

2024

EARLY
LEARNING
CENTRE
HANDBOOK

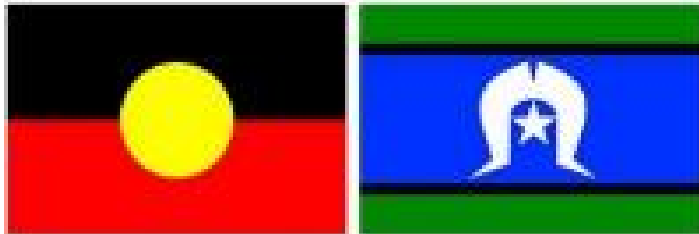


Bacchus Marsh
Grammar

Early Learning Centre

Acknowledgement of Country

The BMG ELC Community respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as traditional owners and custodians of the land on which Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre is located. We pay our respects to their Elders both past, present and emerging.



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Welcome to BMG ELC

Welcome Families,

We would like to warmly welcome you and your family to Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre. We are delighted that you have chosen us for your child's kindergarten education and trust that you will feel welcomed and valued as part of our Early Learning Centre.

We welcome you to our inaugural year in our purpose-built, kindergarten building within the Woodlea Campus. As each child commences their early years journey, our aim is that they will soon recognise that they now belong, not only to their family community, but also to the Bacchus Marsh Grammar School community. This allows for the possible future years of schooling to be anticipated with enthusiasm and for the Woodlea School Campus students to visit the Centre for special events, reading or sports activities.

We hope that this year will be the beginning of a long and enjoyable partnership with you as we journey together in providing high-quality early education for your child. Kindergarten is an exciting and rewarding year for children, their parents, and teachers. The kindergarten year helps children to develop confidence, resilience, and the ability to co-operate with others. It is a year which sets the foundations for the development of social awareness, STEAM, numeracy, and literacy, as well as resilience, problem solving, self-regulation, spatial awareness, and the creative arts. With this experience, the children can enter school as well-rounded individuals with an array of holistic attributes.

The kindergarten years are a time for so many wonderful learning opportunities and we encourage you to embrace and immerse yourself in all of the many experiences your child will be a part of at the Early Learning Centre. The time goes by quickly, and as you will soon see, your child's Kindergarten years are a special time in your family's lives, so enjoy every minute of this journey together.

The children at the Early Learning Centre are guided by experienced dedicated educators who will support your children in so many ways. Our teaching team prides itself on delivering high quality programs which have a balance between intentional teaching, project work and incorporating the strengths and interests of the child. Our teachers will have professional and open communication with you regarding your children's learning and development. We encourage you to embrace these conversations in order to provide your children with the best possible outcomes for their learning.

Enjoy this time with your young children; allow them plenty of time to explore, show them how to investigate and encourage them to be curious because these are the attributes and dispositions that will embed a love of learning that they will take with them forever.

We look forward to working with you along this wonderful journey.

Kerry Osborn
Director

Ashlee Grero
Educational Leader/Kindergarten Teacher



Philosophy

The values of Bacchus Marsh Grammar are an integral part of the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre. The children at the Early Learning Centre will be empowered to learn and grow in a calm, inviting and stimulating environment. We do not draw on any particular theoretical approaches but believe incorporating a range of evidence-based theories provides the best outcomes for high quality early education.

Curriculum/ Framework

Our Early Childhood Programs are designed and implemented by our dedicated Early Years Teachers and Educators. Our collaborative teaching approach enables critical reflection and thinking to be challenged across the teaching team, thereby enhancing the children's learning program.

Our curriculum is authentic and tailored to each child's immediate community, whilst also ensuring global community awareness is evident and embedded. Based on the Early Years Learning Framework, our Curriculum enhances each child's, literacy, numeracy, ICT, cultural awareness, STEAM knowledge, imagination, creativity, and movement skills.

Our diverse curriculum will build on the strengths and interests of our staff, individual children and the group as a whole. This will be achieved through centre operations, high expectations, intentional teaching, project work, questioning, discussions, and open-ended authentic experiences whereby children will become curious and inquisitive learners.

Wellbeing

The children will be supported to become aware and connected to their own social and emotional wellbeing. Children will be exposed to a creative environment to build skills to enable them to problem solve not only independently but collaboratively. All teachers and educators will place a strong emphasis on embedding personal qualities such as integrity, empathy, and respect for others which will assist the children and their ongoing learning journey. A supportive work environment and a cohesive team culture allows staff to challenge themselves as professionals, and their wellbeing supported.

Environment

All learning environments are not only aesthetically appealing and inviting but is designed to ensure children are engaged, challenged and individual learning styles are supported by evidence-based research which is visible throughout the space. Each of our learning environments will support all children to become confident learners who are able to direct their own learning and take considered risks through a range of experiences and opportunities. Teachers and educators will ensure that sustainable living and environmental awareness is encouraged and embedded throughout our curriculum promoting all participants to be leaders for the future.

Cultural Competence

We are a child-safe organisation and have zero tolerance of child abuse. Implementing the Child Safe Standards, we work at every level to create culturally safe environments and protect children from abuse and harm. Our Early Learning Centre incorporates our children's, families', educator's and communities' cultural diversities and perspectives to guide an inclusive learning curriculum. We pay respect to the Wurundjeri and Wathaurong people as the traditional owners of the land on which our kindergarten and Land Beyond the Fence program are located.



Child Safety Commitment Statement

Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to comply with both the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.

Our Service is committed to implementing and abiding by our Child Safe Policy based on Child Safe Standards in Victoria (2022), accentuating our zero tolerance of child abuse and raising awareness about the importance of child safety in our Service and the community. We are dedicated to protecting children from abuse and neglect, promoting a child-safe environment and maintaining children's well-being.

We aim to adhere to our comprehensive Child Protection Policy, following our mandatory reporting responsibilities to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect.

We are dedicated to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and providing a safe environment for children with a disability. We are committed to ongoing professional development for employees to maintain their ability to recognise and respond to situations of abuse and neglect, ensuring employees are responsive to their responsibilities in keeping children safe.

We work in collaboration with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and have confidence in educating children about their right to be safe. At Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre, we know that children learn best when they feel safe and are safe. We believe in teaching children what to do if they feel unsafe and encouraging them to express their views and thoughts on matters that directly affect them. As educators, we listen to and empower children to act on any concerns they or others may raise. This is reflected in our policies and procedures for keeping children safe.





Centre Opening Hours and Term Dates 2024

Centre Opening hours - 7.30am – 5.30pm

Centre operates 48 weeks of the year

Monday 15 January – Friday 13 December 2024

Kindergarten Session times

9.00am – 4.30pm

Monday to Friday

Terms 1, 2, 3, & 4

Term 1 2024

Children commence

Monday 15 January

Public Holiday (Australia Day)

Friday 26 January **(Centre Closed)**

Term 1 commences

Tuesday 30 January

Public Holiday (Labour Day)

Monday 11 March **(Centre Closed)**

*End of Term 1

Thursday 28 March

Friday 29 March, Monday 1 April & Tuesday 2 April **(Centre closed for Easter)**

Term 2 2024

Monday 15 April

Thursday 25 April **(Centre Closed)**

Public Holiday (King's Birthday)

Monday 10 June **(Centre Closed)**

*End of Term 2

Friday 21 June

Term 3 2024

Term 3 commences

Monday 15 July

*End of Term 3

Friday 20 September

Public Holiday (AFL Grand Final) TBC

Friday 27 September **(Centre Closed) TBC**

Term 4 2024

Term 4 commences

Monday 7 October

Mid Term Break

Monday 4 November **(Centre Closed)**

Public Holiday (Melbourne Cup)

Tuesday 5 November **(Centre Closed)**

End of Term 4 for Kindergarten Sessions

Friday 6 December

Centre closes for Christmas/New Year Break

Thursday 12 December

****Dates are subject to change**

* The Early Learning Centre is open during these three term breaks for all children to attend (except for public holidays).



Early Learning Staff

The care and education of the children at BMG ELC Woodlea is a team effort

Our Centre Teachers/Educators are fully qualified and experienced professionals who deliver programs which are of a standard that will ensure all children are experiencing high quality learning opportunities each day. All teachers show passion and commitment to their practice and strive for the best possible outcomes for children. Teachers spend time each year attending Professional Development in order to understand the latest research in Early Childhood.

Points of Contact

Mrs Kerry Osborn	Director, Early Learning Centre
Mrs Ashlee Grero	Educational Leader/Kindergarten Teacher

Educational Leader

We understand and value the importance of best practice throughout all aspects of our educational programs. A key aspect of the role of Educational Leader is to create collaboratively a common vision for children's learning and curriculum. Through a clearly articulated vision for learning, our educators are connected and motivated to work towards shared goals for children and their learning. Our Educational Leader, Ashlee Grero, works alongside our teachers and educators to support, guide, challenge and inspire thinking and practice on a weekly basis. Our educational leader supports all families and children on their learning and development journey at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre.

Hours of Centre

The Centre is open Monday to Friday, 48 weeks of the year, from 7.30am to 5.30pm. We will close for four weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.





Educational Programs

All of programs are overseen by our Educational Leader and are implemented by Degree Qualified Kindergarten Teachers and supported by Diploma trained Educators.

We view the curriculum between both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs as integrated and linked, enabling children and families to develop a sense of connection to our service while supporting their transition from one program to the next.

Funded 3-year-old Kindergarten Program

Degree Qualified Kindergarten teacher/ Diploma Co-Educator / Diploma Co-Educator

Children must turn three years of age on or before 1st January in the year they attend the program.



Children participating in our 3-year-old program are actively involved in a high-quality Early Childhood program relating to individual needs, interests and projects, led by a degree trained early childhood teacher.

Our 3-year-old kindergarten program provides an open-ended learning program that incorporates both expected routines and emerging opportunities. We will nurture each child's natural curiosity and extend their connective understanding of the world where the child leads their own learning through exploration, imagination and experimentation.

The most important goal of our curriculum is to assist children to become enthusiastic lifelong learners in an environment where they are valued, cared for, nurtured and respected. This means encouraging the children to be active and creative explorers who are confident to try out their ideas and share their own thoughts and opinions.

Funded 4-year-old Kindergarten Program

Degree Qualified Kindergarten teacher/ Diploma Co-Educator / Diploma Co-Educator

Children must turn four years of age on or before 30 April in the year they attend the four-year-old Kindergarten program.

Our funded 4-year-old Kindergarten program is a high quality and holistic program that caters for children in the year before they commence school and is led by a degree trained Early Childhood Teacher.

This program aims to support children's learning and development, social and emotional skills, language, literacy and numeracy skills, self-awareness, and respect for others. It exposes them to new ideas and concepts; all important skills for school readiness.

Through our valuable small and large group learning opportunities, our children will build a diverse range of holistic skills, providing them with a strong foundation to enter their formal schooling.

Enrolment Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.



A Positive Start

As adults, we can clearly relate to new beginnings or changes of routine as somewhat confronting. As a young child this can also bring feelings of unease and, as we all know too well, this can take time to settle down. Although we would all love the children to settle in and form relationships with others quickly, we must remember to be patient and give the children time to get to know their new surroundings, other children, and all of their teachers.

Forming Friendships Children and adults learn and make friendships in a variety of ways and over varying periods of time. During the early weeks of kindergarten, the children may chat happily and spontaneously with each other or be happy to play alongside their peers with minimal verbal communication. Some will be content to spend time watching the play of others. In the early weeks of kindergarten, we will plan many activities that encourage the children to establish new friendships in a relaxed and unhurried manner.

As your child is settling into their new environment, staff will work together with parents to ensure a smooth transition into the Centre.

Saying goodbye in the morning:

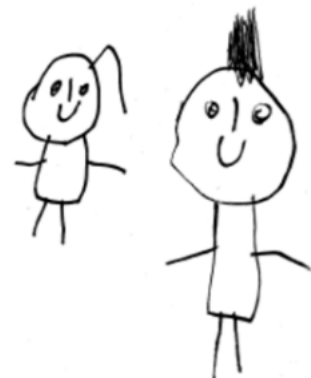
We all want our children to feel secure within themselves and the best ways of enhancing this includes:

- Allowing enough time in the morning so your child is not rushed.
- Spending a few minutes in your child's room looking at activities with them and asking them about what they have been doing. Settling them into an activity and sitting with them for a few minutes if you can.
- Letting your child's teacher know anything which might affect their day and also let them know when you are leaving so they can help settle your child.
- When you need to leave, the best thing to say is the following, "I'm going to leave for work now and **I'm going to come back**. I will be back after you have afternoon tea etc." It is really important not to leave without saying goodbye.

Although your child may be upset initially, they will build trust and feel secure in themselves, knowing that you will return and also what you are saying to them does happen.

Orientation for Children Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website

'Learning and teaching should not stand on opposite banks and just watch the river flow by; instead, they should embark together on a journey down the water. Through an active, reciprocal exchange, teaching can strengthen learning how to learn.' - **Loris Malaguzzi**





Curriculum and Learning

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia has been used to guide Curriculum decision making for the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre, Woodlea. Our Centre philosophy has been created and underpins our practice. This philosophy will grow and evolve in alignment with best practice and current research.

Educators believe strongly that a child-centered approach acknowledges the child and enables family and cultural partnerships in a variety of ways.

Literacy

The children will be introduced to literacy within their everyday investigations and discussions. This may incorporate an array of written and oral language opportunities involving storytelling, plays, journal writing, text awareness, phonetic awareness, and an emphasis on language and communication in day-to-day learnings inspired by provocations which are meaningful to the child. We promote literacy and the love of books at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre and share our passion and the importance of reading stories by incorporating a library book borrowing program.

Numeracy

An Early Childhood numeracy model will be implemented in a variety of ways within all Kindergarten groups of the Early Learning Centre. The numeracy model encompasses number focus, algebra, measurement, statistics, probability, and geometry and this will be visible through directed and incidental learning opportunities.

STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math

Each of STEAM's five subjects share a common approach and focus. They require gathering and using evidence to create knowledge or solve problems. STEAM learning happens naturally everyday as children explore, play and try new things. When young children have the opportunity to investigate the world around them, they learn and experiment with new STEAM skills and theories. Research shows there is a positive relationship between early STEAM experiences and future success in school. The Early Learning Science focus is based on 'The awareness of self and the local natural world'. Teachers will encourage the skills of:

- Science Understanding: making sense of Science facts and applying them to new situations
- Science Inquiry Skills: Questions, investigating, planning, and making valid conclusions.
- Science as a Human Endeavour: Social and ethical issues within Science.

Art and Creativity

The studio within the rooms is a beautiful space in which children and teachers will be able to work together to create, discuss and share experiences using an array of mediums. Children will be shown how to use certain tools and materials and then they will be able to self-select materials to create their own individual or group artwork.

Creativity seems to emerge from multiple experiences, coupled with a well-supported development of personal resources, including a sense of freedom to venture beyond the known." ~ Loris Malaguzzi

Music and Movement

The children will be exposed to various musical elements throughout the curriculum. Some of these will include understanding the beat in music, understanding pitch, music from around the world, singing and performing.

Project work

Project work presents many opportunities for young children's ideas to be valued, their creativity to be encouraged, their interests to be nurtured, and for their learning needs to be met.

In early childhood, projects can be defined as open-ended studies of everyday topics which are worthy of being included in an educational program. Here at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre our projects emerge from the questions children raise and develop according to their particular interests. Rather than offering immediate answers to the questions children ask, our educators provide experiences through which children can discover the answers themselves. Project investigations promote in-depth understanding and cover a wide range of relevant subtopics. For this reason, projects usually take several weeks to complete—and sometimes much longer, depending on the interests of the children.

Portfolios

A portfolio is one way to report to families and it is designed to reflect our philosophy of sharing our learning. It contains a wide variety of experiences that your child has completed at kindergarten. All the activities are carefully planned so that each child can develop a wide range of skills throughout the year. They are continually encouraged and offered a wide range of materials and activities which enable them to master the skills already taught and to develop new ones. The portfolio will share the learning journey of your child's time here at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre in terms of their cognitive and social development and is a valuable record. The portfolio will always be accessible to the children as well as our families, to revisit their learning.

Sustainability

The aim of our service is to help children learn about and implement sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

Our teachers will promote a holistic curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability.

Environmental Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Curriculum Initiatives

BMG Woodlea Campus involvement
Childrens Yarning Circle
Community Garden
FKA Member
Healthy Together Achievement Program
Incursions
Indigenous Literacy Group
Library Program
Local Community engagement
Outdoor Program (Land Beyond the Fence)
RAP – Reconciliation Action Plan
Small Green Steps sustainability program
Smiles for Miles - DHSV
Soundwaves Literacy Program

Structure of the day

Educators recognise the importance of predictable daily routines in helping children to establish a sense of security and to develop their understanding of time. We also recognise the importance of being flexible within this routine so that we remain mindful of the needs of the children, and we can take advantage of the spontaneous ‘teachable’ moments that occur throughout the day. Periods of time will be planned for whole group teaching and instruction, as well as times for children to work in smaller groups or to engage in individual inquiry-based learning experiences. The daily routine flows smoothly, with particular thought being given to the way in which transitions between different types of activities and experiences are handled.

The most significant transition that will occur each day is that of the child from home to Kindergarten. The arrival routine that we follow is one that provides gentle transition for the child and the opportunity for the development of positive relationships between Kindergarten and home.

Daily Routine

7:30am	Centre Opens
9:00am	Kindergarten Teachers commence in each Kindergarten room
9:05am	Morning meeting
9:30am	Morning Learning Program
10:00am – 11:00am	Morning tea
11.30am – 1:00pm	Learning Program
1:00pm	Lunch Time
1:00pm – 3.00pm	Afternoon Learning Program
3:00pm	Afternoon tea
3:00pm – 4.30pm	Learning Program
4.30pm	Kindergarten Program Ends
5.30pm	Centre Closes

End of year celebration

To celebrate our learning journey together in our four-year-old Kindergarten programs, we hold an end of year celebration before the children move into Prep the following year. This is an event where we share our learning journey through songs, collages, art, and creativity and, most importantly, engagement with our families. Families will receive an invitation for our celebration to be held in Term 4.

Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool

Our centre uses the Department of Education’s Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool (the Tool), to support our early childhood teachers and educators with their observations and assessment of children’s learning and development.

The Tool will provide opportunities for our teachers and educators to reflect on what children are currently learning to do, say, make, write, and draw. Teaching teams observe a child at play over time before completing the Tool. Information from the Tool can then be used by teachers and educators to plan and tailor the Kindergarten program to best help your child learn.



Excursions and Programs

Land Beyond the Fence (Bush Kinder) – Staughton Vale Campus

Children are natural learners and the children at Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre leave the confines of the kindergarten and head to the “Land Beyond the Fence” to satisfy their natural learning needs. “Land Beyond the Fence” is our outdoor education program which has been running since its inception in 2019 and is held at our Staughton Vale campus once a week, throughout Terms 2 and 3. The children will be transported by bus to the site on a rotating weekly roster. This weekly session provides the children with the ideal learning environment to enable them to spend regular, extended periods of time in a natural environment with materials provided by nature and with their interests and enjoyment spurring them on in their learning.

The children have the opportunity to play in a natural setting where they are engaged in many learning opportunities such as:

- Climbing trees, manoeuvring through bushes, rolling down hills, balancing on fallen logs.
- Discovering insects, birds, animals, and plants that engage their interest.
- Using natural materials in creative ways, such as building huts and discovering hideaways.
- Exploring their understanding of the natural world
- Exploring real tools such as ropes and pulley systems, drills and junior hacksaws.
- Children experience the daily and seasonal fluctuations in weather and seasons
- Team-building skills by working together to complete a collaborative task.
- Building on social awareness by sharing these experiences with their peers, families, and teachers.

Our program supports our overall Early Learning Centre philosophy which promotes learning through hands-on experiences and embraces the children’s ability to explore, create, problem solve, collaborate, and enhance resilience. There is mounting evidence of decreasing opportunities for children to play outdoors in nature and this links to concerns about children’s health and wellbeing. There are well-documented benefits to children’s learning in natural settings. However, from our reflections and connections during our program, we have observed benefits such as:

- Increased confidence, motivation, imagination and concentration
- Increased social, physical and language skills
- Deeper conceptual understandings
- Development of ecological literacy
- The accommodation of many different learning styles
- Enhanced problem solving and communication skills
- An authentic connection and respect for the natural environment and sustainability
- Enhanced attitudes towards natural play spaces and risk management. The children have real-life opportunities to make dynamic risk assessments that develops resilience, determination, and courage.

Outdoor Education Program Off Site Policy and the Physical Activity Promotion Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Excursions/Incursions and Special Events

Excursions and visitors to the service are an important part of the Kindergarten program. They provide opportunities for the children to explore the wider community as well as enrich and extend the educational program provided at the service. In the lead up to excursions, families/carers will receive notification of the planned activities and the adult/child ratio required to conduct the outing in a safe manner. Permission slips will be issued prior to all excursions and must be signed and returned in order for your child to be able to attend.



Walking Excursions

Our walking excursions provide an opportunity to take the children on a stroll around the block, to the nearby parklands and to connect with their wider community. Our walking excursions in the community allow the educators to include road safety education into their daily programming, rather than providing one-off activities or experiences.

Centre Gallery

Our Gallery is a beautiful space that showcases the children's learning and involvement within their kindergarten program. This space is also where we invite parent participation for special events and contributions and is updated regularly to reflect the current projects and programs. The children take ownership of creating their own displays and sharing with their families during arrival and departures.





School Transition

The children will have the opportunity to visit the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Woodlea campus as a Kindergarten group. During these visits, the children will become familiar with a school campus through tours, joining a class and engaging in learning activities.

By working together, parents and educators can enhance a child's learning and wellbeing. Our Kindergarten program builds strong foundations for your child's future learning in Prep. Throughout the Kindergarten year, Kindergarten educators build up a comprehensive understanding of your child's development, learning and abilities.

How Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre will support your children's transition to school.

- Self-Regulation: The ability to obtain, maintain and change emotion, behaviour, attention and activity level appropriate for a task or situation.
- Receptive language (understanding): Comprehension of spoken language (e.g. the teachers' instructions).
- Expressive language (using language): Producing speech or language that can be understood by others (e.g. talking to friends).
- Articulation: The ability to clearly pronounce individual sounds in words.
- Executive functioning: Higher-order reasoning and thinking skills
- Emotional development/regulation: The ability to perceive emotions, integrate emotions to facilitate thought, understand feelings and regulate emotions (for a child's responses to challenges).
- Social skills: initiating into social groups positively. Determined by the ability to engage in a reciprocal interaction with others (either verbally or non-verbally), to compromise with others and to be able to recognise and follow social norms.
- Our program will also challenge each child to persist and learn new skills they may not yet have mastered. We will support children emotionally to persist when faced with challenges and ways we can effectively problem solve.

These are just a few areas of development that will be fostered. However, each kindergarten program will also have their mini-projects and interest-based learning activities, enhancing previous and emerging skills.

How can you assist your children at home.....

- Increase independence skills: Increase expectations of your child around self-care tasks such as dressing, toileting, eating, and getting ready to leave the house. Provide only verbal rather than physical 'help' to complete the tasks where possible.
- Books: Expose your child to books to prepare them for literacy so they learn to sit through the entirety of a book and talk to you about the story in many different ways.
- Fine motor skill development: Activities such as threading, colouring, using tongs, finger isolation, finger puppets, using smaller materials in play dough.

School Student Connections

The Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre participates in a range of initiatives in which BMG Woodlea school students connect and engage with our Kindergarten children throughout the course of the year. The school students and the children at the ELC work together on activities, events and learnings to develop positive relationships and social interaction. Most importantly, these interactions assist in building new connections and relationships outside of the Early Learning Centre.

Transition Statements

All children at the conclusion of their Kindergarten year will have a transition statement completed for them. The transition statement will be developed by your child's early childhood teacher and will summarise your child's learning and development before they start school, as well as his or her strengths and interests. You will be asked to contribute your thoughts about your child and give your perspective by completing Section 3: The Family section of the Statement. These transition statements will then be passed onto your child's school for the teachers to gain a better understanding of your child's learning, strengths and weaknesses.





Family Connections

Family Involvement

Warm, mutually respectful relationships between educators and families are essential to providing a good quality early learning program. The information we share with each other benefits the children, the families, and the educators. This sharing is the basis for developing a true partnership between yourself and the educators which they think will benefit your child's experience at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre. While we realise that families often have work and other commitments and may have limited time, you are welcome to be involved in the service. Some suggestions of ways you can participate in the service include:

- Contributing to our reflective journals in each room and in the foyer.
- Offering some special music or songs in your home language for the children
- Contributing to our diverse curriculum through dance, cooking, cultural activities, musical instruments, your occupation etc.
- Donating recycled materials such as boxes for collage
- Parent information evenings
- Contributing and involvement within Gallery Space.

Parental Interaction and Involvement in the Service Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website

Communication

Centre Updates

This is an important form of communication within the Early Learning Centre Community. We will keep you up-to-date with upcoming Centre happenings at the service.

Kindergarten Room Reflection/ Newsletter

Each fortnight you will receive, via email, a reflection of the fortnight's learning within each program written by the kindergarten teacher. These will provide you with valuable knowledge about the program and topics that your child's kindergarten group is currently studying/exploring.

Diaries

Each child will receive their own diary. The diary will need to accompany your child every day to Kindergarten/Centre and be placed in the designated box/basket. The diary serves as a valuable source of information sharing between teachers and families. Please ensure you check your child's diary every evening, so you keep up to date.

Parent evenings

We hold information evenings for our families to provide information regarding school readiness, child development and strategies you can use at home with your children. At times, we are also accompanied by speech therapists, maternal child health, school principals and other support personnel that may assist in providing a valuable source of information for our families.

Connection Meetings

As part of our family connections at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre, we conduct Connection meetings in Term 1 and 3 each year. Families can book a time to connect with your child's teacher and discuss their progress.

Connecting with your child's teacher

If you wish to discuss your child's progress throughout the year, please make contact with your child's kindergarten teacher via email. To ensure we provide you with the right amount of time, we will then make an appointment that suits both the family and kindergarten teacher without impacting our kindergarten programs.

Open Mornings

Open Arrival Mornings take place over designated consecutive days once a term. By having these Open Arrival Mornings, our families can continue to develop the feeling of connectedness with our kindergarten by having the chance to stroll through your child's learning space as you drop your child off for the day. The children always enjoy showing you through their learning spaces.

Family Feedback

By working together as a team, better understanding and relationships are developed between staff and families which, most importantly, will benefit your child. We welcome and take on all feedback from all our families. Please do not hesitate to provide feedback when our annual survey is shared, in our Room Reflective Journals, or have a conversation with our Kindergarten teachers or Director of Early Learning.





Partnerships

Allied Health Professionals

Children with individual needs sometimes require support from private Allied Health Professionals (Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, NDIS). We encourage families to connect us with their child's support agency to ensure a collaborative approach to their development and learning journey. Families will be required to sign a permission form which provides us with consent to share information regarding your child.

School Community Code of Conduct

Bacchus Marsh Grammar promotes values that are in keeping with the School's Mission Statement and Philosophy. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to set clear standards of behaviour expected by the school and provide guidelines for the effective development of positive relationships with the school environment and school community.

School Community Code of Conduct Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Preschool Field Officer (PSFO)

As part of the funded kindergarten programs, our Centre can access PSFOs for consultative support, resourcing, and practical advice to assist our Kindergarten teachers. PSFOs also assist our teachers to link families into support services available for children with developmental concerns and broader child and family issues.

Maternal and Child Health Service

As part of the Government 's "Healthy Start for School" program, the Melton Maternal and Child Health Service offers the 3-and-a-half-year-old Key Development Assessment for children attending Kindergarten who are unable to attend their regular Maternal and Child Health Centre. Information and permission will be sent out to our 3-4-year-old group during the year.





Everyday information

Lost Property

We understand the frustrations felt when your child loses his/her clothing. Therefore, it is imperative that **all** of your child's clothing be **clearly named**.

Quiet and Calm Atmosphere

We aim to provide a calm and relaxing place for children to learn. We believe children will gain more from their time here when the environment is organised, calm and we are all respectful of one another. We therefore ask you to enter the Early Learning Centre with this in mind and ensure conversations with teachers and children are undertaken in a quiet and calm manner. We therefore ask all parents and siblings to enter the Early Learning Centre by walking when in the gallery space, speaking quietly, and respecting our spaces and displays.

Photography

Photos are taken by our educators to support your child's learning and to be used in documenting the program and your child's individual learning. These can be displayed within the room, gallery (electronic screen and walls), your child's journal, room reflection of Learning, ELC newsletters, school newsletters, year book, hand books and the school's website. All families will be asked to sign a permission form at the beginning of each enrolment year.

Toys from home

To avoid toys being lost and broken we ask that your child does not bring any toys from home. Occasionally, you may go on holidays, and you may have photos to show etc, or your child may have a special book they would like to bring in to show the class. Please speak to your child's teacher prior to bringing items in and they will discuss the best time for your child to have the opportunity to share these personal experiences.

Birthdays

Due to the number of students with allergies, we do not allow students to share food. We ask that parents do not send in any food or gifts for their child to share with the class for their birthdays, Easter, Christmas or other special occasions. We recognise that birthdays are an extremely special day for your child. Within our kindergarten programs the children celebrate each child's birthday collectively as a group and highlight what makes our birthdays special.

Thank you for your understanding on this matter. The safety of the children in the Early Learning Centre is a primary focus for us all.

We value inclusion at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre, and we appreciate your sensitivity when it comes to birthday parties and invitations for your child.

Uniform at Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre

The Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre uniform is compulsory for all children who access the Centre including long day care and Kindergarten programs. These are comfortable, easy to wear uniforms that are practical for day-to-day activities. *Uniforms are available for purchase at:*

On campus at Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Maddingley Campus. Phone/Fax: 5367 4072	Rushfords- 1/13 Barnes Place Werribee. Phone: 03 9741 3211 Fax: 03 9741 3155 Email: rushfords@noone.com.au	Online Orders
Monday and Friday 12.30pm - 4.30pm Wednesday: 8.00am to 12.00pm	Monday-Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm Saturday: 9.00am to 12.00pm	https://www.noone.com.au/school/bacchus-marsh-grammar/shop

The Early Learning Centre Uniform Requirements

*Price List to June 30, 2024. All prices are subject to change without notice

<u>Unisex Items</u>		<u>Unisex Items</u>	
½ Zip Fleecy Windcheater (Royal blue/Black/Gold fleecy windcheater with logo) All Sizes	\$ 59.50	Rain Coat (Royal blue polar fleece lined jacket with logo) All sizes	\$ 55.95
S/S Polo Top – Royal Blue (Royal blue/ Gold Cotton Back polo with logo) All Sizes	\$ 46.95	School Bag (Physiopak Black with logo) One Size	\$ 58.50
Track Pants (Black Fleecy Pant with logo) All Sizes	\$ 37.95	Bucket Hat (Royal Blue Bucket hat with toggle & logo) All Sizes	\$ 17.50
Sports Shorts (Black Cotton back sport short with logo) All Sizes	\$ 26.95	Beanie (Royal blue acrylic beanie with logo) One Size	\$ 17.50
Sports Skorts (Black back skort with built in short under skirt with logo) All Sizes	\$ 25.95	NAME LABELS Pre-ordered Garment Labels (Sew or Iron on) per 50 units	\$ 25.00

Shoes: Children must wear closed toe shoe e.g.: runners, sand shoes or boots in winter and must be worn with socks. Sandals and thongs are not acceptable.

Please place a change of clothes in your child's bag for emergencies. These should include underwear, tracksuit pants, shirts, and socks. (Spare clothes do not have to be uniforms).

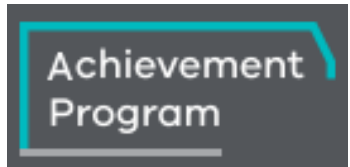


Childrens Health, Safety and Wellbeing

As we understand the importance of each child's wellbeing and sense of self, the children will be exposed to a variety of opportunities throughout the day which will range from quiet relaxation time through to movement to help with self-regulation and spatial awareness. Each room will be conscious of the importance of having ebbs and flow throughout the day which will bring balance to a child's emotional wellbeing.

Achievement Program

Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre is registered to participate and promote 'The Achievement Program'. This is part of Healthy Together Victoria, which aims to improve people's health where they live, learn, work and play. Healthy Together Victoria focuses on addressing the underlying causes of poor health in children's settings to strengthen Victoria's prevention system. It incorporates policies and strategies to support good health across Victoria, as well as locally led 'Healthy Together Communities'.



The Achievement Program encourages organisations to create healthier environments and adopt a holistic approach to health promotion. This includes developing a healthy physical and social environment, creating healthy policies, and providing children, young people and workers with health and wellbeing opportunities. It encourages children, students, workers, and families to be actively involved in creating healthy environments and has a focus on building and strengthening community partnerships.

Dental Health

Smiles 4 Miles is an initiative of Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) which aims to improve the oral health of children and their families in high-risk areas across Victoria. Tooth decay is Australia's most common health problem. Smiles 4 Miles assists early childhood services to encourage and promote good oral health habits and healthy eating among children in their care. Being affiliated with the Smiles for Miles program we follow the key components of Drink well, Eat well, Clean well, throughout all our Kindergarten programs.

Healthy Eating

We are committed to helping children establish healthy eating habits for life. We feel we have a responsibility to promote the healthy growth and development of children. Educators will work alongside the Kindergarten groups to educate the children on healthy eating options through cooking experiences, discussions and group activities. * Please refer to **Meals-We are a Lunchbox Centre** regarding your child's lunch box.

Food, Nutrition and Beveridge Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Meals - We are a Lunch box Centre

You will be required to provide all food and utensils that your child will require for the day.

Your child's lunchbox will be stored in the refrigerator and will be accessed at snack and mealtimes. Please ensure that you pack your child's food in a suitable lunch box that is clearly named. It is not necessary to use an insulated type lunch box and it is preferred that you use a simple plastic or tin type lunch box with divisions for snacks, sandwiches etc. Finger foods are the easiest foods for your child to eat independently and successfully throughout the day. Ensure you practise and teach your child how to open, close, store and pack their own lunch boxes over the holiday period before commencing.



Please note that we are unable to heat food for the children, so please supply food in accordance with this. You may like to use a small thermos type container for bringing in warm food over the cooler months.

We strongly encourage healthy eating, which we will discuss with children throughout the year, explaining that party food such as chips, lollies etc. are not everyday lunch box foods. Please see handouts.

Fruit is always available in our fruit bowls located in all our rooms.

Your child will also require a named drink bottle (preferably not glass) supplied with water. This is continually refilled at the Centre throughout the day, and we encourage and support all children in refilling their water bottles when needed.

Food, Nutrition and Beverage Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website

Nuts Products

The Early Learning Centre is a **NUT, EGG, AND CRUSTACEAN AWARE** service. Please refrain from bringing food containing nut, egg, or crustacean products.

Medical Conditions Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Immunisation

The Victorian Government introduced this requirement to provide an important reminder to parents/carers about immunisation as part of a continued effort to maintain high childhood immunisation rates and protect the community from vaccine-preventable diseases. To finalise enrolment for your child at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre you must provide a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) that shows your child is up-to-date with all the immunisations that are due or they are able to receive for their age.

Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre, Woodlea supports:

- Australian Government, Department of Health: No Jab, No Pay
- Victorian State Government, Health, and Human Services: No Jab, No Play

Twice a year we will request parents/carers to provide evidence of up-to-date immunisation for their attending child. We review the immunisation evidence provided to make sure it meets the requirements of the law and keep it with the child's enrolment records. In addition, a health authority may review this record in the event of a disease outbreak at the service.

We will email a reminder when this is required.

It must be noted that children will not be able to attend the ELC **without Immunisation**. An up-to-date Immunisation Statement must be supplied before commencement (Enrolment Policy). This can be obtained from your MyGov account. Please refer to our Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy located both in the Centre's foyer, and on our website, for further information in regard to Immunisation.

Families are eligible for Child Care Subsidy if their child is fully immunized

Further information is available at <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>

Immunisation and Disease Prevention Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Safety for all children

As we are sure you will agree, the safety of all of the children at our Centre is considered as of **HIGH** importance to everyone. To help all teachers keep your children safe, some things families can do to help with this include the following:

- Please inform the teachers when you drop off and pick up your child each day.
- Please do not allow any other child out of the classrooms other than your own.
- Please do not allow any child out of the front door or front gate other than your own.
- Always sign your child in and out of the Centre (Xplor).
- Always let us know if someone different will collect your child (phone call, email or using your child's diary) and provide relevant documentation/evidence

We thank you for helping us to keep our children safe at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre.

Relaxation and Rest

Kindergarten days are very busy with new learning, social negotiations to manage, problem solving to practise and many other experiences. Our Kindergarten program also offers quiet spaces so children are able to balance the need for moments of less activity and interaction which may include having a lie down listening to music, stories or participating in yoga or guided meditations. It is important that your children are also attending Kindergarten each morning well rested from the night before.

Sleep, Rest, Relaxation and Clothing Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Medication

We do not accept written or verbal authorisations to administer Over-the-Counter pain relief medication like Panadol, Nurofen, Ibuprofen, and paracetamol unless it has been prescribed by a medical practitioner or authorised verbally in an emergency as outlined in the Policy listed below. Pain relief medication may mask the symptoms of serious illnesses and our educators are not qualified medical professionals.

Educators will be able to administer medication, prescribed by the doctor, to children who are recovering from illness if a medication form has been completed and signed by parents before the prescribed medication is given. The nominated supervisor or an educator can assist you to complete the form.

Prescribed medication must be in date, in its original container with the original label, child's name and the doctor's prescribed dosage clearly labelled on the medication.

Medication must be handed to an Educator for appropriate storage. **Please DO NOT leave medication in your child's bag.**

Administration of Authorised Medication Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Medical Conditions including Asthma, Allergies and Anaphylaxis

The Service aims to provide a safe environment for children who have identified medical conditions. It is Service policy that a coloured Medical Action Plan be completed by a doctor. The Plan should include a photo of your child, state what triggers the medical condition, what first aid is needed, contact details for the doctor who signed the plan and state when the Plan should be reviewed.

This Medical Action Plan and the required medication must be provided to the Centre prior to your child's commencement. Our service will develop a Risk Minimisation Plan, in consultation with the family which is based on information in the Medical Action Plan. Parents are responsible for updating their child's Medical Action Plan or providing a new plan when necessary.

Medical Conditions Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Emergency Drills

Throughout the year, the Service will hold emergency drills which occur at any given time throughout the day. These are carried out in a well-organised and orderly manner. An emergency evacuation plan is displayed in every room. An emergency evacuation plan is displayed in every room.

Emergency Management and Evacuation Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Using the Service Safely – Road Safety

Children have difficulty judging how fast a vehicle may be travelling and how long it takes to walk from one side of the road to another. Children are the smallest road users and because of their size, they are at a significant disadvantage in the road environment. Parents can help make children safer pedestrians. Children do not fit into an adult seatbelt safely until they are approximately 145 cm tall or can pass the 5 step test. (see the Australian Government Guidelines) This is the average height of a 10 to 12 year old child. There are now booster seats available that will fit an average 12 year old.

Never leave children unattended in cars while collecting children from the Service. Car parks are dangerous places for children. Always hold children's hands when arriving and leaving the Service.

All cyclists and scooter riders in Victoria and their passengers are required by law to wear bicycle helmets that meet the current Australian Standards when riding in public places such as roads, bicycle paths, recreational parks and car parks. Children must wear helmets when using any wheeled toy such as skateboards, rollerblades, roller skates etc.

Remember that as a parent of the Bacchus Marsh Grammar ELC, you represent the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Values, and this extends to our carpark grounds and arrival and departure times. We share our community's concern and urge you to consider your child's safety and the safety of others when you are dropping off and picking up your children from the Early Learning Centre and Woodlea School Campus.

<https://ela.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RSE-Parent-Resource.pdf>

Transport Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website



Sun Protection Policy –SunSmart

The Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre, Woodlea works in alignment with their Sun Protection Policy (Physical Environment) which uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from September to the end of April and whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 and above. As an accredited SunSmart Kindergarten, we are committed to protecting the children and adults attending the services from the harmful effects caused by too much exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. We provide SPF50+ sunscreen at the Centre for your child. However, if your child requires their own sunscreen please ensure you fill in a form at the office.

In partnership with families, we believe we have a role to play in establishing healthy sun protection behaviours for life.



Some of these measures include:

- Children playing in shaded areas wherever possible.
- Children and teachers wearing sun safe hats, clothing, and SPF 50+ sunscreen.

Physical Environment Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Hygiene

To avoid the spread of infection, we ask that all children wash their hands using soap upon arrival at the Centre. Teachers will encourage further hand washing throughout the day, including all times prior to eating and after playing outside. Educators encourage children to develop autonomy with regards to personal hygiene. Educators will ensure that:

- Appropriate hand washing is modelled;
- Hand washing is supervised on arrival, after toileting, before eating, after messy play, outdoor play, and handling animals;
- Appropriate 'social hygiene' is modelled in relation to coughing and sneezing (i.e., covering mouth when coughing and use of disposable tissues);
- Each child has their own drink bottle or cup at snack/lunch time;
- Tables are washed before and after food is served; and
- Cleaners are employed to clean the bathrooms and floors etc, daily.

Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

No smoking

A reminder that it is illegal to smoke or vape whilst on the ELC and school grounds and within 4 metres of a school entrance.

Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol Policy is available at the Centre and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Illnesses

Please consider other children and keep your sick child at home where they will be more comfortable. This ensures a healthy environment for us all. Children find it difficult to cope when they are feeling unwell and tired. A home environment is the best place until they feel better. Children with contagious illnesses must be kept at home and a doctor's certificate presented when the child returns confirming the infection is no longer contagious

If your child becomes unwell whilst at our Centre, staff will contact parents with their concerns and will require the child to be collected if they display symptoms as per the Table of Symptoms, if they are unable to cope with the daily routine or present a risk of cross infection.

If a family member has an infectious disease, please let us know and consult our Infectious Diseases information in the front foyer for exclusion periods.

A Table of Symptoms for the most common childhood illnesses is available in our foyer and specifies how long a child must be excluded from care. Symptoms include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Diarrhoea • Vomiting • Conjunctivitis • School sores • Cold sores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Lice • Rashes • Spots • Swelling • Weeping sores • Nose/Ears discharge

Infectious Disease Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.



Child Safe Principles

Child Safe

Bacchus Marsh Grammar is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse and demonstrates this commitment through the implementation of a comprehensive Child Safe Program designed to keep children safe and endorsed by the Schools' governing body. We are clear about our behavioural expectations of every person in our community. Staff are mandated to report any concerns regarding child safety which include family violence. *Child Protection and Child Safe Policies are available in detail at the Centre and on the website.*

"All children have the right to learn, grow and develop in an environment that is free of harm. We all have a responsibility to ensure that this environment for children, whether within the school or outside of it, is safe and secure... Bacchus Marsh Grammar takes its obligations to protect the children in its care with the utmost seriousness". Statement by Andrew Neal, Principal BMG

Child Safe Standards

We are committed to being a child safe, child friendly and child empowering organisation. In everything we do we seek to protect children. We listen and respond if harm or abuse occurs and remain open, honest, and transparent about any failings.

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, Early Learning Centre, Woodlea, we comply with the Victorian [Child Safe Standards](#). The standards are a minimum set of requirements for organisations providing services to children in Victoria. This ensures that the safety of children is promoted, child abuse is prevented, and allegations of child abuse are properly responded to.

There are 11 Child Safe Standards:

[Standard 1: Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued](#)

[Standard 2: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture](#)

[Standard 3: Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously](#)

[Standard 4: Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing](#)

[Standard 5: Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice](#)

[Standard 6: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice](#)

[Standard 7: Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused](#)

[Standard 8: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training](#)

[Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed](#)

[Standard 10: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved](#)

[Standard 11: Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.](#)

Further information on the child safety standards can be found at the [Commission of Children and Young People](#).

There is zero tolerance of any form of child abuse or maltreatment. Any suspected abuse or maltreatment must be reported both internally and to external authorities including Child Protection and Child first.

*If you have concerns that a child is at risk of significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect, please contact child protection on **Ph: 1300 664 977**.*





Operational Information

Drop off and Collections

It is a legal requirement that children are signed in and out of the Centre each day by an adult 18 years and above. This will occur through our electronic management system, Xplor. The App will allow you to scan the QR code on the iPad on entry/exit to our service. Please ensure staff know of your arrival and departure each day.

Delivery & Collection of Children Policy is available at the Centre and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website



Xplor

Everything in one place. Xplor was designed to be easy to understand.

Xplor is the world's most advanced education platform, and it is changing everything we thought we knew. It comes with a collection of features that let you do the everyday things, and the not-so-everyday things, in ways that are intuitive, simple and fun.

An email will be sent to you with instructions for passwords prior to your child's commencement. Please visit <https://support.ourxplor.com/hc/en-us/articles/900000777683-New-Parent-Guardian-Set-Up->

This quick start guide is designed to introduce you to the primary functions found around the Xplor mobile app.

This email (from the centre) will also have instructions on how to approve a CWA so that your CCS (If applicable) can be paid.

Accounts

All accounts will be direct debited weekly on a Thursday. You will be sent instructions on how to set up an Auto Debit through Xplor in January.

Account Statements can be accessed by the primary carer through the Xplor App.

Accounts are paid one week in arrears.

Fees & Debt Collection Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Policies and Risk Assessments

All our Policies and Risk Assessments can be viewed and we are happy to help you locate them, in the foyer of our Centre. Several of our policies are also on our website. All policies and Risk Assessments are reviewed throughout the course of the year and families are invited to assist in the review of our policies.

Fees

- Fees are invoiced in one week in arrears;
- Payment must be Direct Debit via Xplor and processed weekly;
- CWA (through Xplor) must be agreed on before CCS can be applied. This is completed within the first week of enrolment;
- Late collection fees do apply;
- Any leave beyond 8 weeks will result in immediate withdrawal of your position at the Centre; and
- One month's notice is required for withdrawal.

Program Fee Remission during Holidays

A 25% remission on the daily fee will be available for each child not attending the Centre due to family holidays up to a maximum of four weeks' remission for full time enrolments only. Any leave beyond the 4 weeks and up to 8 weeks will be charged at the full service rates less Child Care Subsidy, if applicable. The discount is available for one period of continuous leave per year. Parents/guardians are required to provide a minimum of four weeks' notice of the intention to take holidays in writing to the ELC Director.

Please see the 2024 Fee Schedule – 1st January 2024 for more details

Fees & Debt Collection Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website

Child Care Subsidy

Child Care Subsidy is available to all families who are Australian Residents if the child meets immunisation requirements and parents meet eligibility requirements. Entitlement is determined by an activity test which determines the number of hours of subsidised care to which families are entitled. Combined family income is used to determine the subsidy percentage. Income thresholds change each financial year. Current thresholds are available from the Department of Human Services website. See servicesaustralia.gov.au. See 'Activity Level and Subsidised Care.'

<i>Hours of activity per fortnight</i>	<i>Maximum number of hours of subsidy per fortnight</i>
8 hours to 16 hours	36 hours
More than 16 hours to 48 hours	72 hours
More than 48 hours	100 hours

A broad range of activities meet the activity test requirements including paid work, self-employment, unpaid work in a family business, active job hunting, volunteering, or studying. You can also include reasonable travel time to and from a place of activity to the centre. In two parent families, both parents must meet the activity test, and subsidy hours are calculated on the lower number where parents have different levels of activity.

There are exemptions for parents who legitimately cannot meet the activity test requirements.

Low-income families who do not meet the activity test can access 24 hours of subsidised care per fortnight under the Child Care Safety Net. Families who do not meet the activity test, but have a preschool-age child attending preschool, are eligible for 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight.

People with disability or impairment, including those who receive Disability Support Pension or an invalidity service pension or who have been diagnosed by a registered medical practitioner or clinical psychologist as impaired to a significant degree may be exempt from the activity test.

Families who need more than their available hours of subsidised care per fortnight due to exceptional circumstances can also apply to Centrelink for additional hours.

The Additional Child Care Subsidy may be available to help support:

- families needing help to support their children's safety and wellbeing;
- grandparents on income support who are primary child-carers;
- families in temporary financial hardship; and
- families moving to work from income support.

Families can claim Child Care Subsidy or Additional Child Care Subsidy online by signing into their myGov and completing a claim. If eligible, the Subsidy will be paid directly to the service on the families' behalf, and we will reduce the fees owed. This can occur after our service enters the families' enrolment information online, and families confirm their enrolment information through their myGov account. Until Child Care Subsidy details are available, families will need to pay full fees.

Families are entitled to receive Child Care Subsidy for up to 42 days if their child is absent, for example due to illness, public holidays, local emergencies and parental leave. Evidence to support these absences is not required. Additional absence days may be available if they meet the situations outlines in the Family Assistance Law and there is evidence to support these.

Child Care Subsidy might not be paid by the Government in certain situations and families will be required to pay full fees for the period involved. These include:

- non-attendance for 14 weeks in a row;
- for any days before a child attends the service for the first time; and
- for any days in the final attendance period after a child last physically attends the service.

Fees & Debt Collection Policy is available in the Centre foyer and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

Absences

Please notify us by telephone 5366 4999 or via the Xplor app if your child/children will be absent for the day.

Miscellaneous Charges - Medical

In the event of an accident or illness, the Centre may authorise medical, surgical or other treatment considered necessary by a qualified medical practitioner. Parents will be responsible for all medical, ambulance and associated expenses incurred.

Feedback, concerns, or complaints

If at any time you have feedback regarding the program or your child's development, these can be discussed with their Kindergarten Teacher or Educational Leader. Concerns can also be raised with the Director. In addition, you can provide feedback via the 'Contact Us' page on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.

You may also contact the Department of Education regarding concerns relating to the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* and the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2012*

Grievance Policy is available at the Centre and on the Bacchus Marsh Grammar website.





Bacchus Marsh Grammar

Early Learning Centre

PO Box 214
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Maddingley Campus

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Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

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F +61 3 5366 4850

Woodlea Campus

111 Frontier Avenue
Aintree VIC 3336

P +61 3 5366 4900

F +61 3 5366 4950

Early Learning Centre

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