



**St Margaret's
College**

Balanced
foundations,
bright futures.

Preschool | Prospectus



Contents

Welcome	1
Philosophy and vision	2
Meet the team	5
Our curriculum	6
Specialised classes	9
Nutrition	9
Transition to School	10
A day in the life	13
Calendar	14
Enrolment	17
FAQs	18
Testimonials	21



Ngā mihi o te rā, and a warm welcome to St Margaret's College Preschool.



Our Preschool is a calm and nurturing environment where tamariki are empowered to explore their world as they develop their sense of self.

Our inquiry based programme supports the holistic way in which young children learn and grow.

Our qualified teachers work in partnership with whānau and value parents' roles in their children's wellbeing and learning, building on children's prior knowledge while extending their interests.

Boys and girls enjoy a well-rounded programme with a curriculum designed to foster a love of learning

and to prepare them for a successful transition to primary school and beyond.

On a practical level, we support families by including them in their children's Preschool experiences through our annual calendar of events, our extended opening hours of 7.30am-5.30pm and catered nutritious lunches.

We are thrilled you are considering entrusting St Margaret's College Preschool with the care and education of your child and we look forward to an opportunity to meet you and your family.

Philosophy and vision

At St Margaret's Preschool our philosophy is based on the principles of Te Whāriki.

We uphold the Treaty of Waitangi and acknowledge our responsibility for providing a culturally responsive environment.

St Margaret's is a school community that is founded on Anglican values, they are integrity, higher purpose, equality, resilience and excellence. Every member of our school community is committed to expressing these.

We celebrate the many cultures in our community and encourage children to learn and grow with others, both through play and structured activities.

Our well-resourced environment allows boys and girls to express themselves, be creative and be problem solvers as they challenge themselves.

**“He taonga te mokopuna,
kia whāngaia, kia tipu, kia rea.**

**A child is a treasure, to be nurtured,
to grow, to flourish.”**

– Te Whāriki, Early childhood curriculum

We recognise that children learn and develop best when their culture, knowledge and community are affirmed. We respect the aspirations of our whānau and value their role in their children's wellbeing and learning.

Our inquiry based programme is designed to stimulate children's ideas and interests, helping them to reach goals in their learning and development.

St Margaret's Preschool is a place where children are nurtured, have a sense of belonging and can express themselves.

Children are encouraged to be the kaitiaki, guardians of our land, continuously working towards a more sustainable world for our future.

Our vision is to empower children to explore their world, developing cognitive and social abilities. Children become creative, confident communicators and responsible citizens with a love of learning.





“Children actively engage in a calm, very well-resourced learning environment that reflects their diverse languages and cultures. They are well supported by teachers who relate positively and guide them to enact the service’s values. Children experience a balance of teacher-led and child-led learning experiences.”

– Education Review Office report

Meet the team

We are a team of dedicated and passionate teachers bringing in individual strengths to enhance the Preschool. St Margaret’s qualified teachers prioritise building positive relationships with each child based on trust and kindness.



Diana Patchett
Executive Principal



Sarah Bradley
Director of Preschool
Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)



Louise Ayling
Teacher
Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary)



Emily-Kate Henderson
Teacher
Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)



Tessa Karati
Teacher
Bachelor of Teaching (ECE)



Paige Mackay
Teacher
Bachelor of Teaching (Primary)



Joanne Pattie
Teacher
Diploma of Teaching (ECE)

Our curriculum

St Margaret's Preschool curriculum is rich in choice and variety, focusing on individual interests, while extending

into core curriculum areas. We promote the vision of Te Whāriki and the aspiration for children to:

'grow up as competent, confident learners and communicators, healthy in mind, body and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society.'

– Te Whāriki

Our local curriculum priorities are:

Responsibility

We care for ourselves, each other and the environment. We treasure and take responsibility for our environment and its resources.

Culture

We provide an inclusive curriculum where teachers acknowledge, respect and respond to the identities, languages, cultures, and educational aspirations of our children, parents and whānau.

Literacy and numeracy

We provide an environment enriched with literacy and numeracy opportunities and activities.

Leading learning

We empower children to lead their learning. Children have agency to create and act on their own ideas, as active learners who choose, plan, and challenge.

Transition to school

We support and orientate a programme for all tamariki before starting school. We provide experiences and activities that prepare learners for the next stage of their learning journey.





Specialised classes

Our programmes enable our young students to begin developing their understanding of the cultural heritage of both parties to Te Tiriti and to learn about tikanga and Te Reo Māori.

Specialist classes such as science exploration, tech, PE, arts, baking, dance and yoga give children opportunities to explore areas beyond the standard curriculum and at the same time develop their social and motor skills.

Nutrition

Hauora, the Māori philosophy of health, forms the backbone of wellbeing at St Margaret's College. Ensuring our preschoolers have access to the right nutrition required to fuel their learning and play is a key part of this.

Our on-site catering team prepares morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, based on a menu specifically developed for preschoolers' nutritional needs (with most dietary requirements catered for).

Children eat together, supported by our teaching team, helping to develop positive eating habits. Learning to eat at the table forms part of this.

“Eating together has been shown to improve nutritional status, physical health and mental wellbeing. St Margaret’s endeavour to create this family feel.”

– St Margaret’s College Nutrition Audit, 2024

Transition to School

Our Transition to School Programme, created by our qualified primary school teachers, develops our older Preschoolers' confidence to take the next step in their education.

