

4YO ELC enrolment policy

introduction

Ballarat Clarendon College (the **College**) is implementing this Enrolment Policy (**Policy**) to ensure that all applications for student enrolment are treated fairly and equitably and to outline various fees, costs and conditions of attendance associated with the enrolment of students within the **Early Learning Centre (ELC)**.

The College's ELC:

- is an approved education and care service (within the meaning of the Education and Care Services National Law (Victoria))
- provides education and care to 3 and 4-Year-Old in the form of a Kindergarten program
- the service is not-for-profit
- the ELC is a feeder for enrolments to the school.

policy

The College endeavours to maintain an open-entry policy for students in the Early Learning Centre. Students are considered for enrolment regardless of background and abilities. No entry tests are required. However, all enrolments remain at the College's discretion.

Generally, students are accepted into the College in strict order of the date of their registration. However, the order of acceptance may be influenced by the accommodation of a family member of staff, whether the student is a child of Old Collegians and/or a sibling of students already attending the College.

The College is committed to provide an opportunity for all children to become members of the school community, regardless of their religion, ethnic or social background, abilities and interests.

age of eligible children

Your child must be four years of age by 30 April in the year of attendance at 4-Year-Old Kindergarten (4YO). This is consistent with the legislated requirement for children to be at least 5 years of age by 30 April in the year they first attend Prep. However, we encourage students to be older for the school year to give them the very best start, not only in Early Learning but throughout their school lives. We encourage Parent(s)/Guardian(s) with children turning four between January and April to consider delaying entry into kindergarten. As part of the enrolment process for the ELC, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and children will be required to attend an interview prior to the place being confirmed.

All children in 4-Year-Old Kindergarten will be expected to transition to school in the following year.

type of model

In 2022, the Early Learning Centre offers four and five day sessional 4-Year-Old Kindergarten programs. Sessions begin promptly at 8.30am and finish at 3.15 pm.

educational services provided

In accordance with the College's registration, the ELC provides educational services to children aged 3 and 4 years of age.

In the ELC, the focus is on the development of the whole child, and the teaching and learning philosophy is founded on the belief that a holistic and inclusive approach to education is essential.

Children are engaged in a play-based curriculum which evolves from their interests and their next steps in learning. Both indoor and outdoor activities and experiences are carefully planned to enable each child to work towards their next steps in learning.

The teaching and learning philosophy, derived from progressive educational theorists, is founded on the belief that a holistic and inclusive approach to education is essential. Decision making is underpinned by evidenced-based principles and practices; the enquiry-based activities that are planned and sequenced, the way the learning spaces are organised and materials selected, are designed to allow each child to learn at their own pace and in ways that are best for them. Each opportunity or experience that is planned for the child targets their developmental needs while also focussing on curriculum areas such as literacy, numeracy, science, music, drama, art, the environment and sustainability.

priority of access

The Early Learning Centre adheres to the requirements of the Department of Education and Training's Priority of Access requirements. In instances where more eligible children apply for a place at a kindergarten service than there are places available, the service must prioritise children based on the following criteria:

- children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care;
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children;
- asylum seeker and refugee children;
- children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy;
- children with additional needs, defined as children who:
 - require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the kindergarten program;
 - require a combination of services which are individually planned;
 - have an identified specific disability or developmental delay.

early start kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten grant for children known to Child Protection Service providers can apply if the child is three years old by 30 April in the year in which they are enrolled to attend the funded kindergarten program, and the child is known to Child Protection. Enrolments are accepted if a place is available, ratios are maintained and enrolments are within our approved number of places of the service.

waitlist information

Students are accepted into the ELC if a place is available, ratios are maintained and enrolments are within our approved number of places of the service.

Should there be no places available, students may be placed on a wait list. Should a place become available, students will be prioritised based on the order of the date of their registration. However, the order of acceptance may be influenced by the Department of Education and Training's (**DET**) Priority of Access Policy, the accommodation of a family member of staff, whether the student is a child of Old Collegians and/or a sibling of students already attending the College.

early entry to kindergarten

Early entry to kindergarten may be appropriate for some gifted children where families are seeking an early entry to school for their child. However, it is important to note that most children who enrol early in kindergarten are not accepted for early entry into school, and the decision regarding early entry should be discussed with parents and take into account the following:

- Children are not guaranteed early school entry as a result of being enrolled to attend kindergarten early.
- Early entry to school requires a formal cognitive assessment that can only be undertaken once the child has turned four years of age and where the cost is met by parents. A child must be assessed as exceptionally gifted (WPPSI-IV results of at least 130 FSIQ) and considered at risk of long-term educational disadvantage if they do not commence school.
- Applications for early entry to school are usually not determined until Term 4 of the year prior to the requested early entry to school.
- Children are eligible for only one year of funded kindergarten, so careful consideration should be made as to which year families enrol their child in kindergarten.

late entry and exemption from school

Children who turn six at any time during the kindergarten year, including children attending a second year of funded kindergarten, must be exempted from attending school. Parents should be advised to apply for an exemption before the child starts kindergarten by submitting an 'Exemption from School due to Attendance in Kindergarten Program' form to the appropriate Departmental Regional Office by 1 November in the year prior to the child turning six.

