EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY HANDBOOK

Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2

Christ Church Grammar School

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We are
We are
We are
boys are her

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Your son's learning journey begins in our Early Learning Community (ELC), a warm and nurturing educational environment that has the needs of our students in mind at all times.

At Christ Church Grammar School, we aim to build good men and in doing so we recognise that the establishment of an emotionally secure foundation is vital to promote empathy and to support each student's developing self-image as capable and confident learners. It is through our Early Learning Community this important foundation for all future learning is developed.

Learning in our Early Learning Community is developmentally appropriate, child centred and play-based. It is designed specifically to engage students, build important learning dispositions and foster a natural curiosity of the world around them. We have intentionally designed indoor and outdoor programs which afford our students the space they need to move, play and explore.

Whilst we believe learning should be playful, we understand how important ritual, routine and structure is to young students and provide a balanced approach to learning that facilitates both a sense of security and exciting opportunity.

A BALANCED APPROACH

A balanced approach to teaching and learning in the early learning years has been designed to support the inquisitive learning style of boys:

- play based pedagogy is used to engage, motivate and empower students
- explicit intentional teaching is used to focus on literacy, numeracy and investigation skills
- learning concepts in ways that are meaningful and relevant to them

We understand that when boys are motivated and engaged, the learning happens.

ABSENTEES

It is important that you notify the Preparatory School Administration by email at **prepabsentees@ccgs.wa.edu.au** or by phoning **9442 1666** if your son is going to be absent.
An absentee SMS will be sent to parents if Administration has not been notified.

Pre-Primary to Year 2 absentees are recorded at 8.30am, and Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten absentees are recorded at 9.00am by the class teacher. If your son arrives after this time, please ensure you sign him in at the Preparatory School Reception and he will be recorded as a late arrival.

In addition, we ask that you contact Administration on **9442 1666** if there are any last-minute changes in the arrangements for the collection of your child. If you pick your son up early for any reason, you must sign out at the Preparatory School Reception.

ASSESSMENTS, HEARING AND SPEECH REFERRALS

Our programs are focused on providing opportunities to inspire, motivate and challenge all of our students.

In Term 4 of his Kindergarten year, your son will participate in Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy screens. The results will be provided to you by the end of the school year and information passed on to his Pre-Primary teachers. Students who miss these assessments or begin in Pre-Primary or Year 1 will be screened at the start of Term 1 of the following year. Teachers may also ask for these assessments to be carried out earlier than Term 4 in order to cater best for the needs of particular students

A comprehensive learning profile is developed for all students based on observation, assessment and specific screening. The information and notes will be given directly to the parents and a copy retained as part of school records. Targeted intervention or extension may be recommended and made available to students with identified needs.

To prepare for enrolment into the School, we require you to advise us of any specific educational needs your son may have. Should your son have any specialist reports, such as speech, hearing, occupational therapy or psychometric, please submit them when you complete your online application. Any previous school based reports should also be supplied.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Early Risers Club
This program caters to students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 providing care for students/families who need to commence the school day early. Students under care are able to engage in activities including reading, games and drawing, all within the comfort and safety of the Preparatory School Multi-Purpose Room.

The program is run by Christ Church Grammar School staff and operates from Monday to Friday between 7.00am to 8.10am. Light breakfast is included. For fees and bookings, please visit the school website and search *Early Risers*.

Sunset Club
This program caters to students from Pre-Primary to Year 6. Students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities and games in the comfort and safety of the Preparatory School Multi-Purpose Room.

The program is run by Christ Church Grammar School staff and operates from Monday to Friday between 3.00pm and 6.00pm. Afternoon tea is included. For fees and bookings, please visit the school website and search *Sunset Club*.

Note: MLC is an after school care provider for children in Kindergarten. Please go **here** for more information.

BEHAVIOUR AND GUIDANCE

In Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, our expert staff work with the students to develop an understanding of what behaviours and expectations we have at school to keep everyone safe and able to have fun and learn together. In Pre-Primary to Year 2, classroom teachers follow the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework that is used by the entire Preparatory School. The Zones of Regulation curriculum is also used to support how emotions and behaviour are discussed with our youngest students in Pre-Kindergarten to Pre-Primary.

BIRTHDAYS

Your son's birthday is a special day and we would love to celebrate with your child. In the interests of harmony, we ask that you only give out party invitations at school if **all** the students in the class are invited. Please note that inviting every student is not expected and is not something that happens on a regular basis, but if you are only inviting some students then please mail your invitations so that others do not feel left out.

