



Kindergarten

at Grace Christian School

A place where your child is nurtured and known.



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL & DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Starting school is a significant milestone, marking the beginnings of independence, the joy of discovery, the setting of new boundaries, and the opportunity to meet new people. We understand that this can be a very exciting time, but also an overwhelming experience for both children and parents, and we want to reassure you that we are committed to providing a loving, nurturing, and safe environment for your child.

We pray that this booklet will help you and your child make an informed and positive start to the wonderful experience of Kindergarten at Grace Christian School.

Since continuity between home and school is very important to us, we want children to see teachers and parents as partners in their education, and look forward to getting to know you and your child. Our goal is to build a relationship with each child and their family, and we encourage parents to be actively involved in the school program.

Educational experts and developmental psychologists tell us that the most effective way for children to learn at this stage is through play. This includes both structured activities and unstructured time within their learning environment. A child's play is their "work"; it is a crucial way for them to make sense of the world around them.

Throughout the Kindergarten year, your child will further develop their language skills, literacy, mathematical concepts, social skills, fine and gross motor skills, and biblical understanding.

This is a wonderful and pivotal time in your child's life. We trust your time with us will be enjoyable as we create memories together.



Mr Hugo de Ridder



Mrs Donna Holman

DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM

Kindergarten Session Times

The Kindergarten day commences at 8.40am and concludes at 2.50pm. Upon arrival, parents and children are welcome to engage in reading, puzzles or quiet activities, inside the classroom. When the bell rings, this signals the start of the class, and parents/guardians are asked to say goodbye.

Each child must be collected by an adult at the end of the day. If someone other than a parent or guardian is collecting the child, please inform a staff member in person or notify Student Services. Supervision is required for children outside of school hours.

Before and After School Care

Camp Australia offers before and after school care services, which can be booked online. For more information, visit: campaustralia.com.au

Attendance

Kindergarten sessions are held three days per week: **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**. It is not uncommon for children to take time to adjust to the routine. If there are any concerns, staff are available to discuss them.

Recess and Lunch Times

Children are required to bring along fruit for morning tea and a healthy lunch. As part of our health program, a variety of nutritious foods is encouraged.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

What to Wear

The uniform for Kindergarten can be purchased from the Perm-A-Pleat School Uniform Retail Outlet, located at Unit 5/61 Albert Road, East Bunbury. The uniform consists of:

- Early Childhood Navy Polo Shirt with school logo
- Grace knee-length shorts with an elastic waist
- Wide brimmed navy hat with school logo
- Suitable footwear, such as sandals or joggers with velcro straps.

Please note: The school enforces a 'no hat, no play' policy for all Primary School children. If a child does not have their school hat, they will be required to play on the verandah.

Labelling of Personal Belongings

All personal belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's full name, using indelible ink or iron on, sew on, or stick on labels. Initials are not recommended.



Unisex Navy Polo with Logo



Unisex White Under Shirt (optional)



Unisex Track Top with Logo



Faction Colour hat



Grace Shorts with logo



Grace Pants with logo



Sandals or Joggers (velcro)

Spare clothing

A set of spare clothes should be kept in the child's bag, suitable for the season. This is important in case of toileting accidents or if the child gets wet during water play.

Toileting Independence

Children should be able to manage toileting independently. This includes removing and re-dressing their clothes, wiping themselves, flushing and washing and drying their hands.

OPEN COMMUNICATION

To foster effective communication between school and home, several methods are provided for parents to stay connected.

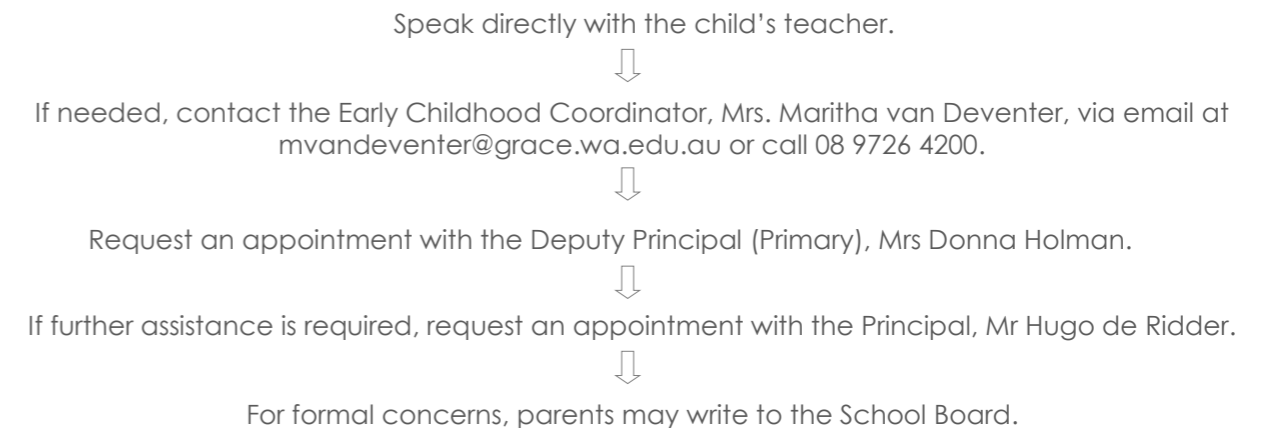
- **School Stream App:** This is the primary means of communication with parents. It is essential for all parents to download the app, which is available for free from the App Store or Google Play.
- **Email:** Throughout the year, parents may receive emails from their child's teacher. Parents are also encouraged to use email to communicate directly with the class teacher.
- **Classroom Whiteboard:** A whiteboard located outside the classroom keeps parents informed about classroom events and important reminders from teachers.
- **Social Media:** Follow the school on Facebook and Instagram @gracechristianschoolwa for updates about the school community.