In this instance, the Head of Admissions and Head of ELC must:

- sight the approved exemption form; and
- note that it has been sighted on the child's enrolment record for later reporting through the annual confirmation process.

no jab, no play legislation

Following the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, all Parent(s)/Guardian(s) seeking to enrol their child in the ELC at Clarendon will be required to provide evidence that the child is:

- fully immunised for their age; OR
- on a vaccination catch-up program; OR
- unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

Please note that 'conscientious objection' will not be an exemption.

The College reserves its right to exclude a student in certain circumstances if the student is not appropriately immunised.

operating hours and closures

4YO Program Wombats – Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 8.30 to 3.15

4YO Program Kookaburras – Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri 8.30 to 3.15

4YO Program Echidnas – Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Friday 8.30 to 3.15

All closures for term breaks follow the Victorian School holiday dates with an addition of one week prior to the September school holiday dates and end of year finishes on 10 December. As our program runs well beyond the funded 15 hours each week for the duration of the year, no additional time is scheduled to make up for these closures.

health and medical information

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must provide frank and detailed information about their child's health and educational needs and educational progress at enrolment. If the child has special needs, these can then be discussed at an interview with the Head of ELC and, if necessary, the Head of Progress Support. Details of any educational assessments that have been made by professionals such as educational psychologists or speech pathologists, for example, should be provided with the 'Application for Registration' form. Any students with Anaphylaxis and/or Asthma cannot attend school unless they have completed an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan or provided an Asthma Action Plan, as detailed in the Clarendon Anaphylaxis and Asthma Management Policies. It is important that any information about other serious health conditions which may require specific management plans, such as diabetes, allergies or epilepsy is also disclosed.

During the period that the child is enrolled at the College, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must, as soon as practicable, bring to the College's attention in writing, with appropriate documentation, any new medical conditions, physical impairments, mental impairments or other conditions affecting the child that may impact upon the College's ability to properly care for the child and to enable consideration of reasonable adjustments to services and/or facilities that may be required.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) authorise the College to:

- a) obtain or provide such emergency or urgent medical treatment for the child should such action be deemed necessary by the College or College staff; and
- b) obtain any medical treatment for the child considered appropriate by the College or College staff in the circumstances where the child suffers from an injury or illness.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) accept responsibility for any expenses incurred on behalf of the College or the Student arising from such emergency or urgent medical treatment. Further, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that any subsequent medical consent requested on an individual excursion form, or otherwise, exists to expedite the accessibility of medical attention and in no way diminishes the nature and scope of this consent.

other information

All personal details provided regarding registration and/or enrolment will be treated in accordance with the College's Privacy Policy.

It is assumed that students will automatically continue their education at the College from year-to-year unless otherwise advised; however, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be required to complete an online re-enrolment form every year. These forms are essential in confirming the student's place and confirming medical details for the following year. Students will not be permitted to recommence until the online enrolment process is complete.

Enrolment may not be possible:

- if the child's enrolment at the College requires special services, facilities or resources which cannot reasonably be made available by the College;
- if the child, or other students, are placed at physical or emotional risk by the enrolment of the child;
- where the Head of Early Learning believes that participation in classes will not further benefit the child or will significantly restrict the education of other students.

The College reserves the right to make the final decision on all place offers and enrolments.

The Agreement of Ballarat Clarendon College meets all the requirements of the DET policies.

parent / guardian conduct

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are required to support the values of the College and agree to comply with the College's rules, procedures and policies, as varied from time to time.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree to participate appropriately in the child's early learning education and the College's activities.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will treat other Parent(s)/Guardian(s), students and College staff with fairness, courtesy and respect at all times, including on social media. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will not act in such a manner which would damage the reputation of the College, bring it into disrepute or which would reasonably cause other Parent(s)/Guardian(s), Students or College staff to be offended, humiliated, afraid or intimidated.