The programme includes extending literacy and numeracy concepts, games and looking at school routines.

This complements the visits they may be offered by the school they will later attend, and is in addition to a series of visits undertaken by girls transitioning to the St Margaret's College Junior School as they develop relationships with our Junior School teaching staff.





A day in the life

Sophia

I open the gate with mum or dad and I put my bag away. My favourite place to play is the family corner.

Poppy

The teachers call us to the Maggie Bear Room for morning hui. We sing songs, we count the numbers for the date, we guess what the day is, we look outside to see what the weather is like and we play games like the memory game.

Jimmy

Before lunch, we wash our hands, then we sit with our friends. We make a kete and say karakia. I can pour my own water and choose fruit for my plate.

Harris

We line up at the gate to go to yoga. It is upstairs in the dance room. We sit on a mat and do the cow pose.

Hugh

We follow the Preschool treaty – we use our kind and gentle hands.

Lena

Sometimes I miss my mum, I can tell the teachers and they sing special songs and read their stories.

Bonnie

When Preschool is finished I go home with my mum and my sisters, and tell them what I did at Preschool. My favourite classes are PE and dance.

Calendar

As a valued member of the St Margaret's College community, we invite you to participate in regular calendar events held at the College, including:

Term 1

- Family picnic
- Parent drinks and nibbles evening

Term 2

- Mother's Day celebration
- Transition to School Information Evening

Term 3

- Book Day parade
- Father's Day celebration

Term 4

- Athletics day
- End of Year celebration





Enrolling in our St Margaret's College Preschool

Choosing the right preschool for your child is a decision no parent takes lightly.

Visiting our Preschool

We invite families to get to know us by visiting the Preschool. This is an opportunity to see classes in action, meet our teachers, and view our facilities. Our Director of Preschool, Sarah Bradley, will be available to guide you around our Preschool, answer your questions, and to walk you through our enrolment timeline and your family's admission to our Preschool.

To book your visit, please visit our website stmargarets.school.nz/learn-at-smc/pre-school/book-a-visit and select a time convenient for you and your family.

Enrolment

We recommend early enrolment to secure your child's place. Once we have confirmed the days and time, we require an enrolment form to be completed, your child's birth certificate or proof of residency, and a recent photograph, with an enrolment fee of \$200.

Preparation for Preschool

We recommend at least four visits to the Preschool before admission.

The first two visits are an opportunity for you to explore the Preschool with your child and to talk to the teachers about daily routines, timetables, meals and to ask any questions. The duration of these visits are generally between 30-45 minutes.

The next two visits are a chance for your child to experience life as a preschooler independently. This enables them to begin to feel comfortable, to start exploring their new environment and to develop a relationship with their key teacher. We recommend setting aside around one hour for these visits.


First day

Your child's key teacher will greet you and your family and encourage your child to find their locker with their name and photo.

The key teacher will encourage your child to say goodbye, find an activity and settle them into their day.

The key teacher or Preschool Director will make contact during the day to let you know how your child's first day is going.

FAQs

Are meals provided or am I expected to bring in food for my little one?	We have an option to have meals provided if you wish.
Is there a meal plan I can have a look at?	Yes, visit: stmargarets.school.nz/learn-at-smc/pre-school or scan this code. 
Do you provide nappies or do we bring our own in?	If your child requires nappies please provide them.
How many children can be enrolled in the Preschool ?	Our Preschool is licenced for 50 children.
Does the Preschool offer the ECE subsidy?	The fee schedule has 20 hours of the ECE subsidy built into it.
What is the earliest my child can start the day?	We offer a drop off time of 7:30am.
How do you communicate with me about my child?	Email, Google Classroom and through your child's profile book. You are welcome to make contact with us at any time.
What does my child wear?	Uniform t-shirt each day and a SMC sunhat during Term 1 and 4.
Is the Preschool open all year?	We are open all year except for 3 weeks over the Christmas break.





**At St Margaret's College Preschool,
children learn to play
and play to learn.**

Testimonials

“Thank you so much for looking after Claire and guiding her to become a lovely young girl, now ready for Junior School. Claire has had the most wonderful years at the Preschool and we are so grateful for your help in setting great foundations.”

– Alicia and James

“I want to say thank you to all the wonderful teachers. Harris has had fantastic experience since he joined St Margaret's Preschool. Thank you for teaching Harris to be brave to speak out. Thank you for helping Harris learn more. All of the teachers are kind and very willing, and support Harris every day. Offering endless guidance, in so many different ways. Thank you for all the skills you have given to Harris.

Thank you for your kindness, patience, and wisdom. Thank you for being there for our boy. Eric and I truly appreciate you and are grateful for your support.”

– Haze and Eric

“We enrolled Walter at St Margaret's when he turned two, and he has absolutely thrived in the environment. He loves going to Preschool, and on occasion, he's so caught up in the fun that he doesn't want to come home at the end of the day. The teachers have been consistently supportive, providing us with regular feedback and guidance.

The facilities at St Margaret's offer a wide range of activities without the need to leave the campus, and with food provided, we know Walter is well-nourished throughout the day. He has truly flourished, and we won't hesitate to enrol his brother when he turns two.”

– Nick and Prue



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ISNZ Independent
Schools of
New Zealand

