**Strategic Discussion: Our Purpose Statement: Children and parents look forward to their kindergarten experience**

**Statement:** We want children and parents to experience kindergarten as a place and time of joy and fun, of friendships, relationships and skills that last a lifetime. Memories of their time at kindergarten will evoke a sense of warmth, wonder and nurture. The awesomeness of each kindergarten is known throughout their communities, their reputations are impeccable. Transitions into and out of kindergarten are well supported and thoughtful. Care is taken to provide safe, secure environments for children, where reciprocal relationships are both valued and possible. A wide range of resources and opportunities are available to support learning with a strong focus on children’s interests and catering for diverse communities and needs. Narrative learning stories become treasured and sacred records of their time at kindergarten. Anticipation is built before the child begins attending and once enrolled, is maintained by providing new challenges and learning. It is our aim that children and parents view their learning journey as having begun with kindergarten, it is a place to which they feel connected and which goes beyond delivering an educational service. Children and parents will leave kindergarten with a greater sense of self confidence and awareness. Children and parents are effusive about their time at kindergarten, it will hold a special and favoured place in their hearts. We want children to look forward to returning to kindergarten at some point in the future, whether just for a visit or to enrol their own children. When we have achieved these things, we will have the satisfaction of knowing they have had the best possible foundation start to their educational and life’s journey.

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|  **Area** | **Ensure:** | **Further Initiatives to be explored** |
| Board | * Describe your view of what is important for children and their families to experience and be bold and visionary in doing so
* Employ the best qualified, trained teachers available
* Apply a standard of excellence in all that we do and provide
* Actively check for feedback from parents about their kindergarten’s experience, and that of their child’s
* Be prepared to challenge our own perceptions and receive feedback in good faith
* Ensure we have the funding, systems and procedures in place to deliver on our purpose
* Ensure we have the right organisational culture to deliver on our purpose and to encourage employee participation
* People will be inspired to join the Board
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| Staff | * Understand the importance of first impressions and interactions with parents and children and all visitors to kindergarten
* Actively foster authentic, genuine, professional relationships with parents and children
* Are genuinely interested in each child and their family
* Create a meaningful record of each child’s achievements and learning
* Ensure a wide range of learning resources, learning opportunities, and interests are available
* Meet children’s and parents needs, engaging interest and curiosity
* Parent participation is welcomed and valued
* Build anticipation by diverse means including use of social media, articulating the kindergarten experience
* Recognise and respond to occasions when parents or children need additional support, maintaining delicate balance between when to have courageous conversations and when not to
* Find and explore multiple ways of connecting and communicating with parents and children
* Be joyful about the opportunity to make a difference
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