

# Pre-School Teachers 2023



The Cathedral  
Grammar School



## Rachel Allan

Tena koutou katoa,

My name is Rachel Allan and I am the Head of Pre-School at The Cathedral Grammar School.

I am an experienced educator of nearly 30 years. I have an extensive background in the care and education of young people under the age of six years old. I have a large extended family with whom I adore spending time and connecting with. At last count we had six teachers amongst us, so the conversations we have are wonderful and full of great and marvellous ideas (it's true all teachers have these).

I am married to Darren who works for Stats NZ and we have a daughter, Ruby, who is at University. We also have a 14 year old son, Spencer, who is an ex-student of The Cathedral Grammar School and was also a Chorister. I remember their very first days of Pre-School and Primary School and how emotional that time was for me as their mother, this has certainly helped me to feel empathy and connect with families over the years as they too go through those first drop offs.

I have a passion for teaching children to be great future citizens of our world,

connection is at the heart of this, and so I will be working very hard to take the time to get to know your children well, so I can truly support them in a holistic way.

I have an interest in supporting the understandings of numeracy and literacy in young children, through a largely play-based curriculum which is fun and exciting but intentional.

My mother was a librarian for City Libraries for nearly 50 years and so language and books have been a huge part of my life and have most definitely contributed to my own love of reading, and language.

I am excited to be part of The Cathedral Grammar Pre-School and School, it is a wonderful learning space, full of possibility and wonder. My door is always open so please come and talk to me if you have any concerns or worries or indeed if you want to share a positive story. I am here to serve you, your children and this community as best I can.

Ngā mihi

**Rachel Allan**  
Head of Pre-School



## Debbie Goodchild

Kia ora Pre-School whānau,

Ko Debbie Goodchild toku ingoa, No Tamarki Makaurau ahau, Kei Otautahi toku kainga inaianei. He kaiako aku mahi, ki tetahi whare kohungahunga ki Waitakiri, E noho ana ahau ki Waitakiri.

My name is Debbie Goodchild. I am from Auckland but now reside in Christchurch.

I am a teacher, currently working in an early childhood centre in the Bottle Lake area, where I also live with my partner Jeff and our family. I have an 18 year old daughter Ella and two step-sons Jonty, 21 and Cooper 18.

We also have a dog, Rubie, and two cats, Daisy and Beau, who we were lucky enough to get the day before we went into the first lockdown.

I graduated with my Bachelor of

Teaching and Learning from the University of Canterbury in 2011 and have enjoyed the past 10 years working with tamariki and whānau within my local area.

Jeff and I have recently taken up hiking and hope to explore some of the Great Walks with friends. I also like to take part in the Spring/Summer Challenge Women's adventure races where we hike, bike and kayak/canoe.

I am really looking forward to joining Rachel and the teaching team at The Cathedral Grammar Pre-School and can't wait to meet you all.

Ngā mihi

**Debbie**  
Pre-School Teacher

**Debbie teaches every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**



## Emma Campbell

Tena Koutou Katoa  
Ko Ngongotaha te Maunga  
Ko Rotorua te Moana  
Ko Endeavour te Waka  
Ko te Waiariki toku iwi  
Ko Tangatarua toku Marae  
Ko Sonia raua ko Greg okū mātua  
Ko Emma toku ingoa.

Kia ora koutou my name is Emma I have been teaching early childhood for 5 years and have recently returned from teaching in England. I was born and raised in Rotorua, and I am the oldest of 3 children. I enjoy seeing and experiencing what the world has to offer, and I strive to learn something new everyday.

I have a passion for using and teaching Te Reo Maori and Sign language. I

believe in using the environment and community around us to help foster children's curiosity and build on their learning. I thoroughly enjoy getting to support and scaffold children through a range of experiences, to help them gain skills and knowledge.

I am excited to get to know your children and help guide them on their journey as a learner.

I am looking forward to joining the Pre-School team at The Cathedral Grammar and meeting you all.

Ngā mihi

**Emma**  
**Pre-School Teacher**  
**Emma teaches full time.**



## Sara Gibson

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Sara Gibson, I have a 27 year old son who lives in Christchurch and I live with my dog, Milly, in St Albans.

My background in education is long and varied – I have a Diploma in Kindergarten Teaching, a BA in English, a Certificate in Teaching Specific Learning Difficulties and a Postgraduate Certificate in Early Intervention.

I originally started out working in Kindergarten, but have worked in various roles in the following places, The Seabrook Mckenzie Centre as a tutor, St Albans Primary School teaching special needs and english as a second language, The Champion Centre as an early intervention teacher, Christchurch Hospital as a Play Specialist and teaching at a Community

Pre-School with higher learning needs.

I left full time teaching to take up relieving teaching with a plan to work as a private Early Intervention Teacher but Covid 19 and lockdown decided otherwise. Through a series of fortunate events I now find myself here at The Cathedral Grammar Pre-School and I can't believe my luck! I like to say my happy place is working with children and their families and I am the sum total of my varied life experiences.

I'm always happy to chat if there are things you would like to know.

Ngā mihi

**Sara**  
**Pre-School Teacher**

**Sara teaches every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**



## Melissa Holder

Kia ora, Ko Melissa toku ingoa

I graduated from the University of Canterbury in 2020 with a Bachelor in Teaching. I am currently undertaking a postgraduate diploma in early childhood education.

My childhood was spent growing up in Woodend. After finishing school, I travelled to various countries working as a travel agent and an English language teacher. It was after these roles that I realised my passion for teaching.

My main passion lies with the health and well being of tamariki and I believe that every student through teaching haoura, will become confident and

happy life-long learners.

I am excited for my future at Cathedral Grammar as a Pre-School teacher, not only to learn from my fellow colleagues, but also to create positive relationships with tamariki in my care and their whanau.

Your child's learning journey is important to me and I look forward to working in partnership to provide the best outcomes for our children.

Ngā mihi

**Melissa**  
**Pre-School Teacher**  
**Melissa teaches full time and runs our Pathway to School transition classes.**



## Rebecca Watson

I am a support teacher and have worked at The Cathedral Grammar Pre-School for over 9 years. I am a valued member of our team and ensure the smooth running of our Pre-School.

I provide support Monday to Friday, between 9am – 3pm. I love being around the tamariki and enjoy spending time in the learning programme supporting, it is not unusual to see a group of tamariki cuddled up next to me on the couch for a story or two.

Ngā mihi

**Rebecca**  
**Pre-School Teaching Assistant**  
**Rebecca assists Monday to Friday from 9am – 3pm.**



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