



SURREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR WHOLENESS | PRE-K TO GRADE 12



**Welcome to
Kindergarten!**

2024-2025

Welcome to Surrey Christian School!

Dear Parents,

We are so excited that you have chosen to partner with Surrey Christian School for your child's education.

Here at SCS, we believe passionately in our mission statement of "Educating for Wholeness, by engaging God's world in the Servant Way of Jesus." Our deep hope as your child starts their educational journey is that through lessons and curriculum, they will capture glimpses of God's bigger story for their lives.

This booklet is designed to give some practical advice and guidance on preparing your child for starting Kindergarten in September. Our Kindergarten teaching team has shared some insights that we believe will help equip your child to navigate the start of Kindergarten. We will also share some general information about our Kindergarten program to hopefully help bring some clarity to what is also a big transition in your own lives!

We thank you for trusting us with your child. We look forward to partnering together in the years to come.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr. Tom Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Tom Williams
Principal

A Child of Kindergarten Age

Each child is created by God as a **unique individual** with different **abilities, tendencies** and **experiences**. Kindergarten contributes to the growth of a child's knowledge of themselves as children of God and adds to their understanding of the world around them.

In a stimulating, secure, and responsive Kindergarten environment the child can experience the joy of discovery in learning as well as receive encouragement to develop **their gifts and talents**.

Learning looks different for each child. The social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual development of **one** child will **not be the same** for **all** children in a Kindergarten class.

Children at SCS, like other children in British Columbia, can start kindergarten in September of the year they turn five years old. Remember, it is possible to have an age span of **eleven months** from the youngest to the oldest Kindergarten student.



General Characteristics

Not all children exhibit these characteristics, but all children will exhibit many of them!

Kindergartners ...

need to move around frequently. They learn how to use spaces, especially large open spaces like gymnasiums or hallways. They need a change of position and a change of scene often.

need to talk. They learn when it is appropriate to talk. They need outlets for *verbal* as well as *physical* energy.

need to listen. Besides informal occasions when listening is important, teachers design activities to specifically *teach* listening skills.

are shy. Some are shy only in certain situations. They may need time to adjust to their new setting.

are outgoing and uninhibited. They may need time to adjust to group dynamics and group plans.

are egocentric. They view the world only from their own perspective, based on their own experiences and what and how they think about these experiences. They need a wide variety of familiar encounters, leading to unfamiliar ones in order to learn about other people and how others feel about them.

are often possessive of their own things. They are encouraged to share and take turns. They need praise and affirmation when they do.

want to feel proud, successful, and important. The Kindergarten room contains material to help *each* child find success. Children need some success each day in order to develop a good sense of who they are.

have vivid imaginations. They may have trouble distinguishing between reality and fantasy.

are sensitive. Their feelings are easily hurt.

are resilient. Their hurt feelings are quickly mended when addressed.

are naturally trusting. They are eager to learn about Jesus and are convinced that he hears their prayers and cares for them always.



have a strong sense of justice. They can understand why rules are important and why rule-breaking requires questioning. However, they only think in black and white; there are no grey areas. Consistent dialogue is very important.

are candid. They are often blunt and honest to the point of tactlessness. They need to be reminded that their words can hurt others' feelings and that sometimes they must not say what they think.

think in practical and concrete ways. They need a "hands-on" curriculum in which they can manipulate things. They need a variety of learning experiences, far beyond paperwork.

are often eager to please and very helpful.

are dependent. They must do activities in which they make choices in order to become responsible independent thinkers.

are curious and eager to learn. They are hungry for stimulation and easily motivated.

Parents as Partners

Readiness for Kindergarten depends more on development than age and, as we have already learnt, there is a wide range of abilities among children who are five! If your child does not have all the skills or abilities of others their age, don't panic! It may indicate that their developmental age is younger and they may need more time or support to master those skills.

At SCS, we will seek to engage in conversation early with parents if support is required to help bridge any gaps and overcome any potential barriers to learning. We do this very much from a heart of care and a desire to see your child flourish in their education.



General Readiness Checklist

Please make sure your child has:

had their vision checked

had their hearing checked

had their immunizations

Is your child:

aware of dangers such as electricity, traffic and fires?

able to express themselves in complete sentences?

able to cope with new situations?

able to remember a song or nursery rhyme?

able to dress themselves?

able to toilet independently? (including wiping, flushing & washing hands)

aware of some basic colours?

building an awareness of numbers and basic numeracy?

able to follow instructions?

able to maintain a topic of conversation for 3-4 turns?

How will your child respond to:

sitting still and listening while the teacher reads a story that takes more than five minutes?

learning routines at school?

separating effectively from parents on school days?

Has your child had an opportunity to?

make some of their own choices?

have experience with crayons, pencils, glue and scissors?

be regularly responsible for some tasks at home? (e.g., counting out forks and spoons for setting the table)

spend time away from home without Mom or Dad?

have group experiences with children their age?

play with a variety of children?

open a lunch bag, thermos or container?

feed themselves independently?

wake up and get ready for something with a deadline?

engage in cooperative play activities with peers?

Outdoor Fridays - Creation Enjoyers!

From an early age, children are curious about nature. Being outside in nature can stimulate a child's sense of wonder and discovery. Outdoor education supports inquiry and play-based learning. Our deep hope is to invite students to ignite their excitement and curiosity for the natural world. We have a great opportunity to immerse our children in the awesome creation God has given us to care for.

Benefits of Outdoor Learning

Physical Development: Outdoor learning through play develops motor skills, physical stamina and confidence, while promoting fitness and health.

Social Development: Through play children improve confidence, social skills, communication, motivation and concentration as well as healthy and safe risk-taking.

Emotional Development: Through play in nature children develop creativity and a love of the outdoors. Children learn empathy and responsibility and begin to see themselves as Earth Keepers.

Cognitive Development: Through observation of the world around them students begin to explore, discover and reflect. Children also develop flexible thinking and imagination.

Spiritual Development: Outdoors is the perfect location to show students the wonders of what God has created and develop a relationship with our creator.

Supply List

Durable, waterproof rain coat and rain pants/rain suit.

Rubber boots

Waterproof mittens/gloves (not cotton)

Warm, thick socks

Warm Coat with a hood

A change of dry clothing to keep at school.



The School Day

Gradual Entry:

At Surrey Christian School, we provide a phased-in approach to the school year for Kindergarteners. This provides an opportunity for them to build up their stamina to full school days and allows for our teachers to meet with each family to get to know you individually and learn about those unique characteristics that make your child who they are!

Final details of the gradual entry process will be shared during Kindergarten day in the Spring.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school. (info@surreychristian.com or 604 498 3233)

After Gradual Entry:

Start of the Day (1st) Bell - 8:35am (Friday - 9:05)

Start of the Day (2nd) Bell - 8:45am (Friday 9:15)

Please Note: *If you arrive after the 2nd bell you must sign in at the main office.*

First Recess - 10:45am - 11:03am

Lunch Recess 12:50pm - 1:17pm

End of the Day - 2:50pm