

2023 Kindergarten Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wattle Room	3 Year Old Possums Group	3 Year Old Dolphins Group	3 Year Old Possums Group	3 Year Old Dolphins Group	
	8:30am to 4:00pm (7.5 hours)	8.30am to 4.00pm (7.5 hours)	8:30am to 4:00pm (7.5 hours)	8.30am to 4.00pm (7.5 hours)	
Blue gum Room	4 Year Old Rosellas Group	4 Year Old Bilbies Group	4 Year Old Rosellas Group	4 Year Old Bilbies Group	Extra kinder session*
	8:30am to 4:00pm (7.5 hours)	8.30am to 4.00pm (7.5 hours)	8:30am to 4:00pm (7.5 hours)	8.30am to 4.00pm (7.5 hours)	8.30am to 1.30 (5 hours)

*The extra session is optional for 3 year old & 4 year old children. (Subject to availability) As this session is not funded, it attracts a separate term fee.

Flexible start and finish times will be provided for families who prefer shorter kinder sessions.

In 2023, we are pleased to be offering 3 year old & 4 year old kindergarten for 15 hours of funded kindergarten per week, over 2 long days. Kinder funding contributes to the cost of running the 15 hour program, however parent fees are required to cover the remaining costs.

An optional third day (5 hours) will be available on Fridays, for those who are interested in attending 3 days per week. There is no funding for the session on Fridays, meaning the cost for this session will be higher.

The decision to move to long days in all groups considered the following:

- Aspendale Gardens Kindergarten began offering long sessions (8:30am – 4pm) for 4 year old kinder in 2016, in response to community feedback. Our long day sessions have been very popular, and we later introduced a long session for one of our 3 year old groups.
- Each year we conduct an online survey for feedback on our session days and times, and to determine future direction of the kinder. The March 2022 survey indicated ongoing support for long day kinder sessions, and overwhelming support for an increase to 15 hours per week for 3 year old kinder programs.
- Over time we have seen a declining number of families requesting short sessions. In 2022 we trialed a hybrid model, where families could enrol their child in shorter hours as part of the long day sessions. Unfortunately, the low uptake of this short-day model has proven not to be sustainable for our service. We will continue to provide the option of an *additional* 5 hour session on Fridays, so that families may elect to attend 3 days per week.
- We have received feedback about the challenges of securing child care days each year, with a suggestion that 3 year old and 4 year old programs could run on the same days of the week. This also helps families who have children in both programs, who will now be able to attend the service on the same days.

Other considerations impacting the timetable:

- The Department of Education is currently rolling out funding for three year old kindergarten programs, with services required to offer 15 hours per week by 2029. We are one of the first kindergartens in City of Kingston to be able to offer 15 hours a week of funded 3 year old kindergarten.
- The City of Kingston central enrolment scheme will now take the responsibility of allocating children into kindergarten groups. Previously, City of Kingston allocated children to services, who then managed group allocations. This change was implemented in response to community feedback, and gives families more control over their kindergarten allocation, as well as finding out their child's days and times earlier in the year.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- *How we will support children transitioning to a long day who haven't had long day care before?*

All children will be enrolled in the full 15 hour per week program, and flexibility is provided around their attendance within those 15 hours. Our staff will work with you to make a plan that works for your family. It may be that your child attends for fewer hours each day at the beginning of the year, extending their day when they are ready. Some families may elect to pick up their child from kindergarten before picking up older siblings at school. Please discuss with us during the orientation sessions what you think will work best for your child.

- *Can I request which group my child attends?*

Yes! When you submit your enrolment application with the City of Kingston, you will be required to list 3 kindergarten groups, in preference order. When places are allocated in July, you will be notified which kindergarten and which group your child has been allocated to.

- *How will groups be allocated?*

Allocation of children into kindergarten groups is now the responsibility of the City of Kingston. Please see the fact sheet about allocations here: [parent-information-sheet-for-four-year-old-sessional-kindergarten-registration-scheme-2021.pdf \(kingston.vic.gov.au\)](#)

- *Can I request the same days for 3 year old and 4 year old kinder?*

3 year old and 4 year old kindergarten are allocated separately through the City of Kingston central enrolment process. Each year when you apply for your child's position, you will be asked for your group preferences, however there is no guarantee you will get your first preference.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me by email kim.ives@agcsinc.org.au

We look forward to seeing you at kindergarten in 2023!

Kim Ives

Nominated Supervisor and Enrolment Officer
Aspendale Gardens Community Service