



EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY HANDBOOK

Pre-Kindergarten to Pre-Primary



Christ Church
Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Early Learning Years Community Handbook

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Christ Church Advantage and your son's life-long learning journey begins in our Early Learning Community (ELC), a warm and nurturing educational environment that has the needs of the boys 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 boy's developing self-image of themselves as capable and confident learners.

It is through our Early Learning Community that 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 boys, 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 boys 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 boys 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 boys
- explicit intentional teaching is used to focus on literacy, numeracy and investigation skills
- our inquiry-based emergent curriculum lays the foundation for children to make sense of future 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, 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 ring 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 him out at the Preparatory School Reception.

ASSESSMENTS, HEARING AND SPEECH REFERRALS

Our Early Learning Years programs are focused on providing opportunities to inspire, motivate and challenge all of our boys.

Throughout the year specialists will be employed by the School to conduct assessments with your son. The results enable us to program to suit the needs of individuals.

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

To prepare for your son's enrolment into the School, we require you to advise us of any special educational needs your son may have. Should he have any specialist reports, such as speech, hearing, occupational therapy or psychometric, please submit them when you complete your online application.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Extend Before and After School Care has partnered with Christ Church Grammar School to run an outside of school hours care program for children from Kindergarten and above. All information including FAQs, fees and charges are available from the Extend website at extend.com.au or by calling Extend on **1300 366 437**.

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BEHAVIOUR AND GUIDANCE

Class Charters - Pre-Kindergarten to Pre-Primary

The creation of a class charter is how we include our students in the decision-making processes of the classroom, nurture a positive classroom atmosphere and develop the intrinsic motivation needed for success. Teachers and students work together as they consider how the class should look, feel and sound. Behavioural expectations are identified and agreed upon. The process of creating a class charter develops a sense of ownership of the classroom and becomes a point of reference for the class throughout the year. Through ongoing discussion and modelling, young boys who are learning how to regulate their emotions and their behaviour come to understand that their rights are connected to respecting the rights of others and the ways in which their behaviours impact on others.

Champion Quest - Years 1 to 5

The Champion Quest is the main tool the Preparatory School uses in managing student behaviour. The primary aim is to recognise boys' positive behaviours to encourage behaviours which are desirable and sought after at Christ Church.

This quest helps to promote positive behaviours from the boys and discourage inappropriate ones - in and out of the classroom. It is also geared towards recognising those boys that do the right thing day in and day out who may otherwise go undetected.

The Champion Quest works like a 'rewards chart.' Positive behaviours attract stamps that are collected to generate a Green Card and inappropriate behaviours are signalled with other coloured cards, depending on the type of transgression. The good behaviours include individual and class goals as well as the school virtues.

Stamps in a special passport record each Green Card earned and the boys work towards earning as many as possible, to achieve Bronze (5 Green Cards), Silver (10) or Gold (15) levels. Silver and Gold winners will receive special Champion pins to wear and Gold winners attend a special lunch with the Principal.

The Quest is designed to be transparent with clear boundaries and consequences for the boys. The diary fold-out page has a more detailed explanation for each reward and consequence.

BIRTHDAYS

A young boy'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 boys in the class are invited. Please note that inviting every boy is not expected and is not something that happens on a regular basis, but if you are only inviting some boys 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

This section of the school website is a central resource for all the information you will need - from notices and messages, to sports fixtures, as well as links to the Parent Portal and other key pages. Content including year group notices and messages from Principal Alan Jones and Dr Steven Males are updated weekly. [CCGS World](http://ccgs.wa.edu.au/ccgs-world) can be found at ccgs.wa.edu.au/ccgs-world. You can also follow Christ Church on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We strongly recommend that you bookmark **CCGS World** as you may refer to it several times each week! It is Smartphone friendly, which means it is good to read on IOS and Android devices.

CHAPEL AND ASSEMBLIES

From Pre-Primary, boys 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 is held on Monday from 8.30am to 8.50am.

Assembly is held on Friday in the Chapel from 8.30am to 9.15am.

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CLASS PLACEMENT

The boys 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.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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

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 & PARKING WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Please be aware that parking in and around the campus is restricted. In order to keep traffic flowing and boys safe, parents are requested to follow the School's guidelines for allocated drop off and pick up points.

All Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten boys must be dropped off and picked up directly from their classroom by an authorised adult. While the different Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten start times have been designed to allow parents time to park in the allocated ELC parking bays (please see map on page 15) and walk their boy to the classroom, it is important that these spaces are vacated as quickly as possible. 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.

Pre-Primary will use the roundabout for 'Kiss and Drive' drop off and pick-ups (please see map on page 15). They will be greeted in the mornings by one of our staff and escorted into their classroom. Similarly, at the end of the day their teacher will escort them to this designated area and assist each boy into their authorised adult's car. Cars must only stop to drop off and pick up boys and drivers must remain with their vehicle at all times. If you would like to escort your son directly to his classroom in the morning we ask that you please park off campus.

