

Central Registration Scheme for Funded Kindergarten - Allocation Procedure

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2 Purpose

The Kingston City Council Central Registration Scheme for Funded Kindergarten (CRS) administers the registration and allocation of funded sessional kindergarten places on behalf of participating sessional kindergarten services. This includes funded three and four-year-old sessional kindergarten places.

The purpose of the CRS Procedure is to provide guidance regarding how funded sessional kindergarten places are allocated to groups.

3 Scope

This Procedure applies to any sessional kindergarten service providers who participate in the CRS.

This Procedure also applies to all parents/guardians who wish to register their child/ren for allocation to a funded sessional kindergarten service participating in the CRS.

4. Procedure

4.1 Eligibility and Age Restrictions

4.1.1 In accordance with the Victorian Kindergarten Funding Guide, children are eligible for **two** years of funded kindergarten before they start school.

4.1.2 To be eligible for Kindergarten Funding children must be three or four years of age by 30 April in the year they commence or attend kindergarten.

4.1.2.1 Children can only claim kindergarten funding at one service each year.

4.1.2.2 Eligible children are entitled to two years of funded kindergarten, unless the child qualifies for an additional year of funded three or four-year-old kindergarten.

4.1.2.3 Children who repeat three-year-old kindergarten can't repeat four-year-old kindergarten as well.

4.2 Priority Allocation and Registration Classification

4.2.1 All registrations will be subject to a registration classification process. Classifications are based on selection criteria categorised between levels 0 - 6.

4.2.2 In line with Victoria Government Policy, resident and non-resident children who are a Priority of Access or Pre-prep Priority Group*, and meet one or more of the following criteria, will be prioritised and offered a place at their first kindergarten group option (Level 0) in the first allocation round as follows:

- Have additional needs
- Are known to Child Protection*
- Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander*
- Are eligible for Early Start Kindergarten funding*
- Are at risk of abuse or neglect, including children who are in out of home care
- Are from a refugee or asylum seeker background*
- Are eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy
- Are eligible for an additional year of funded four-year-old kindergarten.

4.2.2.1 Children who are in the Pre-Prep priority group will be allocated before children who are a Priority of Access.

4.2.2.2 After the children who are a Priority of Access or a Pre-prep Priority Group have been allocated, resident and non-resident three-year-old children who have deferred commencing kindergarten will be allocated as a local priority in the first allocation round.

4.2.3 Supporting documentation must be provided upon request.

4.2.4 An allocation criteria will apply to all other registrations. Allocation criteria is as follows:

- Level 1.** Residents of the City of Kingston who are currently attending three-year-old kindergarten and are seeking to attend four-year-old kindergarten at the same service.
- Level 2.** Residents of the City of Kingston who live within a 2km radius of the service of their first option **and** have a prior connection to the service.
- Level 3.** Residents of the City of Kingston who live within a 2km radius of the service of their first option **or** have a prior connection to the service.
- Level 4.** Residents of the City of Kingston.
- Level 5.** Non-residents of the City of Kingston who are currently attending three-year-old kindergarten and are seeking to attend four-year-old kindergarten at the same service.
- Level 6.** Non-residents of the City of Kingston who live within a 2km radius of the service of their first option **and** have a prior connection to the service.
- Level 7.** Non-residents of the City of Kingston who live within a 2km radius of the service of their first option **or** have a prior connection to the service.
- Level 8.** Non-residents of the City of Kingston.

4.2.5 Registrations are ranked against the allocation criteria based on the service of first option and all three options hold the same ranking.

4.2.6 Multiple Births and Siblings

- 4.2.5.1 Families who have multiple siblings attending funded sessional kindergarten in the same year, and want them to attend the same service, will be considered jointly unless otherwise specified by the parent/guardian.
- 4.2.6.1 A separate Registration Form must be submitted for each individual child.
- 4.2.6.2 All efforts will be made to ensure siblings are placed at the same service; however, this is not guaranteed.

4.3 Registration Procedure

4.3.1 Registration Process

- 4.3.1.1 To register for a place in a group at a participating kindergarten, children must be eligible for kindergarten funding and the Registration Form must be completed and received by the CRS officer either online or in person at a Kingston City Council Customer Service Centre.
- 4.3.1.2 Registrations open on 1 May for children who are eligible for funded kindergarten in the following year and will be accepted until the end of that kindergarten year. For example, children eligible for funded kindergarten in 2026 will be able to register from 1 May 2025 and registrations will remain open for eligible children until the end of the 2026 kindergarten year.
- 4.3.1.3 To be included in the first allocation round Registration Forms must be received by 30 June in the year prior to commencing funded kindergarten.

- 4.3.1.4 Registration Forms will only be processed when all required documentation has been provided.
- 4.3.1.5 The Registration Form will only collect information required for the allocation of children to kindergarten places.
- 4.3.1.6 It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep the Kingston City Council informed of any changes to their child's Registration Form. For example, change of address, contact details or group options.
- 4.3.1.7 Only children who are eligible for kindergarten funding and are planning to access their kindergarten funding at a participating sessional kindergarten service can register through the CRS.

4.3.2 Registration Submission

- 4.3.2.1 Registration Forms are available online at www.kingston.vic.gov.au/centralregistration or by requesting a print copy from the CRS officer.
- 4.3.2.3 Registration information is available from the Kingston City Council Customer Service Centre, Kindergartens and Maternal and Child Health Centres. This information can be mailed or emailed to families by the CRS officer on request, or viewed online at www.kingston.vic.gov.au/centralregistration
- 4.3.2.4 Support from the CRS officer is available to help people complete the Registration Form if required.
- 4.3.2.5 Parent/gardians must provide the following documentation when submitting a Registration Form to demonstrate:
 - Proof of the child's date of birth (E.g. copy of birth certificate, birth extract, or Immunisation Statement (MyGov), a copy of passport or a Statutory Declaration verifying your child's date of birth to be true and correct).

And where required or requested provide the following documentation:

- Current proof of child's residential address (Eg. copy of parent/guardian's license, rates notice or amenities bill [issued within the last three months] that includes the parent/guardian's name and address).
- Proof of registered child or sibling's prior connection to the service (Eg. acceptance or confirmation letter from the kindergarten, a graduation certificate, statutory declaration).
- Copy of a valid concession card (Eg. Health Care Card or Pension) or visa;
- Proof of a child's additional need (Eg. a copy of your child's Disability Health Care Card, a referral from a NDIS Support Worker or Early Childhood Intervention Service or Preschool Field officer, or a letter from a pediatrician or specialist).
- Confirmation of the child's eligibility for a second year of funded kindergarten (Eg. Term Three Plan for Learning and Development or a letter of support from their current teacher or a second-year statement or a declaration of eligibility for a second year).

- 4.3.2.6 In the instance where incorrect information is supplied by the parent/guardian on the Registration Form, registrations may be re-classified against the criteria and or offers may be retracted prior to child commencing kindergarten.
- 4.3.2.7 Parent/guardians are required to nominate three group options on the Registration Form. These can be at the same service or different services.
- 4.3.2.8 Parent/guardians are required to complete a declaration on the Registration Form to confirm all information provided is true and correct.
- 4.3.2.9 Parent/guardians will receive confirmation of the registration and registration details by email.
- 4.3.2.10 One Registration Form is required to be submitted for both years of funded kindergarten for each individual child.
- 4.3.2.11 The CRS officer will send an email to parent/guardians of all registered three-year-old children, to confirm if they wish to participate in the allocation process and advise group options for four-year-old kindergarten in the following year.
- 4.3.2.12 Submitting a registration form does not guarantee a kindergarten placement and is not a confirmed enrolment.

4.3.3 Deferring Three-year-old Children

- 4.3.3.1 Children who delay their three-year-old kindergarten year until the following year, will be classified as a local priority of access.
- 4.3.3.2 Children must be registered with Kingston's CRS prior to deferment to be classified as a priority of access.
- 4.3.3.3 Children who have deferred their three-year-old kindergarten start will not be classified as a priority of access for their four-year-old kindergarten year.
- 4.3.3.4 Children deferring their four-year-old kindergarten year or those 'taking a gap year', will not be classified as a priority of access.

4.3.4 Procedure for Registrations Received After Each Allocation Round

- 4.3.4.1 Registrations that are received after the administrative cut off for each allocation round will be entered into the data system before subsequent round offers are made.
- 4.3.4.2 Registrations that are received after the allocation process has commenced will not be placed at a disadvantage to existing registrations regardless of submission date.

