From little seeds big things grow.

Information about the Prep Year

Moreton Bay Boys’ College
We take the responsibility of nurturing your son very seriously.

The MBBC Preparatory (Prep) Year is as supportive as it is stimulating, and is a different journey for each boy.

We respect and celebrate the diversity of our students, knowing each individual has a unique contribution to make to this world. This individuality will be developed with engaging, child-centred activities throughout the year and guided by the boys’ interests.

Our Prep Year develops and builds upon boys’ prior knowledge and skills through a variety of activities and learning, and helps transition them into their future learning at school.

In all that we do, we aim to help develop your son emotionally, intellectually and spiritually; to teach him values to live his life by, introduce him to lasting friendships and show him how to best use his gifts and abilities. Importantly, we aim to encourage in him a lifelong love of learning.

Set your son on the most exciting journey of his life - at Moreton Bay Boys’ College.

“If we limit the curriculum only to academic endeavour, we would shortchange our students. Education is as much about the character of a child as it is about his mind.”

- Principal, Dr Roderick Crouch
Learning in the Prep Year

The Prep year program is driven by the Early Years Curriculum, which has been created by the Queensland Studies Authority to enhance continuity in learning throughout the children's early years of schooling.

MBBC has been accepted as a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate program, which means the boys will benefit from a richer, global perspective to their learning.

Your Prep boy will be engaged in a variety of learning activities across all five contexts of learning, ie play, real-life situations, investigations, routines and transitions, and focused learning and teaching.

Specifically, MBBC’s early learning areas focus on

- Social and person learning
- Health and physical learning
  > making healthy choices
  > developing gross and fine motor skills
- Language learning and communication
  > oral language
  > reading and viewing
  > writing and shaping
- Early mathematical understanding
- Active learning processes
  > thinking
  > investigating the natural world
  > investigating technology
  > investigating environments
  > imagining and responding

These learning experiences will help your son – both at school and beyond - to:

- Take on responsibilities
- Become more independent
- Respect other people
- Cooperate with others
- Make sensible choices about their health and safety
- Develop their physical skills
- Develop their oral language
- Develop their understanding of literacy and numeracy
- Learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- Use their imagination and creativity
- Learn about their environment
- Take a positive approach to learning.

The program runs from 8.30 am to 2.15pm, five days per week, ensuring the children are well prepared for the more formal expectations of Year 1. Boys entering Prep are required to turn five years of age by June 30 in the year they commence.
A typical Prep day

Through repetition and encouragement the boys get to know the routines and become familiar with the Prep environment.

MBBC has two Prep streams, with classes rotating through both classrooms and the dedicated outdoor play space. In addition to nurturing, energetic and highly qualified class teachers, Prep students also enjoy full-time teacher aides and specialist teachers for PE, music, and religious education.

Our facilities include spacious indoor classrooms, including carpeted group play areas, computers, ‘work’ tables for drawing, artwork and writing, a kitchen, child-size amenities, and a fully enclosed playground, with undercover play areas, sandpit and a variety of outdoor activity equipment.

In addition, the Prep units are equipped with a fun and stimulating variety of supplies to ensure the boys get the most out of every day.

Each day your son will have the opportunity to

- Investigate his interests.
- Make choices.
- Talk with teachers and other boys.
- Plan with his teacher things he might do, and carry out his plans.
- Design and make things.
- Sing, dance and make music.
- Paint, draw and “create”.
- Listen to, and become involved in, stories.
- Play games - indoors and outdoors.
- Climb, balance, jump.
- Plan and share in make-believe play.
- Using computers to draw pictures, make signs, play games and find out about the world.
- Take part in everyday experiences such as gardening, cooking and tidying.
• Write and copy signs during play.
• Learn about size, shape, weight and measurement as he constructs things indoors and outdoors.
• Learn to recognise and form letters, with literacy development enhanced through the implementation of the Jolly Phonics program and language games.
• Show and tell.

Opportunities for whole school integration are ensured through a variety of events, such as carnival days, Grandparents Day, Mothers and Fathers Day breakfasts, community events and attending and leading Chapel and Assembly.

An annual camp, in conjunction with Year 1, provides a fun outdoor learning and bonding experience. A term visit with the Moreton Bay College girls provides a great opportunity to share knowledge and start developing relationships with our sister school.

Our broad reaching student care program develops social and confidence skills (eg You Can Do It), and boys begin to learn and experience the attributes we strive to develop in every boy: merciful, independent, resourceful, respectful, open minded and resilient (our MIRROR program).
How can I get involved?

MBBC recognises and values the vital role of parents in their son’s education. There are many opportunities for you to participate in and support your son’s learning, whether formally - such as our Support a Reader program - or informally - such as resource provision, spending a few hours to join in classroom activities each term or attending carnivals to cheer on your son’s team.

Parent representatives assist with social events and liaison between parents.

How can I help my son?

- Share information about your son with the teacher. This information is always confidential.
- Chat with him about what they are doing at school.
- Visit the classroom for a brief chat or to take part in daily activities or special events.
- Encourage your son to experiment with various materials and equipment.
- Encourage him to explore different ways to organise areas eg his bedroom, play area, cubby.
- Read together and talk about everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- Read and talk frequently about story books, factual books and rhymes.
- Make available a variety of materials and containers for measuring things such as water, grain and sand.
- Involve him in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas eg cooking, setting the table, matching socks, sharing a meal.
- Provide “junk” materials for drawing, making patterns and building things.
- Use everyday activities such as shopping, cooking or visits to the park as an opportunity to explore vocabulary, letter and word recognition and numeracy.
There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.

- Walter Streightiff
For further information about the Prep Year at MBBC, please phone us on 07 3906 9444 or visit our website at www.mbbc.qld.edu.au