If you choose to, you may send along a cupcake or small treat for each child. Please ensure you consider the **Allergy Aware guidelines of the School** prior to sending food. If your child is allergic to ingredients that may be included in cakes etc, we encourage you to send a bag of alternative treats that his teacher can have available to him.

CCGS WORLD

The School App provides access to all the information you will need — from notices and messages, to sports fixtures, as well as links to Parent Nexus. CCGS World, our weekly enewsletter, contains articles from the Principal, Head of Senior School and Head of Preparatory School. Parents should go to Notices on the App for their son's Year Group Information. See the **Communication & Engagement booklet** for information on how to download the App.

CHAPEL AND ASSEMBLIES

From Pre-Primary, students are expected to attend assembly. Parents are invited to attend when their son is receiving an award and when it is their son's special assembly day.

Chapel and Assemblies are held on alternate Fridays beginning at 8.35am in the School Chapel.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Students have been placed in classes designed to balance academic and social strength and need. Towards the end of the year parents will be asked to highlight any matters of which the School would be unaware to help guide our class placements the following year. We respectfully ask that you do not request specific teachers as the quality of the Christ Church teaching staff is uniform.

CODE OF CONDUCT – STUDENTS

The *Code of Conduct* assists students in understanding appropriate and inappropriate behaviours. Repeated inappropriate behaviours will attract a consequence that may involve reflections, letters of apology and being excluded from particular activities. The School works closely with parents/guardians to ensure students understand their responsibilities as a Christ Church student.

CODE OF CONDUCT – PARENTS

The School is committed to developing positive relationships with every member of the community. We have a Parent Code of Conduct which provides a framework as to the conduct which can best assist your child to have a successful and positive experience at the School. It recognises that parents are the primary educators and first role models for our students.

For more information please go to *Child Safety and Wellbeing* on the website and scroll down to our policies and procedures and familiarise yourself with the *Code of Conduct*.

Parent-run events
The Parents' Association and the School fully support parents and families socialising out of school hours. Any events that are **not classified as school events and in the school calendar** should not be booked or branded in the School's name.

The School's preference is for school uniform, sport and other, **not to be worn** on these occasions. We ask that parents monitor the behaviour of other parents and children attending these events to respect other members of the public and not bring the reputation of Christ Church Grammar School into question.

Below is an example of events that are not school events:

- Restaurant bookings
- Sporting team names
- Campsite bookings
- Outdoor event bookings
- Adventure Park bookings

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Disagreements between students occur and are a natural part of growing up. We need to support our students to resolve conflicts in a positive and empowering way. Allowing each individual to tell their side of the story facilitates learning and supports problem solving and empathy. When students know they are being supported, heard and understood, and when listening to alternative points of view is modelled effectively, they learn to work things out in a respectful manner.

DISPOSITIONS FOR LEARNING

Learning dispositions are characteristics or attitudes to learning that are essential to academic success:

- enthusiasm
- curiosity
- commitment
- persistence
- confidence
- co-operation
- reflexivity

Building these important learning dispositions is a key component of our early years learning programs.

DROP OFF, PICK UP AND PARKING WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Please be aware there is no general parent parking available on campus. Access to the campus during school hours is limited to:

- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families using designated Yellow Dot parking
- Pre-Primary to Year 6 drop-off and pick-up via the loop near Sandover Dining Hall
- Pre-arranged meetings and scheduled appointments

Access to the Yellow Dot bays for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten
All Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students must be dropped off and picked up directly from their classroom by an authorised adult. If you would like to spend longer in the classrooms in the mornings, we ask that you please park off campus and walk your son to his classroom. Designated parking bays exist for the families of our youngest students. 'Yellow Dot' parking is located in the car park closest to Main Reception and should only be used by Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten parents. **Please see map on page 14.**

A boom gate is positioned at the entrance to the Main Reception/Staff Car Park. Only Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families will be able to pass through the boom gate from 2.15pm with the use of license plate recognition.

Drop off and pick up for Pre-Primary
Pre-Primary families use the roundabout for drop off and pick up — **please see map on page 14.** They will be greeted in the morning by one of our staff and escorted to their classroom. Similarly, at the end of the day, their teacher will escort them to this designated area and assist each student into their authorised adult's car. Cars must only stop to drop off and pick up students and drivers must remain with their vehicle at all times. If you would like to escort your son to his classroom in the morning we ask that you park off campus.

We request that parents enter the school campus at least five minutes after their son's published finishing time. Arriving earlier creates traffic congestion. Parking and traffic in and around the campus is a whole of school matter that requires a whole of school response.

EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Biting and hitting
Occasionally a biting or hitting incident may occur within our learning environments. These can be serious incidents that require careful and sensitive management. Usually children of school age have the communication skills necessary to relate their needs without biting or hitting which can be a normal developmental stage up until the age of three.

In the event of an incident, we will endeavour to respond immediately with appropriate first aid measures and consequences that are developmentally appropriate will be applied. Parents will be notified and involved in the development of strategies to assist their son if it becomes an ongoing issue. It is important that we support all children involved with care and understanding.

Cleaning procedures
Classroom items will be regularly cleaned and maintained including:

- dress up clothes
- tables
- cooking and dining utensils
- rooms and furniture
- musical equipment (whistles/flutes)
- manipulatives

Hand washing
Hand washing is an effective way of preventing the spread of infection. Before handling food, after playing outside and after going to the toilet are times during the day when students are reminded to wash their hands. Information about the correct hand washing procedure is displayed for all students to see. Staff also model good practices and provide instruction on effective ways to maintain cleanliness.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND FIRE DRILL

Throughout the year, all students are involved in fire drills, lock down and evacuation procedures. These are treated as teachable moments to discuss issues related to safety.

Evacuation procedures are clearly labelled in the classrooms and throughout the Preparatory School.

FOOD AND ALLERGIES

We encourage staff, students and the community to be allergy aware. It would be greatly appreciated if you could avoid sending any foods containing nuts or nut products in your son's lunch box as there are students and staff with severe allergies to these products. Other allergies will be communicated to families as necessary.

FRUIT, MORNING TEA AND LUNCHES

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten
In Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, shared fruit for morning tea is an important part of our day. This sharing is a special time when we prepare the fruit, set the tables and eat together. It is a time when we connect as a group, perhaps trying new fruits or vegetables. Please ensure that you bring your contribution in each day. This is in place of recess. As well as apples, bananas and oranges, suggested options may include strawberries, watermelon, celery, carrots, cheese and plain crackers.

Your son will need his lunch provided from home each day. Please be mindful of what you pack for your son and minimise sugary treats. A balanced lunch box will ensure your son is fuelled and focused for the afternoon. Please be mindful of what you pack for your son to eat for lunch and minimise sugary treats. A lunch box (clearly labelled with his name) can be challenging to a young child so please ensure that the food you provide is easily accessible.

Lunch may be ordered from the Canteen. The Canteen operates a cashless system and you will need to set up an online account. Information on how to do this can be found on the school website under **CCGS World > Quick Links > My Student Account**. Please be mindful that you must order by 9.00am. There is no alternative if you miss the cut off as the Canteen is located in the Senior School. Please provide a water-tight drink bottle each day that is clearly labelled with your son's name.

Pre-Primary, Years 1 and 2
In Pre-Primary, Year 1 and Year 2, classes will break for Crunch'n'Sip each morning. Please send your son to school with a small container of cut fruit for this purpose. Please note this break is for fruit or vegetables only. An individual healthy morning tea will also need to be provided for recess. Please also send a water tight drinking bottle each day, labelled with your son's name.

Your son will need his lunch provided daily. Please be mindful of what you pack for your son to eat for lunch and minimise sugary treats. Lunch may be ordered from the Canteen.

The Canteen operates a cashless system and you will need to set up an online account. Information on how to do this can be found on the school website under **CCGS World > Quick Links > My Student Account**. Please note the cut-off time for ordering is 9.00am each day. We are unable to provide lunch if it is not ordered on time.

We suggest you separate fruit, morning tea and lunch so that it is clearly identifiable to your son.

HEALTH CENTRE

Christ Church is an Asthma Friendly and Allergy Aware school. Every effort is made to educate students to prevent the spread of infectious conditions such as colds, flu and head lice. Important health policies are located on our website under **About Us > Governance > Policies**.

Your son's health and immunisation records should be kept up-to-date via **Consent2Go**. It is your responsibility to inform the Health Centre staff of any changes as soon as possible.

If your son feels sick, please do not send him to school. Carefully assess, listen and take him to your GP if necessary.

View Student Health Care Policy

HOUSE SYSTEM

It is our goal that each one of our students feel a sense of belonging to the school community, and with over 500 students in the Preparatory School, House groups make an important contribution to this. Each student is placed into one of the four school Houses; Karda (Goanna), Wardung (Australian Raven), Kearla (Bottlenose Dolphin) and Yonga (Kangaroo). Each name is taken from the local Whadjuk Noongar language. Each House includes students from Pre-Primary to Year 6. In Pre-Primary, there is a focus on Houses as this is when students begin participating in whole school House events.

INCURSIONS AND EXCURSIONS

At Christ Church, we believe in the value of excursions to inspire learning. Excursions may support an ongoing inquiry or stimulate a new project. They provide our students with first-hand experiences in which they can develop their language, literacy and problem-solving skills. We enjoy having parents join us and always appreciate the added help of parent volunteers. All details of upcoming excursions will be communicated in ***CCGS World***, and class newsletters each week.

INDEPENDENCE

Developing independence is a part of growing and learning. We recommend you encourage your child to carry his own school bag and practice putting on and taking off his own shoes. As children develop it is essential that they are given many opportunities to strengthen little fingers and further develop skills and coordination. By giving your son more independence you are also encouraging and building positive self-esteem.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND ILLNESSES

In the case of infectious diseases parents must inform the School as soon as possible. We will then inform staff and parents so that students can be checked by their caregivers for symptoms. **A student with an infectious disease may not return to school until fully recovered with a medical clearance.**

To ensure the best management and care for all children and to avoid cross contamination, we ask that if any of the following symptoms are present, you do not send him to school but take him to a doctor to be advised if he is at risk of infecting others:

- inflammation or sticky eye i.e. conjunctivitis
- persistent green or yellow nasal discharge
- diarrhoea or vomiting
- unusual skin rashes
- fever
- persistent pain

If a child has suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting he must not attend school until the symptoms have ceased for 48 hours.

Medication (check Health Centre policy)
There may be times when a doctor's prescription includes medication that needs to be administered during school hours. In such cases, parents must organise this through the Health Centre. If a child has a temperature of 38 degrees celsius or above, their parent will be contacted to collect the child. The School will not administer paracetamol.

Minor accidents
In the event of an accident, appropriate first aid and comfort will be provided to the child. We will endeavour to inform you of such an occurrence on collection of your son. If required, contact will be made to parents via phone. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date.

Serious accidents
In the event of an accident requiring emergency medical attention an ambulance will be called, the Health Centre notified, and parents contacted. If there is an emergency Action Plan in place for your son, the procedures on this document will be followed.

Soiling of underwear
A staff member will assist your son if he has soiled himself. We ask that you keep a spare pair of clothes in his bag. Accidents sometimes happen and a private place will be made available for changing or washing as necessary. Every effort will be made to notify parents upon collection of their child if clothes have needed to be changed. Please ensure that **at least one pair** of clean underwear and shorts are in your son's bag at all times.

Sun protection
A healthy amount of sun is required and is important for development. We ensure all students are wearing a hat at all times while outside. Sunscreen is available for children to apply as required. We assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection. We strongly advise you to apply sunscreen to your child before school.

LABELLING ITEMS

Please ensure you label each piece of your son's uniform, including shoes, socks, and underwear.

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Learning Development Centre (LDC) supports students from Pre-Primary to Year 6. At the beginning of each year, parents will be informed if assessments and observations suggest that their son would benefit from the LDC program. Throughout the year, students may also join or exit the LDC support programs as required. The support offered by the LDC to students in the ELC includes small group instruction to develop literacy skills. At times, this may also include additional support working one-on-one with LDC staff. Classroom teachers and LDC staff work closely together to best support each student.

LITTLE LEARNERS AND TRANSITION PROGRAM

Little Learners is a community program to develop our youngest community members' love for learning. Aimed at boys 8 months to 3 years of age, Little Learners brings families together to share stories and discuss the School's Early Learning Community (ELC) program.

Parents are invited to attend two information sessions in the year prior to their son's commencement, delivered in collaboration with our partners at Ngala. Additionally, families with confirmed enrolments are required to attend a total of five Transition Program and/or Little Learners sessions in the 12 months leading up to entry, helping to ease the transition into the school environment.

MINDFULNESS — REST OR READING

Each day after lunchtime, students are encouraged to relax and rest their bodies. It is a special time to listen to meditation music or stories or read a book. In Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, students are given the opportunity to sleep if they wish to do so.

NATURE-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

At Christ Church Grammar School, we are fortunate to have access to the beautiful Swan River (Derbarl Yerrigan) which we call the River Precinct. It is a key component of our early childhood programs with many classes spending time immersed in the exploration and learning opportunities it presents.

Access to nature provides an unpredictable, ever changing environment that builds students who are positive risk takers, self-aware, self-confident and resilient, all skills required for future academic success. It is beneficial to childrens' intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual and social development. Our first visits to the River Precinct involve time for free exploration, allowing students to feel comfortable in the space, exploring the shoreline, searching for shells and jellyfish, paddling and noticing tracks on the sand made by local fauna.

