



Aurora School

ENROLMENT POLICY

Aurora School Policy 2021

This policy sets out requirements for entry into Aurora school, including eligibility criteria and admissions procedures.

AIMS

To ensure that all children enrolled with Aurora School meet the eligibility criteria in accordance with the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (1995), the Federal Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and the Disability Standards for Education made under that Act.

To ensure that all children with hearing loss and children with a combined hearing and vision loss have access to educational support programs that will most appropriately cater for their needs.

To ensure that all children enrolled at Aurora School Community Kindergarten meet the eligibility criteria through Whitehorse Preschool Association.

Where it is deemed appropriate, hearing children with identified language disorders may be enrolled at Aurora School with special authorisation.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Eligibility Criteria

Hearing Loss: Children must have a bilateral hearing loss confirmed by an audiologist. This includes children with a diagnosis of Auditory Neuropathy.

Deafblind Criteria: Children must also have a diagnosed and documented vision impairment supported by a report from an ophthalmologist.

Age: Children from birth until school entry or until they transition to another educational program.

Location: The Early Intervention Program provides state-wide services to families of eligible children living in Victoria. The program includes home based sessions and some centre or community based programs delivered by a multidisciplinary team of professionals.

Admission Procedures

1. Families contact Aurora directly and self-refer or are referred by a professional service (an early intervention service, Early Support Service –VIHSP, Hearing Australia, Royal Children’s Hospital CHIC or Monash Hospital PHLIC).
2. Families are contacted after a service provider makes a referral directly to Aurora on behalf of the family.
3. The Early Intervention Manager collects referral information and a Team Leader organises an information visit with the prospective new family.
4. A Social Worker is assigned to the family, upon accepting service and supports with the completion of enrolment forms.



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5. A Regular Worker is then allocated and coordinates the Early Intervention (EI) services as identified by the family.
6. Through a Family Partnership approach, an initial discussion is held with the family to identify family goals and service provision. These discussions then continue at the beginning of each year and are reviewed regularly.
7. Opportunities for reflection and future planning take place throughout the year to identify and modify family goals and service provision depending on changing family needs.
8. At the end of each year time is taken in the home session to reflect and review progress and satisfaction with service provision.

EARLY EDUCATION

Eligibility Criteria

Hearing Loss: Children with a bilateral sensory-neural hearing loss, or a permanent conductive hearing loss, (confirmed by an audiologist) that is moderate/severe/profound, and need intervention or assistance to communicate.

Deafblind Criteria: Children must have a diagnosed and documented vision impairment supported by a report from an ophthalmologist in addition to hearing loss.

Severe Language: Hearing Children with a severe language disorder as diagnosed by a speech pathologist who require Auslan as a means to develop communication maybe considered for enrolment.

Age: Children from 3 years to the early years of schooling or until they transition to another educational program.

Location: Early Education is available to families of eligible children living anywhere in Victoria. Programs operate at Aurora School in Blackburn South. Transport is available for children in some metropolitan regions. Residential facilities exist on site to support families from rural and remote areas.

Admission Procedures

1. Parents contact the school, usually after referral from a service provider (an Early Intervention service, Hearing Australia, Visiting Teacher, Royal Children's Hospital CHIC or Monash Hospital PHLIC).
2. Aurora School organises an initial visit with the parents to discuss the programs offered and services available in the context of the individual child's needs.
3. Enrolment documentation is provided to the parents.
4. Upon receipt of enrolment documentation, a transition process is established in conjunction with families.
5. A Transition Meeting is organised for parents and relevant staff.
6. Class Teachers organise a meeting with families (onsite or via zoom) to discuss the needs of their children and establish initial goals/priorities.
7. Program Support Group meetings are organised each term to establish goals, review development and discuss issues as required.

Additional Intake Guidelines for 3 year old Group.

- Aurora School has a policy, in line with Early Years and DET Policies, that children must turn 3 years of age by 30th April to attend our 3 year old program.



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- For 3 year old children that turn 3 years of age after 30th April, the commencement date will be Term 1 in the following year. Children enrolled for the following year will be offered an Orientation Program in Term 4. Children must be accompanied by their parents during the Orientation Program.
- Our 3 year old Program is generally a 3 day program offered across a week.

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN

(3 and 4 year old preschool sessions)

Eligibility Criteria

Hearing children from the local community.

Children enrolled in Aurora Early Education Programs.

Hearing children who are siblings of children enrolled at Aurora School.

Hearing children who have deaf siblings in the broader community.

Hearing children of deaf parents from the broader community.

Children enrolled in Aurora Early Intervention Program.

Others to be considered, dependant on demand and available vacancies including children / grandchildren of staff.

Admission Procedures

1. Parents of Aurora siblings contact Whitehorse Pre School Association.
2. Local community parents contact Whitehorse Pre School Association.
3. Visits to the Community Kindergarten are arranged.
4. Letters of offer and enrolment forms are sent to families.
5. Parents complete enrolment form.
6. Parents attend enrolment interview with the Kindergarten director.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April 2021
Approved by	Principal & Management Team
Next scheduled review date	Three Years – 2024 (or earlier if significant changes required)