Parents will be provided with an ELC specific laminated card with their son's family name on them for identification purposes. They should be visibly displayed on the dashboard of your vehicle at all times.

- Blue: Pre-Primary - for 'Kiss and Drive' drop off & pick-up
- Yellow: Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten parking permit

Parents are urged to be patient and mindful of the restrictions on parking, allowing extra time for dropping off and picking up of boys, particularly in the first few weeks of term.

EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Biting

Occasionally a biting incident may occur within the classroom. It is a serious incident that requires careful and sensitive management. Usually children of this age have the communication skills necessary to relay their needs without biting, which can be a normal developmental stage up until the age of three. In the event of a biting incident, we will endeavour to respond immediately with appropriate first aid measures. The boy who has bitten will be reminded that this behaviour is not acceptable and they are not to hurt their friends. Both parents will be notified about any biting incidents. If the boy is observed continually biting, an action plan will be implemented immediately. Parents will be notified and involved in the development of strategies. It is most important that we support children through such times with care and understanding.

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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 the boys will be reminded to wash their hands. Information about the correct hand washing procedure will be displayed for all boys to see. Staff will also model good practices and provide instruction on the effective way to maintain cleanliness. Children will be taught hygienic practices both explicitly and within a holistic approach.

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 boys can be checked by their caregivers for symptoms.

A boy 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 24 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.

Sun protection

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

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EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND FIRE DRILL

Throughout the year all boys will be involved in fire drills, lock down and evacuation procedures. These are treated as teachable moments to discuss with the boys 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 boys with severe allergies to these products. Other allergies will be communicated to families as necessary.

HEALTH CENTRE

The Health Centre at Christ Church caters for the primary health needs of more than 1650 boys, including 24/7 coverage for our boarders.

The Centre, staffed by registered nurses, caters to the demands of the immediate health issues of attending students and boarders. We therefore ask you to work with us to ensure the Centre can concentrate on the immediate daily emergencies.

To do this, please observe the following fundamental procedures that are in the best interests of both your son and the Health Centre:

- if your son is clearly unwell, keep him home for the day or take him to your family doctor. **Please do not send him to the Health Centre to be assessed and managed**
- if your son sustains an injury over the weekend, take him to the emergency department or to your family doctor. **Do not send him to the Health Centre to be assessed and managed**

Christ Church is an Asthma Friendly and Allergy Aware school. Every effort is made to educate boys to prevent the spread of infectious conditions such as colds and flu and head lice.

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

Important health policies are located on our website under [About Us > Governance > Policies](#).

HOUSE SYSTEM

It is our goal that each one of our boys feels a sense of belonging to the school community and with over 500 boys in the Prep School, House groups make an important contribution to this. Your boy will be 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 Aboriginal language. Each House includes boys from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6.

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 boys 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 in [CCGS World](#), class newsletters and class overviews each week.

LABELLING ITEMS

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

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Learning Development Centre (LDC) supports students from Pre-Primary to Year 6. At the beginning of each semester, parents will be informed if assessments and observations suggest that their son would benefit from the LDC program. The support offered by the LDC includes small group lessons in English and Mathematics and additional support working one-to-one with an adult. In addition, LDC staff work closely with classroom teachers to best support your son.

MINDFULNESS – REST OR READING

Each day after lunchtime the boys will be encouraged to relax and rest their bodies. It is a special time to listen to meditation music or stories, read a book or sleep.

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NATURE-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

At Christ Church Grammar School, we are fortunate to have access to the beautiful Swan River. 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 boys 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 involve time for free exploration, allowing the boys to take ownership of the space. They explore the shoreline, searching for shells and jellyfish, paddling their feet and noticing tracks on the sand made by birds and other wildlife. Boys 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. As the boys become comfortable in the space they are able to settle into focussed learning. Boys 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 the boys.

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 readers 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
- playing with your son. Allow him 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, COMMUNICATION BOOKS AND DIARIES

Communication Book

Boys in Pre-Kindergarten to Pre-Primary receive a communication book that will travel with them between home and school each day. Important communication can be recorded by parents/guardians and teachers.

Diary

Boys in Years 1 to 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 newsletter

The School newsletter or [CCGS World](#) is published each Thursday. It is important that parents read the head reports and year level notices. Important and useful information for parents will be shared through [CCGS World](#).

Class newsletter

A class newsletter will be sent home at the end of each week detailing the learning that has taken place and include a diary of 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.

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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 boys progress and achieve success in reaching their potential. When boys begin their learning journey with us in the ELC, we build on the foundations that have been laid and work in partnership to continue to develop this.