If the Principal believes that:

- a) the mutually beneficial relationship of trust and cooperation between the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and the College, or between the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and College staff or other Parent(s)/Guardian(s), has broken down to the extent that it adversely impacts on the Parent(s)/Guardian(s)' relationship with the College; or
- b) the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have failed to comply with any of the College's rules, policies or procedures (including the Agreement and associated documents),

The Principal in their absolute discretion may cancel the child's enrolment, together with any other child or children, that the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have enrolled at the College and require the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) to remove the child from the College. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be required to pay the notice period fees as per the 'enrolment withdrawal' of the Agreement.

family court orders / separated parents / parenting plans

Existing sealed Family Law Court orders or parenting plans for separated / divorced Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must be provided to the Head of ELC upon enrolment and again during the enrolment period for any changed circumstances thereby enabling the College to understand any

obligations imposed in relation to the information that can be provided to separated parents, such as excursion permissions or school photos.

The Head of ELC will determine whether the child's other teachers should be aware of any existing Court Order or parenting plan.

Changed Circumstances

If there is a change in legal guardianship or care for the child, the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will immediately supply the Head of ELC with new or amended Family Court Orders / parenting plans when and if they come into existence at any time whilst the child is enrolled in the ELC, in addition to written consent from any other Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the child, confirming the status of the child's enrolment. The College requires copies of relevant orders / plans to ensure that it can continue to meet the child's educational and welfare needs.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will advise the College immediately of any change in their family circumstances that might impact the relationship between the family and the College.

The Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the child will indemnify the College against any legal liability which may ensue from a misrepresentation under, or any breach of, this section by the Parent(s)/Guardian(s).

New Separation and the Agreement

Upon separation of Parent(s)/Guardian(s), the original Agreement remains binding. However, either Parent/Guardian may, subject to the required notice provisions, withdraw their support in writing, which terminates the original Agreement. In the event of this happening, a new Agreement reflecting the change will be required.

Whilst the College must remain objective in such cases, the legal requirement means that without a new Agreement, the child would be required to leave the ELC.

Correspondence with Separated Parents

Generally the College will provide information concerning a child's education to Parent(s)/Guardian(s) by delivering them by email or through the Clarendon app.

The College will, irrespective of financial responsibility for tuition fees, send both separated Parent(s)/Guardian(s) copies of school reports and other school information unless an order has been made restricting parental responsibility or access. Similarly, both Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will have access to teachers to discuss their children's progress unless there are Court Orders restricting access or parental responsibility.

Access and Involvement

Unless the College is supplied with a sealed Court order or written authorisation signed by both Parent(s)/Guardian(s) which provides otherwise, the College will proceed and act on the basis that each of the child's Parent(s)/Guardian(s) has equal rights and responsibilities in relation to the child. Therefore, in the absence of a Court Order, generally either Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may pick up their child at the end of the day. Similarly, either Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may pick up their child during ELC hours, upon providing sufficient reasons to the College and after following proper sign out procedures.

The Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will at all times act in accordance with any relevant Court orders in their dealings with the College.

child protection and safety

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree to assist the College in discharging its obligations under the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic) by participating in any investigations in relation to allegations of 'reportable conduct' or taking any other steps to assist the College with its child safety statutory obligations, if requested to do so by the College or a regulatory authority.

enrolment withdrawal

A term's notice in writing must be received by the Principal before a student leaves; otherwise a penalty of up to half an instalment's fees may be levied. Notice of Withdrawal ideally should include the reason for withdrawal. Notice of Withdrawal will in all cases be acknowledged in writing; if Parent(s)/Guardian(s) do not receive acknowledgement within 21 days they should contact the College.

Period of Notice refund

Assuming the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have provided the required period of notice, the College will generally refund all overpaid tuition fees when a student leaves the school, subject to all financial commitments having been settled and the required notice of withdrawal being given. This does not include the Confirmation Deposit.

termination of the 4YO enrolment agreement

The Agreement will terminate when a party to the Agreement terminates the child's enrolment with the ELC, or at the child's completion of 4-Year-Old ELC, whichever comes first.

