

## Statement of Philosophy

### Our place

McKellar Stewart Kindergarten has a strong history connected to early childhood education. It began as Clayton Nursery School, in the Clayton Church Institute, Norwood from 1918 to 1940. From there it was moved to the present building in 1940 on land purchased by the Mothers Club and operated as the Kensington Free Kindergarten. It is one of the first purposely designed and built preschools in Australia.

In 1954 the name of the centre was changed to perpetuate the memory of the late Professor John McKellar Stewart (1873-1953) in recognition of his dedication as President of the Kindergarten Union of SA from 1925-1953.

Today we continue to be dedicated to the rights of every child, regardless of race, gender or additional needs, to a supportive and nurturing environment that fosters and sustains each child to reach their full potential.

At McKellar Stewart Kindergarten we provide a welcoming & inclusive environment for all children and their families. We prioritize wellbeing and engagement through celebrating children's unique strengths and achievements. We are focused on planning for improvement, guided by learning theories & current research that is centred on symbolic play. A focus on developing children's ability to learn together and from each other is implemented through collaborative learning groups focussed on an inquiry project. Our priorities are reported each year through a Preschool Quality Improvement Plan.

We acknowledge the strong connection that our First Nations People have with the land and our local community and we strive to reflect and actively support this in everything we do.

<p><b>We believe that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child is a unique, capable and competent learner, who co-contributes and actively participates in their own learning.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caring, positive relationships support children's wellbeing &amp; learning.</li> <li>• Building a connection with the natural world enhances children's wellbeing and responsibility to our earth for a sustainable future.</li> <li>• Critically reflective practice supports our drive to work collaboratively towards high quality teaching and learning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Relationships with families and their communities to help support and develop the child's learning journey.</li> </ul>	<p><b>We value:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflective Practice             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Authentic and respectful relationships             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusivity</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Celebrating dispositions for learning</li> </ul>
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### Our commitments include:

BEING	BELONGING	BECOMING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valuing children's individual strengths and achievements.</li> <li>• Developing secure, respectful &amp; reciprocal relationships with all children &amp; families.</li> <li>• Being reflective by listening, being open and respectful of other approaches and ways of being.</li> <li>• Celebrate and value our individual and group strengths and achievements.</li> <li>• Inspire respect &amp; responsibility for the environment by embedding sustainable practices.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act in ways that are ethical, respectful and transparent.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for all children &amp; their families.</li> <li>• Value the cultural, linguistic &amp; social contexts of children &amp; families.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in open dialogue, new ideas &amp; collaboration.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage kindness, responsibility &amp; accountability.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with respect and honesty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed reflection, by being brave, trusting &amp; open to a cycle of improvement.</li> <li>• Open to new ideas &amp; learning in order to be creative &amp; innovative.</li> <li>• Provide a meaningful, play-based educational program that supports children as successful, competent and capable learners.</li> <li>• Support staff &amp; children to be respectful, collaborative powerful lifelong learners.</li> <li>• Encourage children's curiosity and wonderment and ensure that the curriculum emerges from the children's interests and real world happenings.</li> </ul>