4.4 Allocation and Offer of Kindergarten Places

- 4.4.1 Allocations to kindergarten groups commence in late July of each year. Council will email letters of offer to the families. To accept or decline an offer, parent/guardians must respond by the date stated in their letter of offer to confirm acceptance of a place.
- 4.4.2 In the instance a family hasn't responded to their letter of offer within the date stated, a minimum of two reminders will be sent to them via email and/or SMS. Failure to respond to these reminders will result in the offered place being deemed as available for reallocation to another child.

- 4.4.3 In the instance a family, who has a child who qualifies as a Priority of Access, hasn't responded to their letter of offer within the date stated, a direct phone call will be made to them in addition to two reminder emails and/or SMS. Failure to respond to these reminders will result in the offered place being deemed as available for reallocation to another child.
- 4.4.4 Allocations for three and four-year-old kindergarten will be conducted in separate processes. Every effort will be made to place children at the same service for three and four-year-old kindergarten. Unfortunately, we are unable to guarantee this due to the National regulatory space and staff to child ratio requirements for kindergartens.
- 4.4.5 Kindergarten services can access waitlists, offers and acceptances by accessing EnrolNow (registration and allocation software) as required.
- 4.4.6 Kindergarten allocation dates for three and four-year-old funded kindergarten groups will be provided to services in March of each year. All services will be sent a reminder of these dates in June.
- 4.4.7 Round 1: Offers will be made to Kingston residents only (except non-resident children who are eligible for Priority of Access or Pre-Prep Priority Group); that is registrations that are classified Level 0 – 4 inclusive and will include all three group options. Council will send a letter of offer to successful families via email.
- 4.4.8 Round 2: Offers will be made to both Kingston residents and non-residents and will include all three group options. Round two allocations will commence within 5 business days after the response date of the first allocation round. All registrations received since the previous allocation round will be included in the second allocation round. Council will send a letter of offer to successful families via email.
- 4.4.9 Round 3: Offers will be made to both Kingston residents and non-residents and will include all three group options. Round 3 allocations will commence 5 business days after the response date of the second allocation round. Council will send a letter of offer to successful families via email.
- 4.4.10 Applicants who do not receive a kindergarten offer after the third allocation round will be contacted directly by the CRS officer via email or SMS. Families can request a phone call to discuss the options and provide information to the CRS officer about how they wish to proceed.
- 4.4.11 Where a child does not gain access to one of their kindergarten group options, alternatives will be discussed.
- 4.4.12 Families who receive an offer will have the option to decline, decline and remain on the waitlist, accept, or accept and remain on the waitlist for higher option group(s). Three-year-old children will also be provided with the option to delay or defer commencement of kindergarten. The parent/guardian must respond by the date stated in their letter of offer.
- 4.4.13 To allow the processing of allocations, administrative cut off dates will apply for each allocation round.
- 4.4.14 All correspondence to families will be sent through email, SMS or Australia Post if required.

4.5 Ballot System

4.5.1 Where the total number of registrations for a nominated kindergarten group is greater than the number of places available, registrations will be selected through an automated random numerical selection referred to as the ballot system.

4.5.1.1 Each ballot round will include all three group options and will be allocated in line with the allocation criteria and procedure.

4.6 Waitlist

4.6.1 At the completion of the three allocation rounds, children who have not been offered a kindergarten place in a kindergarten group, will be placed on the waitlist.

4.6.1.1 Council will maintain a waitlist each year for any family unable to secure a place in a kindergarten group.

4.6.1.2 Registrations on the waitlist will be contacted by the CRS officer to inform them of their status and seek advice on how the family would like to proceed.

4.6.1.3 Registrations shall remain on the waitlist until a place is offered and accepted in line with the allocation procedure or the CRS officer is advised the registration is no longer required.

4.6.1.4 If a vacancy occurs at a kindergarten during the year, the kindergarten will notify the CRS officer who will make an offer to the next eligible registration in line with the allocation procedure.

4.6.1.5 Allocations from the waitlist will be made utilising this allocation procedure.

4.6.3 Internal Waitlist

4.6.3.1 Where a family accepts an offer for a kindergarten group not listed as their first option, parents/guardians are able to remain on an internal waitlist until/if a place becomes available in their first option kindergarten group.

4.6.3.2 Children on the internal waitlist will not be disadvantaged, and places will be allocated in line with the allocation criteria and process.

