Al Zahra College Preschool Centre Philosophy

Acknowledgement of Country

Al Zahra College Preschool Centre acknowledges the Bidjigal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we play, learn and grow. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the continuing connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with Country, culture and community.

Our Vision and Values

Al Zahra College Preschool is committed to providing high-quality early learning that gives children the best possible start in life. Our aim is to develop faithful, knowledgeable and wise citizens who take responsibility for creating a better and more peaceful world.

We are a proud Islamic early learning centre that promotes and teaches Islamic values and perspectives, which are aligned with the principles, practices and values of our families and wider community.

AZC Preschool is a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where every child, family and educator is respected, valued and celebrated. We embrace the diverse cultures, languages, identities, traditions and experiences of our children and families, creating a strong sense of belonging and wellbeing where children are nurtured, families feel supported, and educators provide consistent, responsive and meaningful learning experiences.

Child Safety, Wellbeing and Protection

At Al Zahra College Preschool, the safety, health and wellbeing of every child are our paramount considerations and underpin every decision we make. We are committed to creating and maintaining a child-safe culture where children are protected, respected, listened to and empowered.

Our educators actively promote children's rights and recognise children's voice and agency as central to our practice. Children are encouraged to express their ideas, perspectives and feedback, make choices and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them. We work collaboratively with families and the wider community to ensure every child feels safe, secure, valued and included.

AZC Preschool is committed to meeting our obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations, the National Quality Standard and relevant child safety requirements through ongoing reflection, professional learning and continuous improvement.

International Baccalaureate and Early Years Learning

Al Zahra College is an IB World School and is authorised to offer PYP, MYP and DP. We strive to provide a unique, challenging and diverse education where the Early Years Learning Framework and the Primary Years Programme (PYP) work together to support children's learning and development.

We believe children learn best through play, inquiry, meaningful relationships and hands-on experiences. We provide opportunities for children to become active learners, critical thinkers and problem solvers who explore, question, investigate, imagine, create and drive their own learning through curiosity and discovery.

AZC Preschool is passionate about promoting intercultural understanding and respect for each other, the environment and the world. We support children to develop as internationally minded learners who strive to be:

Inquirers
Knowledgeable
Thinkers
Communicators
Principled
Open-minded
Caring
Risk-takers
Balanced
Reflective

Al Zahra College Preschool Centre Philosophy

Children as Capable, Competent and Active Learners

At Al Zahra College Preschool, we view every child as capable, competent, curious and full of potential. Our educational program values each child's interests, strengths, ideas, culture, identity and individual ways of learning. Children's voices, interests, ideas and feedback actively influence our daily planning, learning experiences and environments.

Children are encouraged to make choices, contribute ideas, express their perspectives and take increasing responsibility for their learning. This strengthens children's agency, confidence, independence and sense of belonging, ensuring every child feels valued and empowered in their learning and play.

We support the whole child by nurturing physical, social, emotional, cognitive, language, spiritual and creative development. Through secure and responsive relationships, play-based learning and purposeful experiences, educators observe, listen, reflect and learn alongside children, supporting them to develop resilience, confidence, curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

Community, Sustainability and Global Citizenship

The IB and the Early Years Learning Framework encourage children to actively engage with their environment and community and extend their learning beyond the service. We value and celebrate the diverse cultures, languages, identities, traditions and experiences represented within our preschool community.

Through meaningful experiences, community connections, excursions and partnerships, AZC Preschool educators strengthen children's understanding of their local community and the wider world. Children are supported to make responsible choices, take positive action and contribute meaningfully to their environment and community, developing collaboration, shared responsibility, empathy, respect and an understanding of their role as global citizens.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of Australia. Their enduring knowledge, cultures and connection to Country enrich our understanding of sustainability, respect and belonging. We are committed to embedding Aboriginal perspectives and sustainable practices throughout our program and encouraging children to appreciate and care for the land we share.

Partnerships with Families

At AZC Preschool, we recognise families as children's first and most influential teachers. We value strong, respectful and lasting partnerships with families and acknowledge the important role they play in children's learning, development, wellbeing and safety.

We encourage families to contribute to decision-making processes and participate meaningfully in our educational program. Through open communication and collaboration, we share responsibility for supporting each child's growth and learning journey.

Continuous Improvement

Continuous improvement is fundamental to providing a high-quality early childhood education and care service. Through critical reflection, professional learning, strong relationships and meaningful partnerships with children, families, educators and the wider community, we continually evaluate and strengthen our practices. Educator knowledge, experience and professional voice are valued as an important part of this ongoing process.

We welcome and act on feedback and contributions from children, families, educators and our community to ensure AZC Preschool remains responsive, inclusive, child-safe and committed to excellence in early childhood education and care.

Last Reviewed: September 2026 **Next Date of Review: September 2027**