Materials

In our ELC classrooms we are always seeking interesting materials to create and construct with. If you have boxes (large and small) or other items that may be useful (corks, buttons, etc.) we will be happy to take them off your hands.

Other discarded items you may have lying around that would be useful include:

- dress-up items (scarves, interesting hats, shoes)
- electrical appliances to pull apart (DVD players, clocks, etc.) Please no glass screens
- kitchen equipment (pots and pans) for sand play
- PVC pipes for sand/water play - particularly, interesting connectors
- hosing - long lengths e.g. kooky-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.

Each class will also create a laundry roster – please add your name to this if you can help by taking home some washing over the weekend and returning it clean on Monday.

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.

PA Class Representatives

Each class is asked to provide two representatives to co-ordinate social functions for their class. Please speak to your son's teacher or 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 Director of Pastoral Care, Planning and Co-curricular (Deputy Head). The Director'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 boy's needs.

Parents should communicate any pastoral care concerns, to the classroom teacher who will then involve the Director of Pastoral Care, Planning and Co-curricular (Deputy Head) as necessary.

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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, objects and representations.”

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 childrens’ interests and encourages exploration and inquiry through play and experiential learning.

We understand that young boys 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.

Our educators are experts at designing and creating playful, fun, hands-on, authentic experiences for boys, giving them a meaningful and purposeful context to apply and develop skills, grow and learn together. Learning in our Early Learning Community is collaborative, imaginative and creative.

POLICIES

All school policies are accessible on the school website under [About us > Governance](#) and include Privacy; Allergy Aware; Positive Relationships and much more.

ROUTINE

Having a routine and knowing what comes next helps young boys 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.

SCHOOL HOURS

Pre- Kindergarten

9.00am to 2.20pm - Doors open at 8.45am

Kindergarten

8.45am to 2.40pm - Doors open at 8.20am

Pre- Primary

8.25am to 2.45pm - Doors open at 8.10am

Year 1

8.25am to 2.50pm - Doors open at 8.10am

Year 2

8.25am to 3.00pm - Doors open at 8.10am

SHARED 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, lay and 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.

As well as apples, bananas and oranges, suggested contributions may include strawberries, grapes, watermelon, celery, carrots, cheese and plain crackers. 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. A balanced lunch box will ensure your son is fuelled and focused for the afternoon. As a lunch box (clearly labelled with a name) can be fairly challenging to a young child, please ensure that the food you provide is easily accessible.

Lunch may also 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](#).

Pre-Primary

In Pre-Primary, an individual morning tea will need to be provided. Please ensure that the main focus of this snack is fruit as we will ask him to eat this first to encourage healthy eating habits (if your son requires it to be cut up, please do so at home). If you would like to supplement this fruit please do so, we suggest

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yoghurt, cheese, crackers, etc. It helps if morning tea is placed in a separate container to lunch. Please also send a water tight drinking bottle each day, labelled with your son's name each day.

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. A balanced lunch box will ensure your son is fuelled and focused for the afternoon. As a lunch box (named, of course) can be fairly challenging to a young child, please ensure that the food is easily accessible.

Lunch may also 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](#).

Years 1 and 2

In Years 1 and 2 classes will break for shared fruit 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.

As in Pre-Primary, an individual healthy morning tea will need to be provided.

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](#).

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

SLEEPING BAGS

Boys in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten will be required to purchase their own Christ Church sleeping bag for rest time. These are available from the Uniform Shop. It is advised that these be clearly labelled and decorated so that your son is able to clearly identify his own bag.

SPECIALIST LEARNING PROGRAM

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

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Mandarin
- Drama/Dance
- Library

TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM

Observation

Observations are used to assess your son's development and assist in planning the best learning 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 visible students' learning and thinking. Forms of documentation may exist on the walls, within Floor Books or a child's individual learning journey.

Documentation encourages our boys to take pride and ownership over their learning. In our classrooms, boys can visually see that their thinking and learning is valued so much that 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.

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Floor Books

The Floor Book approach is a collaborative approach between staff and students in the early years to document learning, respond to the interests and needs of the children and track outcomes against curriculum requirements. Floor Books are key to building oral language and developing higher order thinking skills.

In the ELC, we use a project or inquiry learning approach to deliver an intentionally integrated curriculum. Inquiry in our ELC classrooms provides authentic opportunities for the boys to construct a collective knowledge. They are wondering, imagining, discovering, doing and demonstrating. As educators we wonder alongside them, question how we might construct provocations that will enable them to take the next step in their learning.

Class Floor Books are readily available and visible in the classrooms. Within them a variety of methods are used to represent and document the thinking and learning that is happening in class. Teachers scribing the questions and conversations, children's drawings, photos and adult observations all provide important evidence of learning.

Our Floor Books also allow teachers to reflect on and map the learning that has happened and plan for 'what next' using PLOD (Possible Lines of Development). These are created throughout the duration of the inquiry and may be based on curriculum decisions, knowledge and interests of the children.