Students discover and observe caterpillars, spider webs, and tracks on tree trunks and branches. They work together as they find trees to climb and build cubbies from fallen branches. The River Precinct also enables us to discuss the sacred significance of the site to the Whadjuk Noongar people and why we need to take care of and preserve this special place. Students are introduced to the 'River Ritual' that was co-constructed with a Noongar elder in 2021, linking our River Precinct visits to ideas related to reconciliation and sustainability in an authentic way.

As students become comfortable in the space they are able to settle into focussed learning. Students notice small changes in their environment, apply past knowledge to new situations, pose questions and solve problems.

Through our river environment, we are able to develop integrated learning programs and projects that respond to the authentic and emergent interests of students. Our river is a world that engages all senses, builds positive learning dispositions and creates community and a sense of belonging.

ORAL LANGUAGE AND READING TOGETHER

Fostering a love of books and reading is vital from an early age. It is important that you read with and to your son every day. When your child is developmentally ready he will begin bringing early reader books home to read to you. It is important that this is a positive experience that sets up good routines for you and your son throughout his learning journey. You can support your son's school learning at home in the following ways:

- providing your son with many authentic opportunities to have conversations and practise his developing oral language skills
- talk to your son about his day
- allow your son to take you on an adventure through play
- make books come alive and tell stories
- model oral language. Verbalise what you are thinking, paraphrase his words, give him a better vocabulary and always have high expectations of how he is speaking

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Diary
Students in Pre-Primary to Year 6 receive a school diary and parents/guardians are asked to sign this each day. Your son's class teacher will write a comment in the diary once per week in addition to checking it daily.

School enewsletter
The School enewsletter or ***CCGS World*** is published each Thursday and is available via the App. It is important that parents read the head reports and year level notices.

Class newsletters — Year 1 and 2
A class newsletter will be sent home each week detailing the learning that has taken place and include important upcoming dates.

Email
Parents can email their son's teachers, however please be aware that volumes of email can overwhelm teaching staff. Therefore, we encourage using this method of communication sparingly. Please note that teachers often do not have time to check and respond to emails during the day. Please allow 24 hours for a response.

Storypark
Pre-Kindergarten to Pre-Primary parents are invited to join their son's class on the Storypark platform. This is a private online space to ensure that all families are involved and up to date with their son's development and achievements when at school. Storypark provides each child with a private online community which is owned by parents and travels with their child throughout their learning journey.

Storypark helps:

- deepen relationships and strengthen communication
- create a portfolio of children's learning via videos, photos, audio and text
- support collaboration and communication with teaching teams and families
- record and report against the National Quality Standards and other standards including the Early Years Learning Framework and Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines
- involve the children in their portfolio
- interact quickly and effectively through Apple and Android phones and tablets

Parents of new Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students are sent an invitation to join Storypark at the start of the year. You will need to accept the invitation sent to your nominated email address and then download the Storypark App to receive updates.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

The Parent Information Evening is held during the first week of school, in the School Chapel. The Principal and Head of Preparatory School speak to parents about the direction of the School and priorities for the year. All parents are invited to attend. Following the Chapel session, parents return to their son's class to hear from his teacher about the logistics of the class and program.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are the most important people in their children's lives and we believe it is important to work together to ensure that all students progress and achieve success in reaching their potential. When students begin their learning journey with us in the ELC, we build on the foundations that have been laid and work in partnership to continue this development.

Materials
In our ELC classrooms we are always seeking interesting materials to support construction opportunities. If you have boxes (large and small) or other items that may be useful (corks, buttons, etc.) we will be happy to accept them.

Discarded items you may have that would be useful include:

- dress-up items (scarves, interesting hats, shoes)
- electrical appliances to pull apart (DVD players, clocks, etc.), but please no glass screens or batteries
- kitchen equipment (pots and pans) for sand play
- PVC pipes for sand/water play — particularly connectors
- hosing — long lengths e.g. kreepy-krauly hose
- covers suitable for cubbies

- large cardboard boxes (fridge, etc.)
- large wooden frames on stands (similar to those used for tapestry)

Please talk to us before you bring in big items as we have minimal storage and want to ensure that we can include your contributions in the program quickly.

Throughout the year we are likely to have specific requests and shall put these to you via email and class newsletters.

Family sharing
Within our school's parent community, we have a wealth of knowledge and talent that may be fascinating to children. If you (or your family/extended family) are so blessed, do let us know so we can invite you to be one of our visitors! An interesting or exciting career, storytelling, playing a musical instrument, kite making, cooking, woodworking, weaving, knitting, fishing, dancing, sewing and a multitude of other pursuits would be greatly welcomed.

Volunteering
When the children have settled into the ELC, we hope parents will be able to stay and help from time to time. Parents, grandparents and other carers are always welcome. Throughout the year we are likely to have specific requests for parent support with excursions and incursions and shall put these to you via email and class newsletters.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

All parents are encouraged to join the Parents' Association (PA). The Parents' Association was formed in 1921 with the aim of supporting the greater school community, while also providing an opportunity for parents to be more actively involved in the school community.

PA Year Group Representatives
Each year group is asked to provide representatives to co-ordinate social functions for their class.

Please contact Communication and Engagement at communication@ccgs.wa.edu.au for more information.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care in the Preparatory School is overseen by the Deputy Head (Pastoral Care). The Deputy Head's role is to work closely with classroom teachers to implement and monitor what is required for each particular circumstance as each circumstance is unique in nature depending on the student's needs.

Parents should communicate any pastoral care concerns to the classroom teacher who will then involve the Deputy Head (Pastoral Care) as necessary.

PLAY-BASED LEARNING

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia defines play based learning as "a context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, object and representations" (DEEWR, 2009).

At Christ Church, we understand the important role of play as a vehicle for learning and are intentional in our provision of a learning environment and program that supports the students' interests and encourages exploration and inquiry through play and experiential learning.

We understand that children need to be immersed in playful, hands-on learning experiences which enable them to explore, question, collaborate, think critically, problem solve, communicate and discover new knowledge. We balance this with an understanding that students also require routine, boundaries and educational experiences that are age and developmentally appropriate. In Pre-Primary to Year 2 classrooms we balance the research into play based learning with the requirements of the Western Australian Curriculum.

PRE-PRIMARY LITERACY SESSION AND WORKSHOP

At the beginning of the year, all Pre-Primary boys undergo a comprehensive screening process with one-on-one assessments conducted by Learning Development Centre (LDC) staff and classroom teachers.

At the mid-point of Term 1, all Pre-Primary parents are invited to an information session on early literacy development. Teachers and specialists will explain the process of learning to read and write, and what you can do at home to best support your son's learning. After the presentation, a workshop is held where you can participate in activities similar to what your son will be doing each day in his classroom.

You will also receive copies of your son's reports in the areas of phonological awareness skills and on-entry assessments in literacy and numeracy.

If your son did not complete Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy assessments at the end of Kindergarten, you will receive reports on these areas as well.

POLICIES

All school policies are accessible on the school website under [About > Governance > Policies]

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS

Students in Pre-Primary to Year 6 participate in the Protective Behaviours program, which is an internationally acclaimed child abuse prevention and personal safety program. The focus is on safety awareness and resilience building. This assists children to recognise any situation where they feel worried or unsafe, such as feeling stressed, bullied or threatened and explores practical ways to keep safe and seek help. In Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, these topics are raised in developmentally appropriate ways and are often done incidentally over the course of the day.

By including Protective Behaviours in the curriculum, teachers work in partnership with parents/guardians to ensure that every child understands they have the right to feel safe at all times.

REPORTING

Formal reporting in the ELC occurs at the following times over the course of the year.

Term 1
Mid-semester report via the Parent Portal
Parent Teacher Interviews at the end of Term 1

Term 2
Semester 1 report
Parent Teacher Interviews at the end of Term 2

Term 3
Preparatory School Open Night

Term 4
Semester 2 report

Assessed samples of class work against curriculum standards are sent home frequently for parents to gain an insight into their son's progress over the course of each term in Pre-Primary to Year 2. Open Classrooms occur over the year in Year 1 and 2 classrooms. Please see your son's diary for when these have been scheduled.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families are also given updates via the Storypark platform each week that are linked to the Early Years Learning Framework and WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines

ROUTINE

Having a routine and knowing what comes next helps young students to feel safe and secure. Although there may be periodic disruptions to routines, we will follow a predictable timetable each day that considers your son's development and stage of learning. Displaying your son's timetable at home is a great way to help him prepare for each day.

SCHOOL APP

Christ Church Grammar School has an App providing parents with access to the CCGS World weekly enewsletter, Year Group Notices, absentees, calendar, sporting fixtures and more. The School App is available for Apple and Android devices.

Scan the QR code to download the App.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

SCHOOL HOURS

Pre-Kindergarten
8.25am to 2.30pm — Doors open at 8.10am
Absentees sent at 9.00am

Kindergarten
8.25am to 3.00pm — Doors open at 8.10am
Absentees sent at 8.50am

Pre-Primary
8.25am to 3.00pm — Doors open at 8.10am

Year 1
8.25am to 3.00pm — Doors open at 8.10am

Year 2
8.25am to 3.10pm — Doors open at 8.10am

SCHOOL HYMN

Lead us O Lord,
Your pure clear light
Shall guide our steps to set them a-right.
Though the darkness swirl around the one true way,
Your word shall lead us higher to meet the dawning day.

