



Year 1

at Grace Christian School



WELCOME TO YEAR 1

From the Principal and Deputy Principal (Primary)

Starting Year 1 is an exciting time for your child. While many aspects may feel familiar, this transition into a new phase of Primary School will also bring exciting changes and experiences.

Our Year 1 teachers are passionate, professional, and purposeful in creating a learning environment that caters to the needs of their students. They strive to nurture students to have compassionate hearts and inquiring minds, and are committed to instilling Godly values and knowledge that will effectively equip them for life. Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities for students to grow in their understanding of God and to continue developing a personal relationship with Him.

In addition to the pursuit of academic excellence, your child will further develop their social and emotional skills essential for building healthy, meaningful relationships. Our goal is for them to become more independent and confident in decision making, while also building resilience and problem solving skills.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with key information to help your child have a smooth start to the year. We hope it equips and supports your family as you continue, or begin, your journey with us at Grace Christian School.



Mr Hugo de Ridder



Mrs Donna Holman

GENERAL INFORMATION

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school can be filled with both excitement and anxiousness. We want to make sure that the day goes as smoothly as possible.

To help with this, we have prepared an information sheet called **'Day One Information,'** which outlines what you need to do before your arrival to the classroom.

MORNING ROUTINE

Success in a Year 1 class starts with a strong morning routine. Establishing consistent routines helps your child to develop independence, confidence, and self help skills.

During the first week of Term 1, you are welcome to come into the classroom in the morning to assist with setting up for the day. To encourage independence, you can give directions to your child and then allow them to complete the tasks on their own. This is an important part of their training and routine development.

At the start of Week 2, we will introduce a 'kiss and drop' routine, in line with the rest of the school. You are encouraged to say goodbye outside the classroom, and allow them to enter and set up independently.

Once your child is organised for the day, they are encouraged to either engage in quiet activities inside or play outside. When the siren sounds, they will come inside and sit on the mat, ready to begin the day.

After school, if you would like to come in to see your child's work, check their stationery supplies, or speak with the teacher, you are more than welcome to do so.

BOOKLIST

You will receive a stationery booklist outlining the items you need to purchase for school. All of these items should be bought before the start of the school year, with detailed instructions provided on the booklist sheet.

Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled, as specified in the additional information sheet titled **'Before the Start of School.'**

SCHOOL TIMES

School commences at 8.35am and concludes at 3.05pm. Sirens throughout the day will sound to mark the start of the day, break times and the end of the day.

PARENT HELPERS

There are opportunities for you to be involved in the classroom throughout the year. This may include assisting with changing home readers or helping with various activities during the term. Teachers will inform parents when help is needed, and a roster will typically be created. If you are assisting during school hours, you are required to sign in at the Administration office.

COMMUNICATION

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

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



ASSEMBLIES

In Year 1, your child will attend assemblies. Throughout the year, they will have the opportunity to present an assembly item with their cohort. Assemblies are also a time when individual students are recognised for acts of service, academic achievement, or displaying Godly attributes at school. You and your family are always welcome to attend.

During assemblies, students will typically recite our School Motto (Psalm 1: 1-3), which is foundational to our identity as a school, and we encourage you to share this often with your child in order for them to become familiar with it.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Discipleship and training are the foundations of our behaviour management approach. As your child moves into Year 1, these principles are essential for the continued development of Godly character, behaviours and attitudes.

Teachers are intentional about creating opportunities for students to make good choices. Positive reinforcement will be used to encourage your child to make good decisions, even when no one is watching. However, when wrong choices are made, your child will be corrected and given appropriate consequences. These may include sitting out of playtime, staying in class to catch up on missed work, or being sent to the Head of Student Management (Primary).

If a pattern of similar behaviour emerges or a serious incident occurs, your child may be given a yellow, red or green card to monitor behaviour. The card system is designed to work with your child to help change behaviour, develop self-control, and encourage good decision making. Should this happen, you will be involved in this process enabling school and family to support the student in making positive changes.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

In Year 1 and Year 2, your child is required to wear the Grace Christian School Sports Uniform. If your child is not in the correct uniform or forgets an item, they will need to go to Student Services to obtain a 'uniform pass' for the day. If a pattern of incorrect uniform develops, you will be contacted with the intent of correcting the uniform breach.

UNIFORM PURCHASES

Uniforms can be purchased from Perm-A-Pleat Retail Outlet located at U6/61 Albert Rd, East Bunbury. Please check the school's website for more information, including opening hours.



Navy Sport Polo



Navy Fleecy Zip Jacket
(from PP)



Navy Soft Shell Jacket (Optional)



Faction Colour Hat



Navy Sports Short



Navy Track Pants



Girls Socks/Navy Boys Socks
Joggers

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please ensure that all personal belongings are clearly labelled, including their hats, jumpers, lunch boxes and water bottles. We will be teaching your child about the importance of taking responsibility for their belongings, which will assist us in our training process.

LOST PROPERTY

If your child loses an item which cannot be located in the classroom, please check the lost property area located in Student Services.

LEARNING PROGRAM

In our Year 1 program, the learning areas are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Arts—specializing in both Visual Arts and Music
- Health and Physical Education
- Technologies
- Bible and Christian Living

Your child will also engage in The Resilience Program taught by a specialist teacher.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Your child will receive a comprehensive formal report at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. Additionally, a portfolio will be distributed in Term 1 and Term 3, showcasing samples of the work covered during the term.

LEARNING ENRICHMENT

If your child's teacher is concerned about any aspect of their progress or development, our Learning Enrichment staff are consulted and will work collaboratively with the students alongside staff, and parents to provide additional support or intervention if needed.



INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

In addition to our school music program, your child has the opportunity to participate in instrumental or vocal tuition from a private tutor. This incurs an additional cost and if you wish for your child to participate, please contact Student Services.

EXCURSIONS

During the year, your child may participate in excursions, which provides opportunities for learning outside the classroom. On excursions, your child will always remain under the direct supervision of staff members in small groups.

An excursion permission form must be completed by you annually and can be accessed via our School Stream App. You will always be informed by the classroom teacher when they are going on excursions.

Students may be excluded from attending an excursion if it is deemed that their attendance poses a safety risk to themselves or others. The safety of our students off school grounds is our primary concern.

PARKING

There are four main car parks for you to use:

- ⇒ Main Entrance in front of Administration Building
- ⇒ Jeffery Road Car park
- ⇒ Kiss and Drop (located on Jeffery Road & in front of the Auditorium)
- ⇒ Secondary Car park



CHILD SAFETY

SUPERVISION

Teaching staff will be on duty from 8.15a.m. in the morning. We understand that some parents may need to leave early for work or appointments. If that is the case, you may drop your child off at school from 8.15 a.m. At this time, teachers will be on duty to supervise the students. Children should not be dropped off before 8.15a.m, as supervision is not available before this time.

Please note: Your child is not allowed on the playgrounds before school starts.

If you work early or late in the afternoon, it is best to enrol your child in the before and after school care program, Camp Australia, to ensure they receive adequate supervision. To access their online booking system, visit campastralia.com.au. Children who remain on-site without a parent picking them up will be taken to Student Services.

SMART WATCHES OR PHONES

Your child is allowed to have a smart watch, but they must be on 'school mode'. Mobile phones are not permitted.

TOYS

Toys brought to school can lead to tension, 'power plays' in friendships, and inappropriate play. Therefore, we ask that no toys are brought to school. The exception is items for 'News,' which will typically be stored safely in the classroom until they are required. The class teacher will provide more information about the 'News' structure at the start to the year. The school will not be responsible for lost or broken toys.

SCHOOL VISITORS

All parents and visitors are required to sign in at the Administration Office. This allows us to verify who is on-site in case of an emergency and helps us identify individuals who do not have permission to be on the premises.

ROAD SAFETY

In the afternoons, supervision is provided at the bus stops. Your child is not allowed to walk through the carpark or cross the road without an adult.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ABSENTEES

In Western Australia, the School Education Act 1999, requires all students from Pre-Primary to Year 12 to attend school. When your child is absent from school, please notify Student Services via the *School Stream App*, or email absentees@grace.wa.edu.au

All absentees from school need to be explained and recorded.

LATE ARRIVAL

Lessons start at 8:35 a.m., and it is important for your child to arrive on time so they can settle into the morning routine. If your child is late, they are required to obtain a 'late note' from Student Services before proceeding to class. They should enter the classroom on their own to minimize disruption to the class.

STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

There may be times when you need to take your child out of school for an unavoidable appointment or for family reasons. Whenever possible, please notify Student Services and the teacher in advance.

When you come to collect them, please report to Student Services, where you will be required to sign your child out. If they are returning to school later, they will also need to be signed back in.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Please be mindful that sending your child to school when they are unwell directly impacts other children, families, and teaching staff. It is important to allow your child to rest at home until they are well enough to return. The following illnesses require exclusion from school: Chicken Pox, Head Lice, Conjunctivitis, Vomiting, Cold Sores, Diarrhea, Influenza, School Sores, Ringworm, Slap Cheek, Measles, and Mumps.

For any illness requiring three or more days off school, a medical certificate must be submitted to Student Services.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Should your child need to take medication at school; please provide this to Student Services. Clearly label all medication with instructions and complete a '*Prescribed Medication Permission Form*', located at Student Services.

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS

If your child has a serious allergy or illness, or medical condition, you are required to provide the school a medical action plan issued by your doctor. Medical Action Plans must be submitted to Student Services. Should any changes occur relating to the care of your child, it is critical that you notify Student Services to ensure records and emergency contact are accurate.

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team at school that oversees the health and well-being of students. This team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal (Primary and Secondary), Head of Student Management (Primary and Secondary), Student Services staff, the Chaplain, and Learning Enrichment staff. They meet regularly to ensure that our school adopts a proactive, holistic approach to student well-being.

CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain is available for appointments, which can be arranged through Student Services.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The following illnesses require exclusion from school:

Chicken Pox, Head Lice, Conjunctivitis, Vomiting, Cold Sores, Diarrhea, Influenza, School Sores, Ringworm, Slap-Cheek, Measles and Mumps and Covid.

COMMUNICATION AND CONCERNS

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

Speak directly with your child's teacher.



If needed, contact the Head of Student Management, Mr Chris van Deventer, via email at chvandeventer@grace.wa.edu.au or call 08 9726 4200.



Request an appointment with the Deputy Principal (Primary), Mrs Donna Holman.



If further assistance is required, request an appointment with the Principal, Mr Hugo de Ridder.



For formal concerns, you may write to the School Board.

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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