



**FREMANTLE LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

Information Booklet 2023



OUR VISION

Our aim is to be a school of excellence that empowers students to talk, learn and grow.



Talk Learn Grow

Waanghan Kaadatj Malatj



FREMANTLE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

School Information 2023



What are Language Development Centres (LDCs)?

- LDCs are Independent Public Schools within the Department of Education for children with Developmental Language Disorders (DLD) and who meet specific eligibility criteria.
- There are 5 LDCs located in the metropolitan area: Fremantle LDC, Peel LDS, West Coast LDC, North East Metropolitan LDC and South East LDC.
- All LDCs have a number of satellite classes located at host schools within the district. Currently the Fremantle LDC has 4 classes located at the Bull Creek PS site and 3 classes at the Beeliar PS site. Administration and 10 classes are located in Willagee at the Caralee Community School site.
- The Fremantle LDC has a very close relationship and cooperative learning environment with all host schools. This means that Fremantle LDC students benefit from the individualised programs of the LDC within the social environment of a mainstream primary school.
- Each LDC has an Outreach Service that provides early intervention programs, professional learning and support to mainstream schools, to build the schools capacity to meet the learning needs of students with language difficulties.

What is the eligibility criteria for an LDC?

- LDCs cater for a population of children who have been diagnosed with a significant **primary language disorder** in one or more language areas.
- The child needs to demonstrate evidence of **non-verbal learning potential within the average or above average range**, as measured by standardised cognitive assessment. Cognitive Assessment is **highly recommended** for referrals into Kindergarten. Cognitive Assessment is essential for PP and Year 1 referrals.
- The child needs to demonstrate **sound adaptive behaviour skills**, substantiated by descriptive evidence of the child's behaviour in his/her current educational placement or in his/her home. This is to ensure that they are able to fully access our intensive learning program.

How does a child get into the Fremantle LDC?

- Applications are accepted for Kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year 1 referrals each year.
- For Kindergarten referrals, a full Speech Pathology assessment and a completed parent/carer questionnaire is required.
- For Kindergarten referrals a cognitive assessment is highly recommended, however it is not mandatory. Any additional supporting information from paediatricians, occupational therapists or other professionals would be useful for the Placement Committee.
- Pre-Primary to Year 1 referrals require a full Speech Pathology assessment, demonstrated evidence of non-verbal learning potential via a cognitive assessment, a completed behaviour checklist and evidence of sound adaptive behaviour skills.
- All referrals are closely studied by the Placement Committee which consists of the Principal, Deputy Principals, School Psychologist, Speech Pathologists and teachers.
- Referrals are reviewed by the Placement Committee and offers are made according to appropriateness and the number of places available each year.
- In 2023, parents / caregivers should be notified about a placement in November.

What are the closing dates for referral to the Fremantle LDC?

The closing dates for 2023 (placement for 2024 school year) are as follows:

PP – Year 1: Friday 8th September 2023 (Term 3, week 8)

Kindergarten: Wednesday 20th September 2023 (Term 3, week 10)

How is the Fremantle LDC structured?

- All students are closely monitored and assessed throughout the year to track their learning progress and ability to access the intensive oral language program. Collaborative work practices exist with all host schools that promote a positive, caring environment. This includes assemblies, incursions, excursions, celebration days, buddy class activities, collaborative games and cooperative learning activities, playground interaction, sports days, library activities, etc. These combined activities benefit all students.

Kindergarten

- The Kindergarten program is considered a one year placement. During the kindergarten year, every child is closely monitored and assessed in order to track their progress. This collected data will be the basis of our discussion for the offer of a place in the Pre-Primary program. Parents/caregivers will be involved in this process.
- Department Policy states that all students enrolling into a Kindergarten program must provide evidence of full immunisation using the Australian Immunisation Record (AIR) online version.
- The Kindergarten program conforms to the Department of Education guidelines. Children attend for 15 hours per week. Currently at the Fremantle LDC, this is an alternating 2 & 3 day fortnightly cycle. When places are offered, parents/caregivers are informed of the times/days.
- Class sizes: Kindergarten classes range from 10-12 students.

Pre-Primary – Year 3

- Placement at the LDC is reviewed annually to ensure that students continue to benefit from the intensive oral language program and receiving the most appropriate support for their needs.
- PP-Year 3 students attend Fremantle LDC full time (5 days per week).
- Class sizes: PP-Year 3 classes range from 12 - 14 students.
- Class arrangements: The organisation of year levels depends on the number of students, number of referrals and the number of children leaving the centre. This information is not available until late Term 4 of each year.

Fremantle LDC Community activities

- At times, all Fremantle LDC students come together for special occasions. eg: Cultural Day, Science Day activities, and Year 3 Big Day Out.

Staff

- Fremantle LDC employs a range of professionals, including administration staff (Principal, Deputy Principals, Manager Corporate Services, School Officers), classroom teachers, education assistants, speech pathologists and a school psychologist.
- The school also has a team of Support Officers Speech and Language who provide professional learning and support to mainstream schools through the Fremantle LDC Outreach Service. All staff engage in continuous, intensive professional learning in the specific areas of oral language, literacy and numeracy.

Specialist Programs

- Fremantle LDC provides intensive, evidence based oral language intervention for students in their early years of schooling. Explicit teaching in oral comprehension, semantic organisation, vocabulary, narrative, social skills, early literacy and numeracy is provided.
- Fremantle LDC plans and programs are in line with the Department of Education expectations and the Western Australian Curriculum, with an explicit focus on oral language.
- All students have an Individual Education Plan that is reviewed and updated regularly.

Contributions and Charges

- As with all public schools, Fremantle LDC asks for a voluntary payment of \$60/child per year. Excursions, incursions and other school activities will require additional payment.



Parent involvement

- The support and involvement of students' parents / caregivers is essential. Fremantle LDC staff firmly believe in this partnership so that children can achieve to their full potential.
- Parents are encouraged to become classroom helpers when offered.
- Parent workshops are offered regularly in a variety of areas to help to support your child at home.
- Parents are invited to participate in the Fremantle LDC P&C and the fundraising committee which contributes enormously to school resources and activities.
- The School Board also has parent representatives who play a key role in the school strategic planning and review process.



Length of enrolment at Fremantle LDC

- The length of enrolment at the Fremantle LDC differs for every child. The Fremantle LDC offers placement from Kindergarten to Year 3 and all students are closely monitored throughout each year to ensure they continue to meet the eligibility criteria and are able to access the intensive oral language program.
- Progress is monitored through a range of assessment processes and parents are involved in any decisions that are made.
- Assessment in all areas of language, academic areas, social skills, sensory and gross motor skills is ongoing. Comprehensive data is collected by staff and discussed with key team members at Individual Education Plan Reviews. Any specific concerns are discussed regularly with parents or at a case conference.
- Specific exit testing is conducted for all Year 3 students and for any child considered ready to return to transition to mainstream education. Parents, teachers and speech pathologists are involved in this decision making process.
- The Fremantle LDC provides a formal report each semester which is presented in a one-on-one parent interview or a Learning Journey.
- A comprehensive transition process to support students when they transition from the Fremantle LDC to mainstream education is in place and parents are informed of the details at a case conference and informative parent workshop.

Transport

- The Public Transport Authority offers bus transportation or a Conveyance allowance to support students travelling between home and school.
- Parents are encouraged to apply for bus or conveyance allowance immediately upon acceptance of a placement offer. All applications are through an online application process through the Public Transport Authority.



FREMANTLE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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Fremantle Language Development Centre—Beeliar

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