Joy sings O Lord in every heart
As friendship plays its God-given part.
May our friendship show the love that lives in You.
Make happy all fellowship working to make life strong and true.

Thank you O Lord for bright lives past
That prove Your love has power to last.
Steady may they shine in days when hope is low,
And kindle our courage to serve You with a fiery glow.

Come with us Lord, put out Your hand
To point the path when doubt clouds the land.
'Deus Dux Doctrina Lux' shall lead us clear.
Our lives shall share Your glory with You ever near.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework is one of the tools utilised by the Preparatory School to support the social and academic learning of all students.

This approach is based on the belief that relationships are the foundation for social and academic achievement, student achievement is maximised when staff develop positive classroom cultures that promote and exemplify positive student behaviour and interactions, making students feel that they are both cared for and supported to succeed.

Through the SWPBS, students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 focus on the development of core values and learn about what these values look like in their day to day behaviours and interactions. Students discover ways to display these values and are recognised in class with immediate rewards and House Points.

SWPBS encompasses values including; Care and Compassion, Respect, Integrity, and Excellence. It complements the School's existing Code of Conduct, Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program, Pastoral care model, fortnightly Health and Wellbeing classes, Religious Education and Vertical House Groups (VHG). Vertical House Groups include students from Year 2 to Year 6.

SLEEPING BAGS

Students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will be assigned a Christ Church sleeping bag for rest time over the year. These are sent home at the end of each term to be washed and should be returned on your son's first day of the next term.

SPECIALIST LEARNING PROGRAM

We place importance on providing a rich and vibrant learning program and our students will access the following specialist programs from Pre-Kindergarten:

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Mandarin
- Drama/Dance (from Pre-Primary)
- Library
- Innovation (from Year 1)

TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM

Observation
Observations are used to assess your son's development and assist in planning the best learning opportunities for him. Forms of observations used may include:

- checklists
- learning stories
- scribed thinking
- running records
- group observations
- photos
- recordings

Documentation
Documentation is used to track and make students' learning and thinking visible. Documentation encourages our students to take pride and ownership over their learning. In our classrooms, students can visually see that their thinking and learning is valued as it is documented and displayed proudly.

Visible documentation can also serve as a springboard to extend and build on past thinking and spark new ideas. Effective documentation allows parents to see what the children are interested in and learning about, provoking meaningful conversations at home.

Our Early Learning Programs

Our Early Learning Programs are based on research that shows young children learn best when they are actively involved in tasks, when there is rich discussion about what they are doing and when there are regular opportunities to work with others. We use the Early Years Learning Framework, the National Quality Standards, the Western Australian Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and the Western Australian Curriculum as a foundation for implementing quality teaching and learning.

Our programs recognise that our students are capable and competent learners who need space, time and opportunity to explore, experiment, take risks and build their dispositions for learning.

At Christ Church this is evident in the way that teachers follow students' interests, intentionally create environments of wonder, support independence and challenge thinking.

TOILET TRAINING

We encourage you to begin the toilet training process well before starting school. With the excitement of our daily activities, we understand that accidents may occur and it is for this reason we ask that at least one spare set of underwear and clothes is always packed in your son's bag.

TOYS

Our learning environment is well resourced with many excellent educationally appropriate resources for your son to use and learn from. Toys that are brought to school may be broken or lost so ideally, they should be left at home.

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

The distinctive Christ Church uniform is predominantly blue and gold. Every time your son puts on his uniform he is given a sense of belonging to our community and is proudly representing Christ Church. Please encourage him to wear it with pride, ensure it is clean and that it is the correct uniform.