Individual Learning Journey

In our ELC we value each boy's individual learning journey and will create for each child their own personal Learning Journey record. This is a collection of the work and learning he has achieved throughout the year. It tells a personal story of individual learning and provides an insight into the classroom program, practice and pedagogy.

This Learning Journey will be readily accessible to you and your child at all times and we hope that it will facilitate the very important 'look what I did' conversations and celebrations.

THE EARLY LEARNING YEARS PROGRAM

The Early Learning Years Program is 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 Early Learning Years programs recognise that our boys 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 the boys' interests, intentionally create environments of wonder, support independence and challenge thinking.

TOILET TRAINING

We encourage you to begin the toilet training process prior to starting school. With the excitement of our daily activities, we understand that accidents may occur and it is for this reason we ask that a 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.

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We encourage our boys 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.

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.

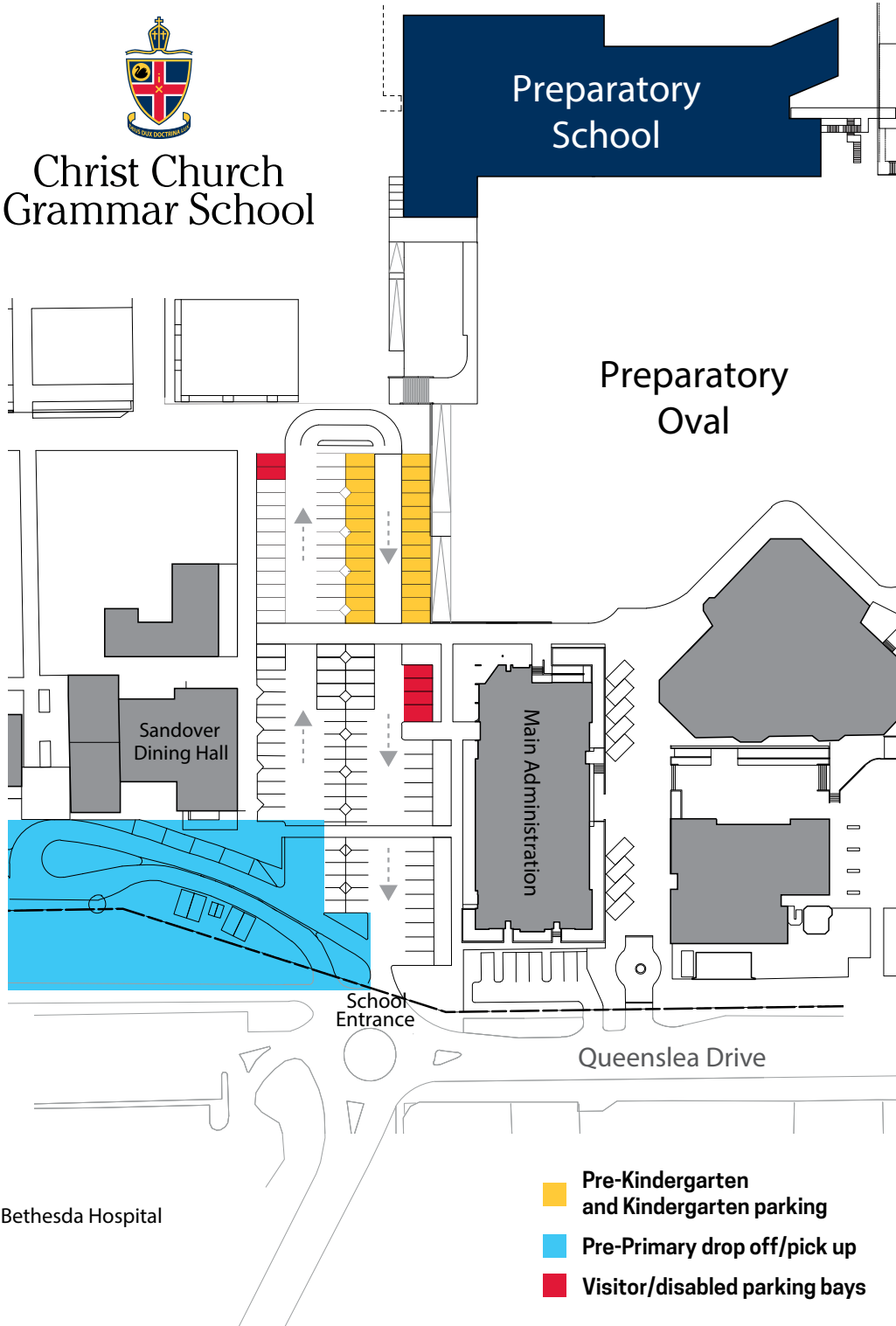
VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

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.





Christ Church Grammar School





Christ Church
Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA