



Canberra Girls Grammar School

Early Learning Centre

Frequently Asked Questions

How old does my child have to be to attend?

The ELC caters for children from three to five years of age, in two separate year levels.

Reception is our first entry year, offering an educational program for children who are 3–4 years of age. To be eligible for entry, children must turn 3 by 30 April in the year in which they commence Reception. Children who have turned 3 by 31 January will commence at the beginning of the school year. For those who turn 3 in February, March and April, individual arrangements are made for the child to commence after their 3rd birthday.

Children who turn 3 after 30 April will be eligible for intake in the following year.

Pre-Prep is the second year offered in the ELC, providing an educational program for children who are 4–5 years old. To be eligible for entry, children must turn 4 by 30 April in the year in which they commence Pre-Prep.

What are my options in terms of days of attendance?

The Reception program is offered in full-time and part-time mode. Children can attend five days a week, or two days per week (set as Thursday and Friday).

The Pre-Prep program is offered in full-time and part-time mode. Children can attend five days a week, or three days per week (set as Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).

What are the requirements for entry?

All children must be fully toilet trained, and independent in their toileting, before commencing at the ELC.

Are there boys in the ELC?

Yes. The ELC is co-educational.

What are the hours of operation?

The educational programs for the Reception and Pre-Prep classes operate from 9.00am to 3.00pm during school terms.

For those needing extended hours of care, a Before School Care and After School Care program is available, providing care from 8.00am–9.00am and 3.00pm–6.00pm. Bookings are required for these additional programs.



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During school holidays, the ELC offers a Holiday Program which operates from 8.00am–6.00pm.

The ELC closes for a period of 3 weeks during late December and early January.

Is the ELC eligible for child care subsidy?

Yes. All components of the ELC program are eligible for CCS: Before School Care, the core program, After School Care and the Holiday Program.

Is food provided?

Families need to provide morning tea and lunch for their child each day. A snack is provided in After School Care for those children who attend.

Lunch orders are available from the Junior School canteen.

Do children in the ELC wear a uniform?

Yes. Boys and girls in the ELC wear a uniform which is practical, comfortable and flexible to meet the needs of their daily activities. The uniform is uni-sex, consisting of: red or navy shorts, navy or green polo shirt, navy trackpants, a striped rugby jumper. Fleece jackets, windproof coats and beanies are also available to cater for the cold weather. A navy, broad brimmed hat is worn when children are outdoors. Footwear consists of velcro fastened running shoes, of any colour. All items are available from the School Uniform Shop, located at the Senior School campus.

How big are the classes in the ELC?

ELC classes have a maximum of 22 students.

How is the staffing arranged?

CGGS believes inherently in the value of high quality early childhood education. Accordingly, the ELC classes are staffed with individuals possessing specialist early childhood qualifications. Each class in the ELC has a University trained early childhood teacher and Diploma trained co-educator. These staff members provide a sense of consistency and continuity of learning for the students in their class,

and this stable staffing facilitates strong, positive relationships to be formed.

What connections do the ELC children have with the Junior School?

ELC students benefit from the presence of specialist staff and facilities at the Junior School, particularly our Junior School Specialist Music Teacher, Teacher Librarian, French Teacher and PE Teacher.

Specialist opportunities are as follows:

- **All Reception:** weekly music and Love of Literacy sessions.
- **All Pre-Prep:** weekly music and library sessions, fortnightly Gross Motor Program, buddy classes with Year 4 girls, introduction to French (Semester 2).

Do the ELC children go on excursions?

Yes. We are fortunate to have many wonderful resources available to us in Canberra, and we endeavour to make good use of these as learning experiences with the children in the ELC. Excursions are utilised to expand and extend upon learning occurring within the ELC as part of the units of inquiry. Visits to the National Arboretum, National Gallery, National Museum and Botanic Gardens are common, with other destinations included as relevant. A variety of school based “incursions” are also incorporated into the program, with visits from guest speakers, parents, and other agencies such as Questacon and local storytellers.

What is the “curriculum” like in the ELC?

The ELC offers a play-based curriculum, informed by the Early Years Learning Framework, in conjunction with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. Children engage in a range of purposeful play experiences that provide them with opportunities to develop important skills both in the developmental domains (fine motor, gross motor, language, social, cognitive etc) and as active learners (building curiosity, inquiry, research, self-management and communication skills). A focus on developing strong foundations in literacy and STEM is embedded throughout the program.