The College may terminate the Agreement if:

- a) the College withdraws the enrolment of the child from the ELC;
- b) the College decides at the end of a school year that the College does not wish to continue the Agreement for the following school year for any reason;
- c) in the sole discretion of the Principal, mutual trust and co-operation between the College, child and the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) breaks down;
- d) the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or Student are in breach of the Agreement or any of the policies referred to therein, including the Respectful Behaviour Policy, and they fail to remedy the breach within a reasonable time after written notice from the College requiring them to do so. Non-compliance with the Agreement terms and conditions or the College's policies and procedures will be considered a breach.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may terminate the Agreement at any time, for any reason, with one full terms' notice to the College in writing to the Principal. Legal Guardian(s)/ Parent(s) may also terminate the Agreement when:

- a) the College is in breach of the Agreement and the College fails to remedy the breach within a reasonable time after written notice from Legal Guardian(s)/ Parent(s) requiring the College to do so.

insurance

- Clarendon does not have a 'no fault' policy of insurance which covers students who may hurt themselves. Students are thus not automatically covered by an Accident Insurance Policy which provides cover for injuries pupils might sustain at school, at sport, at camp or on school excursions. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are therefore strongly advised to make their own arrangements and to have in place suitable health insurance cover.

enrolment fees

Registration Fee

- A Registration Fee for new students must accompany each 'Application for Registration
- The Registration Fee is not refundable and not transferable.
- Payment of the Registration Fee does not guarantee the offer of a place in the school for the child.

Confirmation Deposit

- A Confirmation Deposit is payable for each child upon acceptance of the College's Letter of Offer.
- The Confirmation Deposit is not transferable between children and is not refundable.
- No refund of the Confirmation Deposit will be made if the child does not attend the College in the Year of Offer.
- When enrolment proceeds in the Year of Offer, the Confirmation Deposit will be allocated as set out in the current Domestic Fee Notice (annual review August/September).

- In the event of unforeseen circumstances, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may make written application to the Principal to amend the Year of Offer. The Principal may agree to such an amendment, and apply the Confirmation Deposit to the second term for the revised Year of Offer, in their absolute discretion.

tuition fees

Payment of Fees

- A student is admitted to the College on the understanding that fees are payable in advance.
- Acceptance of an offer of enrolment invokes binding obligations set out in the College's Enrolment and Re-Enrolment Terms and Conditions. By accepting an offer of enrolment, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree to be jointly and severally liable for the payment of all Fees and Charges in accordance with the Terms and will comply with all other obligations under the Terms.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree that this arrangement continues, irrespective of any changes to the relationship between co-signatories or any Court Order between Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or any child support arrangements or any other arrangements between Parent(s)/Guardian(s). Any requests to vary this joint and several liability must be provided in writing by the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) to the College and any decisions made to vary the liability will be at the sole discretion of the Principal.
- The tuition fees are annual fees and are scaled according to year level. Although an annual fee, the tuition fees are issued in four instalments for convenience for the Early Learning Students. The instalments are issued on 30 days terms and issues dates are set out in the fee notice.
- All costs associated with enrolment at the College are outlined in the Domestic Fee notice for the respective year.
- Incidental expenses are billed in arrears and are due for payment when billed.
- The College offers a range of flexible fee-paying alternatives including cash, EFTPOS, cheque, AMEX, Mastercard, Visa, BPay, pay by web and direct debit.
- All payments being made in person are to be directed to the Front Reception at the Sturt Street campus only.
- Fees and charges levied by the College directly related to the provision of an 'approved course of education' are exempt from GST. Other incidental charges may attract GST.
- A discount may be available upon payment of a full year of tuition prior to the commencement of that year at the College's absolute discretion.
- Annual fees and any changes are advised through the Domestic Fee Notice.
- Fees are subject to alteration by the College from time-to-time, usually annually, to cover increased costs. Notice of such alterations will be given in advance, where possible.

Performing Arts – Individual/Group Lessons

- Performing Arts Tuition fees and other incidental lesson charges, including instrument hire, are invoiced in advance to the school fee account. The fees are levied at the commencement of each term and due and payable in accordance with the College's 30-day terms. Refer to the Performing Arts application form and conditions for the schedule of fees.
- Enrolment in Performing Arts lessons is upon acceptance by the College of a completed Performing Arts lessons application. Applications are available via Connect and the PAC Office.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be charged for all scheduled lessons for the term and 48-hours' notice must be given directly to the instrument teacher in order to reschedule a lesson.
- A limited number and type of instruments may be hired through the College on a yearly basis. A credit card authority must also be received by the College prior to receipt of the instrument.
- Any costs associated with loss and/or damage to hired instruments will be charged to the credit card. Other instruments are generally available for hire from external providers.
- Discontinuation of lessons must be provided in writing by the last day of the current term for the following term to the instrument teacher and the Head of Music. Notice given during the term will obligate the student to continue lessons for the remainder of the term. Lessons charges will apply. It would be appreciated if Parent(s)/Guardian(s) could liaise with the instrument teacher regarding intention to discontinue lessons prior to submitting a formal discontinuation.

Incidental / Additional Costs

- Other costs that may be incurred include, but not limited to, support strapping for sporting events, book room/stationery costs, special excursions/functions, student-caused damage to College property and student-caused false fire alarms. These costs will be charged to the tuition fee account.

Use of Fees

Fees collected by the College for those enrolled in the ELC may be used to support the operation of the ELC. Further, a proportion of the fees collected for those enrolled in the College (Prep to Year 12) may be used to support the operation of the ELC.

Unpaid Fees

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that the Principal is authorised by the College to take such steps as they consider necessary, including legal proceedings, on behalf of the College to recover any unpaid tuition fees or incidental / additional costs (**Fees**). Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree that they will be jointly and severally responsible for any costs incurred by the College in recovering any outstanding Fees, including any legal costs or agent's fees.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that personal information and details of any outstanding Fees may be disclosed to outside agencies for debt collection activities should Parent(s)/Guardian(s) fail to pay the Fees relating to their child's attendance at the ELC.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that the College reserves the right, which may be exercised at any time, to refuse to allow their child to continue their education at the ELC, and to cancel their enrolment, while any Fees remain unpaid. Only in exceptional circumstances, at the sole discretion of the College, will a child be allowed to enter a new term at the ELC if any Fees are unpaid.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) undertake to immediately notify the College of any changes that may affect any matters in relation to their child's enrolment, and this section of the Agreement, including but not limited to sibling enrolment, change of bank accounts, change of payment method, etc.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that any agreement or act by the College not to strictly enforce the terms under the Agreement in relation to Fees does not constitute a waiver of its rights to require the child to be withdrawn from the ELC and to cancel the child's enrolment.
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) experiencing difficulties in paying their account should contact the College to discuss their situation and make alternative payment arrangements before the due date for payment.

fee concessions (domestic students only)

Sibling Discounts – Tuition Fees

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may be entitled to a discount on the tuition fees charged in relation to sibling(s) of a current student attending the College concurrently, as set out in the College's Domestic Fee Notice.
- Please note that these rates of discount apply to the full annual Tuition Fee and are credited at the time each quarterly instalment fee is charged.
- Siblings are defined as students who share one or more of the same Parent(s)/Guardian(s) through birth, adoption and or long-term guardianship.

Clergy Discounts

- A clergy discount is available for full-time practising clergy of Uniting Church faith. A clergy discount may be available for other faiths whom practice full-time at the discretion of the College.

Financial Hardship

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who may be experiencing financial hardship should contact the Business Manager - Finance to discuss possible payment solutions.

funding

At the beginning of the kindergarten year, the College will provide families with written confirmation that they are receiving a funded kindergarten program.

Second Year Funded 4YO Kindergarten Eligibility

A funded second year of kindergarten may be considered for children in the 4-Year-Old program who are delayed in their development and meet the criteria under exceptional circumstances. For children who do meet the criteria and following discussions with parents, the College will apply to the DET for a second year of funding on the family's behalf and the outcome advised.

School Readiness Funding

Upon enrolment, as a requirement of DET, the College will collect information regarding parent education and occupation. This data is shared via the Kindergarten Information Management System (**KIMS**) and contributes to a needs-based funding allocation to build the capacity of kindergarten services, educators and families to support children's learning and development outcomes.

The College may receive funding based on the level of need of the children enrolled. The needs basis funding is determined by the Department of Education and Training from the collection of student and parental occupation and education data (**SFOE**) as noted.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS)

Our early learning Centre is not eligible to receive the Kindergarten fee subsidy. Eligible families are able to access no or low cost 4-Year-Old Kindergarten services through other local providers.

transition learning and development statements

The College will provide a Transition Learning and Development Statement (**TLDS**) for every child transitioning to school to families and their chosen school. Should you not wish the TLDS to be shared with your child's school please discuss with the Head of the Early Learning Centre.

general

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) agree that if they provide any misleading or inaccurate information in the application process, or in any other documentation provided to the College, the College may refuse to enrol the Student or may suspend or terminate the child's enrolment at the ELC.
- The Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Victoria and all parties agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Victoria.
- The Agreement may be unilaterally amended by the College on the provision of six (6) months written notice to the Parent(s)/Guardian(s).

college policies

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who wish to enrol their children at the College do so on the condition that they read and understand all the College's policies and Enrolment Terms and Conditions.
- These policies may be amended from time to time and are available via the connect@clarendon intranet.

Supporting Documentation:

Application for Registration form
Anaphylaxis Management Policy
Asthma Management Policy
Enrolment and Re-enrolment Terms and Conditions
Domestic Fee Notice
College Rules
Privacy Policy
Respectful Behaviour Policy
Performing Arts lessons application

Owner: Principal	Approved: Board	4YO ELC Enrolment Policy
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