Parent Interviews

Parents are encouraged to participate in regular meetings to discuss their child's learning progress. If there are concerns regarding a child's school experience, parents should schedule a meeting with the teacher.

Communication and Concerns

Maintaining open communication is essential to supporting each child's success. For concerns, the following steps should be taken:



STUDENT LEARNING

The Early Childhood Centre's learning and teaching programs are created with a deep understanding of children's developmental stages and are informed by the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, along with the WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines. These programs are intentionally designed to be relevant to each child's current thinking, interests, and knowledge, ensuring a personalised learning experience.

At the beginning of the Kindergarten year, teachers will assess all children, focusing on fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and language development. Any concerns regarding a child's development will be communicated to parents. If additional support is required, children may be referred to the Hudson Road Community Health Centre.

Portfolios

Individual portfolios will be sent home in Terms 2, 3 and 4. This method of reporting allows parents to engage with their child's achievements, showcasing the effort put into each piece of work.

Reports

Kindergarten students will receive an interim report in Term 1 and a formal report at the end of the year.



BEING INVOLVED

Parent Roster

Parents are encouraged to get involved in the classroom by joining the parent roster. This opportunity allows parents to observe their child in their learning environment, assist the teacher and other students, creating a special experience for both parent and child. It is hoped that parents will enjoy their time in the classroom. If interested in participating, please add your name to the parent roster.

Siblings are welcome to accompany parents; however, parents are responsible for supervising them. Please remember to sign in, and out at the Administration Office upon arrival.

Helping Out

Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated as part of school life. The school is eager to expand its volunteer base. For more information, please speak with one of the Administration Staff at Student Services.



GOOD TO KNOW

Quiet Time

Each class will have a designated quiet time after lunch every day. The timing may vary by class and will depend on the needs of the children. Students are required to bring a small cushion to keep at school for the year.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays. On your child's birthday, parents may like to send along small cupcakes for sharing with classmates.

Please Note: If your child has an allergy, it is advisable to provide a small treat as an alternative. For more details, parents should consult with the teacher.

Sickness

Students may occasionally be unable to attend school due to illness. If your child is unwell, it is important for them to stay at home to rest until fully recovered to help prevent cross-infection.

It is essential for children to be up to date with their immunisations. Current immunisation records should be provided to Student Services and updated as necessary.

If your child develops a medical condition during the year, it is imperative to inform Student Services.

All absences should be reported via the School Stream App or by emailing: absentees@grace.wa.edu.au.



SCHOOL MAP



FAQs

May I stay with my child for a while to help them settle in?

By all means, if that's what you and your child feel comfortable doing. The beginning of Kindergarten can be an emotional time for everyone involved, so it's important for all to feel as comfortable and positive about the experience as possible.

Children feel more secure and trusting when they can predict what is going to happen. For example, if they know, "Mum is leaving now and will be back at the end of school," they can better manage their emotions. Sneaking away when your child isn't looking does not build trust; instead, it creates a false sense of security and can make the situation more challenging when they realize you aren't there.

If your child becomes too upset and unable to calm down, we will contact you. However, in most cases, we can help calm a child, and they are usually smiling and playing happily by the time you've driven down the road. If you find the separation difficult, please come and talk to us so we can work together on helpful strategies for a smoother transition.

Why doesn't my child want to come to Kindergarten anymore, when they loved it in the beginning?

This is a common and normal reaction. Children often express their feelings with statements like, "Nobody will play with me" or "I don't have any friends," which can elicit strong emotional reactions from parents. Typically, this behaviour arises when the novelty of school wears off, and the child realizes they don't have a choice about attending.

If you are concerned about your child's reluctance to attend school, please come and speak with their teacher about it.

What if I am late?

If you are running late to school, please report to Student Services in the Administration Office before proceeding to the classroom. A late note will be issued for you to present to the class teacher.

If I work, how do I manage drop off and pick-up?

If I am unable to stay with my child until the classroom doors open, here are some options:

- Utilise the services of Camp Australia.
- Make arrangements with a friend to stay with your child until the classroom opens.

Can my child bring a toy from home?

Our general rule is no toys at school, as they often get broken, lost, or fought over. Occasionally, toys may inadvertently make their way to school; in these cases, the toy will remain in the school bag, and the child will not be allowed to play with it.

My child needs medication; can they be given it at school?

Yes, your child may have medication at school; however, they are NOT allowed to self-medicate. If your child needs to take medication during school hours, it must be administered by a teacher or educational assistant. The teacher will require written permission from a parent, along with details regarding dosage and other necessary information. To simplify this process, a medical form is available through your child's teacher for parents to sign and complete, covering all the required information.

What is the procedure if my child needs to leave school early?

If you need to collect your child during school hours for any reason (such as illness or appointments), please go to Student Services at the school office to sign your child out before taking them with you.

Why so much play?

At Grace Christian School we value play. Play is a natural way of learning making it vital for a child's development. It works as a learning tool because:

- Play involves free choice activities that are non-literal, self-motivated, and enjoyable and process orientated.
- When children are engaged in play they enjoy it and it is self-directed. They don't play for a reward; they play because they enjoy it.
- Play helps children make sense of, and internalize information. This is critical to concept development (social, emotional, moral and intellectual).
- Play provides the flexibility for children to experiment, grow and discover without the pressure of failure or evaluation.
- Play is age appropriate.



OUR MOTTO

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,

Or stand in the way of sinners,

Or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And on His law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,

Which yields its fruit in season,

And whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.”

Psalm 1 : 1-3



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