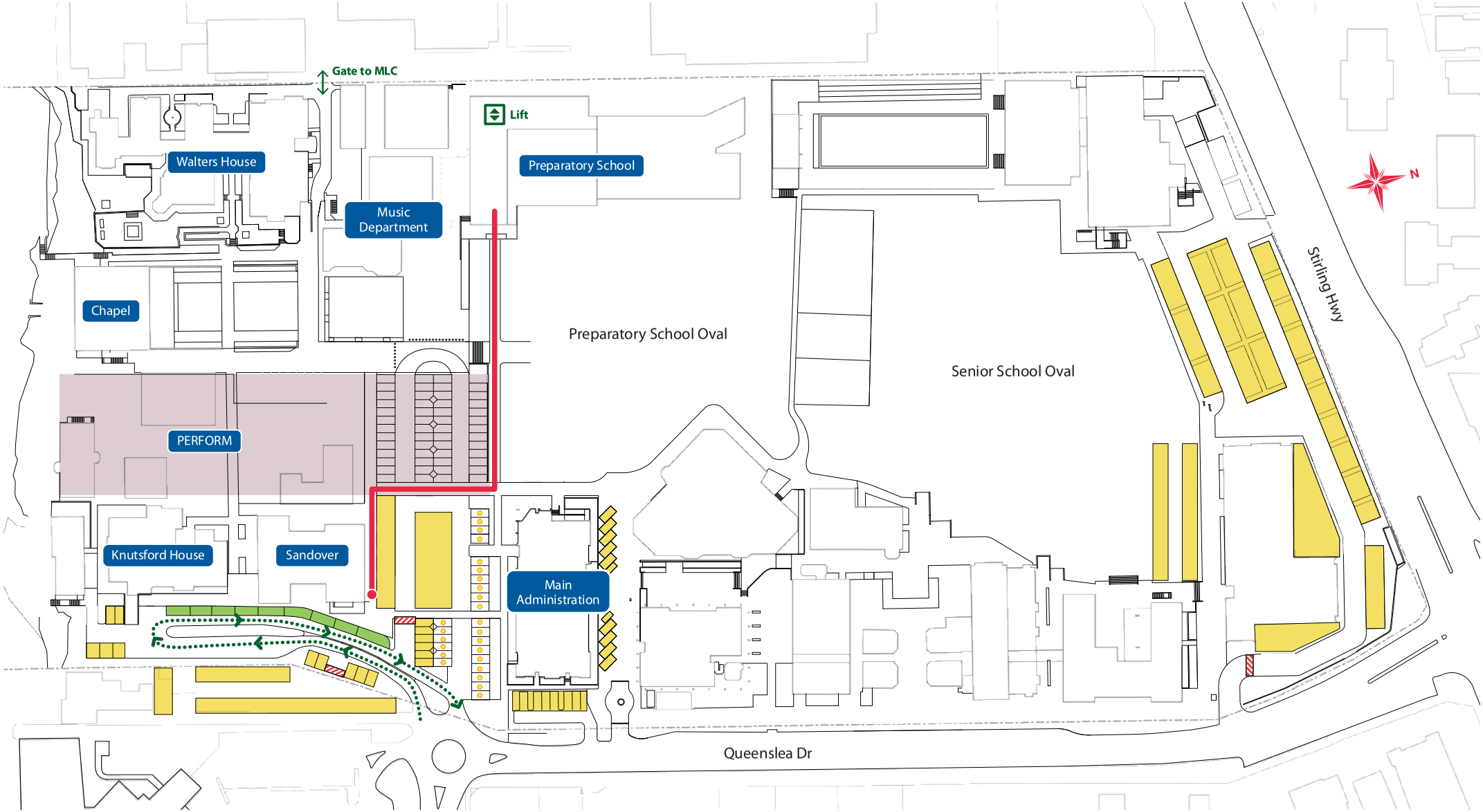
We encourage our students to be active and independent learners and recommend that you purchase shoes and sandals that your son can put on and take off himself (Velcro fasteners are great). We can help your son until he has developed the skills to do this independently.

Christ Church has a 'no hat, no play' policy all year round so your son is required to have a hat at school with him at all times. Please label his hat(s) clearly.

All Christ Church uniform items, apart from shoes, can be purchased at our Uniform Shop. Contact **9442 1716** or email **uniformshop@ccgs.wa.edu.au** for enquiries.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

If you are visiting or volunteering at the School you must first sign in at the Preparatory School Reception. Volunteers are asked to complete a Volunteer Package and return it to the Preparatory Reception. Parents volunteering at the School do not have to complete a Working with Children Check, as per legislation.



Campus zones

Christ Church Grammar School

LEGEND

- Pre-K and K parent parking
- Pick-up and drop-off student waiting area for Pre-Primary to Year 6 students only
- Pick-up and drop-off driving route for Pre-Primary to Year 6 students only
- Walking route to Preparatory School
- Staff parking
- Boom gates
- PERFORM construction site
- Visitor parking by appointment

Eric Carle

Christ Church Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Building good men

Queenslea Drive, Claremont, WA 6010 | PO Box 399 Claremont, WA 6910 | (08) 9442 1555 | info@ccgs.wa.edu.au | ccgs.wa.edu.au

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