4.7 Alteration of Registration Information

4.7.1 An Alteration of Registration Form will be available on request and on Council's website www.kingston.vic.gov.au/centralregistration for parents/guardians who wish to alter their information in relation to:

4.7.1.1 Change of address or contact details;

4.7.1.2 Change of kindergarten group options;

4.7.1.3 Deferring three-year-old kindergarten year; and

4.7.1.4 Cancellation of registration.

4.8 Working Together

4.8.1 Within pre-arranged dates kindergartens will provide the CRS officer with information that includes, but is not limited to the following:

4.8.1.1 Timetable details including days, start and finish times, and number of places being offered for each three- and four-year-old group or option advertised as part of the CRS;

4.8.1.2 The names of children who are eligible for another year of funded four-year-old kindergarten; and

4.8.1.3 Confirmation of children on the waitlist with a prior connection to the kindergarten or service.

4.8.2 Changes to Timetables

4.8.2.1 The CRS officer will contact services prior to the first allocation round to seek confirmation of timetable details and any updates or changes.

4.8.2.2 In the instance a service provider requests changes to their timetable after the allocation process commences the CRS officer will work with services on a case-by-case basis to update the changes, notify families and reallocate families where required.

4.8.2.3 Allocation criteria will apply in the instance a family seeks to change group or service because of a timetable change.

4.8.3 Families Wising to Move Groups Once Allocated

4.8.3.1 In the instance a child is seeking to move groups or service, they will be placed on the internal waitlist for the other group or service and will be allocated in line with the allocation procedure.

4.8.3.2 Other scenarios will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.8.4 Unfunded Places and Wrap Around Care

4.8.4.1 The CRS will allocate eligible three- and four-year-old children to funded kindergarten hours only.

4.8.4.2 In the instance a service has vacancies and wishes to offer unfunded places or wrap around care, the service will be responsible to manage the allocation to these additional unfunded hours and are required to:

- Notify Council of the changes to group capacities.
- Ensure a minimum of three funded places are reserved for eligible three-year-old children and a minimum of three funded places are reserved for four-year-old children who register after the formal allocation rounds.
- Prioritise children who are eligible for funded kindergarten.

4.9 Communication and Promotion

- 4.9.1 Kingston City Council will provide kindergartens with key dates for allocation rounds and due dates for information collection in February of each year.
- 4.9.2 Kingston City Council provides regular networking and development opportunities for participating committees of management and early years managers to come together and share information.
- 4.9.3 Kindergartens can access waitlist, offer and accepted data via EnrolNow.
- 4.9.2 Kingston City Council will advertise the opening date for Registrations each year and information regarding the registration and allocation process will be available on its website.
- 4.9.3 Kingston City Council provides an online community directory to assist community groups, including kindergartens, to advertise their service and events at www.kingston.vic.gov.au/community/get-involved/community-groups

4.10 Grievance and Dispute Resolution

- 4.10.1 In the first instance parents/guardians and participating kindergartens can discuss any concerns regarding the CRS with the CRS officer who will work to facilitate a satisfactory outcome.
- 4.10.2 If a satisfactory outcome is not achieved, the matter will be referred to the Team Leader Children's Services Partnerships to facilitate a satisfactory resolution.
- 4.10.3 If the matter remains unresolved the complainant may wish to refer the complaint to an appropriate external agency such as the Office of the Ombudsman or the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

5 Responsibility

The areas or positions responsible for defined tasks in implementing, maintaining and approving these procedures:

Position/Team	Responsibility
Children's Services Partnerships	Administration of the Kindergarten Central Registration Scheme

6 Related Documents and Resources

Legislation

- Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations 2011
- Age Discrimination Act 2004
- Disability Act 2006
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010
- Privacy and Data Collection Act 2014
- Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005
- Local Government Act 2020

Documents and resources

- National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care
- Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education
- National Quality Framework
- Victorian Kindergarten Funding Guidelines 2023
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework
- Victorian Best Start Best Life Reform
- Victorian Central Registration and Enrolment Guide
- Department of Education Training – Municipal Association of Victoria Partnership Agreement 2018-2023; and
- Family and Children’s Services Strategy incorporating Municipal Early Years Plan (2020-2024)
- Central Registration Scheme for Funded Kindergarten Procedure
- Kindergarten Management Expression of Interest Procedure
- Leasing Policy

