or before 31 July and there's sufficient documented evidence to support that the child:

- Has recently moved from interstate or overseas and has enrolled in and attended 4 terms of preschool or equivalent immediately before starting school, or



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Primary School

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- Has recently moved from interstate or overseas and has been enrolled and regularly attended school immediately before transferring to a SA government school (minimum 1 school term)
- Is a dependent of a parent who is currently a full-time serving member of the permanent navy, the regular army or the permanent air-force
- Is transferring from a registered SA non-government primary school and attended for a minimum of 1 school term immediately before the transfer. This includes children who met the requirements to gain entry through a non-government primary school mid-year Reception intake. Children transferring from a mid-year intake will have a minimum of 6 terms of Reception.

Special consideration:

Outside of the above conditions, a child will only be considered for early entry to school in exceptional circumstances where the Chief Executive (or delegate) is satisfied that it's in the child's best interest and has approved that the child should be enrolled and attend a government school. Requests for exceptional circumstances are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and must be recommended by the department, via the local education director.

Early entry to school is not a guarantee but rather an exception, where it's determined to be in the best interests of the child. It considers the child's age, continuity of their education and assessment the child has the required social and emotional skills to succeed at school.

The Principal can help parents in determining if a child has the necessary attributes required for early entry to school.

Participation:

Once a child is enrolled at a school, the child must attend every day that instruction is provided for them at the school, or for such parts of every day. This includes all compulsory school activities.

The department offers various alternative schooling for children and young people to support their participation in education, including:

- Children unable to attend mainstream schooling may be eligible to enrol in distance education as per the Open Access College enrolment policy
- Children and young people with a disability may be eligible to enrol in an inclusive education option as per the Children and Students with Disability Policy

General information:

To find out more information about Tea Tree Gully Primary school please make an appointment to have a school tour.