POLICY STATEMENT
DECs Guidelines will form the basis of this policy to ensure all students have the best possible introduction to learning at Marion Primary School. In accordance with DECs Policy students must be five years of age before commencing school unless otherwise negotiated via the DECs Gifted and Talented Policy.

RATIONALE
The transition programme of five year olds into Marion Primary School should help them develop confidence in their own ability to move successfully from one environment to another.

OUTCOMES
New Reception students will make the transition from home or Kindergarten to school feeling comfortable and confident in their new environment.

IMPLEMENTATION
The intake of children at the reception level will be four times per year, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>First day of term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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Variations to entry after the first day of the term may occur because of personal preference or family needs eg
- illness
- to provide specific family situations such as holidays.

Transition procedure:
- If possible the child’s teacher will visit students in their Kindergarten/Child Parent Centre prior to entry into Marion Primary School.
- Arrangements will be made for the child to visit the class on occasions. This may be individually negotiable with the Principal or arranged for a group who will start at the beginning of the term.
- An invitation will be sent out to the child and a letter to the parent advising the dates and the format of the transition programme.
- Families will receive a school information pack about curriculum emphasis and school procedures.
- Visits will be as follows:
  - Day one - 9.00am to 10.00am
  - Day two - 9.00am to 11.00am
  - Day three - 9.00am to 12.00noon
  - Day four - 9.00am to 1.30pm

Time in the Junior Primary part of the school
Students will normally remain in the Junior Primary part of the school between 11 and 14 terms depending on the age of the child and negotiation between parents and staff.

Supported by research, we believe that many children who start school at five years of age at the beginning of term three or four may be disadvantaged and that these students benefit from having a further four terms in the Junior Primary part of the school.

DISMISSAL
While DECs Policy allows that children remain at school until normal dismissal time, to assist with orientation and transition, parents may negotiate early dismissal for children in the first few weeks of Reception.