7 Definitions

Word/Term	Definition
ACECQA	Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority.
Administrative cut off	Is a date nominated prior to each formal allocation round that registrations need to be received to be included in that round.
Allocation Criteria	The criteria for the allocation of places to participating funded kindergartens within the Central Registration Scheme.
Allocation Priority	Allocation criteria assigned to applicants for who meet DE’s Priority of Access Guidelines
Allocation Process	The process for the allocation of places to participating funded kindergarten groups within the Central Registration Scheme.
Alteration	The adjustment of information provided to the Central Registration Scheme in the original Registration Form.
Approved Provider	Early childhood education and care providers must be approved by the Department of Education to operate a service.
Ballot	A system in which applicants of equal ranking are selected using a random numerical selection process.
Children with Additional Needs	Children whose development or physical condition requires specialist support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within the kindergarten setting• As defined by medical assessment• As defined by DE assessment (as per Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) (Additional Needs Definition)
Committee of Management	A volunteer committee of parents/guardians responsible for the day-to-day management of a kindergarten service.
CRS	The Central Registration Scheme for Funded Kindergarten.

Word/Term	Definition
Deferral	Is where a parent/guardian chooses to delay an eligible child's start to funded kindergarten. Once the child commences the kindergarten year, this is considered their funded year of kindergarten.
DE	Department of Education. The Victorian regulatory authority primarily responsible for the regulation and quality assessment of education and care services in Victoria.
Early Start Kindergarten	A DE program that provides free or low-cost kindergarten to eligible three-year-old children to access 15 hours of funded kindergarten where programs are delivered by a qualified teacher.
Early Years Manager	Early years management brings individual kindergarten services together under a single employer and are Approved Providers.
Eligible Child	A child who is eligible for State Government kindergarten funding and can apply for a place in a participating kindergarten.
EYLF	The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia; Belonging, Being & Becoming – a framework to assist educators to provide young children with opportunities to maximise their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning
Extended care	Is when a service provider offers additional group sessions to allocated children that are over and above the minimum number of hours funded by DE.
Funded Kindergarten	Also known as three- and four-year-old kindergarten and is funded by the Victoria Government
Health Care Card	A concession card that entitles the person to cheaper medicines and concessions.
Kingston City Council	Organisation responsible for delivering a range of vital services for people and businesses in a defined area.
Kindergarten (also known as Preschool)	The term kindergarten refers to both kindergarten and preschool. Kindergarten is a universal early childhood program funded by the Victorian Government for children in the two years prior to commencing primary school.
Kindergarten Central Registration Officer	The Kingston City Council employee responsible for administering the CRS.
Kindergarten Group	The defined days and times that children attend kindergarten each week to access the minimum funded hours.
National Quality Framework	Derived from the National Legislative Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, the National Quality Framework lists the National Standards and sets the national benchmark for the assessment of quality in education and care services.
Non-resident	A child who does not live in the City of Kingston
Pre-prep	Is a program in Victoria that will gradually replace four-year-old kindergarten and progressively increase from 15 hours to 30 hours by 2036.
Protective Services	A government agency that responds to reports of child abuse or neglect.
Priority of access	Allocation criteria assigned to applicants who meet Department of Education's Priority of Access definition as outlined in the Kindergarten Funding Guide

Word/Term	Definition
Prior connection to the service	An allocation criteria that allows consideration for a child who has previously attended the service, and/or a sibling attended the service within the previous three years.
Proximity to the kindergarten	Based on residential address this criterion refers to children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whose residential address is within a two kilometre radius of the kindergarten service; or • Whose residential address is outside the borders of the City of Kingston municipality, yet the address falls within a two kilometre radius of the kindergarten service.
Registration form	The registration form for parents/guardians who wish to register their child/ren in a funded kindergarten participating in CRS.
Resident	A child who lives in the City of Kingston
Non-resident	A child who does not live in the City of Kingston.
Second Year	A child is eligible for a second year of funded four-year-old kindergarten if the family and teacher assess the child as having delay in at least two outcome areas of learning and development detailed in the VEYLDF and children will benefit from a second year of kindergarten.
Service	Includes the participating kindergarten or collocated care and education program eg: Primary School or Child Care Centre
2 Kilometre Radius	Residential priority area for allocation purposes. This does not act as a zone.
VEYLDF	Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework – Curriculum framework to guide the development of the educational program for children.
Wrap around care	Unfunded care that is provided before or after group sessions for allocated.