

## Trialling at Moerlina School Information for Parents



At Moerlina, all students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 are offered a trial period prior to enrolling. This offer may, at times, also be extended to Kindergarten-aged students. A trial is offered in recognition of the importance of selecting the right school for each child. Generally a trial will run for one school week, from Monday to Friday. The trial period provides an opportunity to gauge the extent to which the student's social, emotional and academic needs can be catered for within the context of this School.

Michael Grose, a leading Australian parent educator, provides some helpful advice for parents who are considering schools for their children:

*One of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child is the opportunity to get a quality education. Selecting a school for your child can be a complicated, even stressful process. Most parents want to send their child to the best school available but it's important to choose a school that's the right fit for your child and for you as a parent. While educational factors are usually paramount when choosing a school, it's also important that you get the right philosophical and social match for you and your child.*

*Visit the school, look around and see if most children are busy and happily engaged in learning. Check to see if children are happy and relaxed around teachers. Get a 'gut' feel about the school's atmosphere so you can make sure the school you choose is a safe and appropriately challenging place for your child. (<http://www.parentingideas.com.au>)*

### **Before the Trial**

- The offer to trial follows an interview with the Principal.
- The commencement date for the trial period is agreed.
- Parents are required to complete an Application Form, highlighting key information pertaining to their child's health and learning.
- For children who are receiving, or have received, specialist support outside of school that impacts on their learning, copies of specialist reports are requested prior to the commencement of the trial.
- Special considerations that may be required to support the student during the trial will be agreed (eg. Education Assistant, part time attendance).
- Parents will be provided with a Class Handbook for the class in which the trial will occur and additional information regarding school hours etc as required.

### **During the Trial**

- The student will participate in the regular class routine, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Class teachers will communicate with the parents during the trial. This will generally be informal, either at the commencement or conclusion of the school day.

### **After the trial**

- A meeting with the Principal will be held on the final day of the trial. The class teacher may also be present at this meeting.
- An Offer of a Place at Moerlina will be considered in reference to the Moerlina School Trial Report, which will be completed by the class teacher for the period of the trial.

### **Moerlina School Trial Report**

The Trial Report is based on the *Moerlina School Learning Behaviours Reports*. It is a snapshot of

how your child has approached learning during the trial period, in a school and classroom context, with a focus on their personal and social development.

Students with well-developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, develop resilience and a sense of self-worth, resolve conflict, engage in teamwork and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. The development of *personal and social capability* is a foundation for learning and for citizenship.