



JUNIOR SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome to the Junior School at Corio Campus

Geelong Grammar School's new Junior School offers a rich, inquiry-driven education in an expansive nature-based setting, featuring purpose-built learning spaces and exceptional staff. Learning is structured within the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) framework, which provides a transdisciplinary, concept-driven approach to delivering the Australian Curriculum. Through inquiry, students develop curiosity, independence and critical thinking, while making meaningful connections across subjects and applying their learning in relevant, real-life situations. Beyond core academics, students will engage in a diverse range of learning experiences, including music, drama, language, visual arts, sports, leadership and community-based activities, supporting holistic, whole-child development. Being located on Corio Campus provides students and families with access to world-class facilities, strengthening learning opportunities and supporting a seamless transition into Middle School and Senior School.

Educational Approach & Experience

1. How will the nature-based environment support academic excellence and student learning?

The Junior School's nature-based environment, combined with the PYP, will provide a strong foundation for rigorous, inquiry-driven learning and deep, authentic understanding. Students will actively construct knowledge by engaging with the natural world rather than solely receiving information through exploring subjects in isolation.

Research has shown that nature-based learning enhances student engagement, strengthens problem-solving skills and improves cognitive development. A peer-reviewed study found that students who learn in outdoor environments demonstrate better focus, higher academic performance and increased critical thinking skills (Kuo et al., 2019). Additionally, exposure to nature has been linked to greater cognitive flexibility, emotional resilience and social development (Chawla, 2015). These findings align with the IB PYP framework, which emphasises active, inquiry-based learning in real-world contexts (IBO, 2024).

NAPLAN results have consistently placed Bostock House among the top-performing schools in Geelong and we will continue to prioritise strong foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. The research-informed practices that underpin these outcomes – including explicit instruction, inquiry-based learning and differentiated teaching—will be central to the Junior School experience.

This approach ensures that students build a strong academic foundation while developing the ability to think critically and apply their learning in meaningful, personalised ways.

2. When will the Junior School at Corio Campus open?

Construction is progressing well, with completion anticipated in late 2025, paving the way for the Junior School to open in early 2026. The official opening date will be announced in due course.

3. What are the year levels at Junior School when it opens?

The Junior School building is designed to accommodate one class per year level from Prep to Year 4. Students in Year 5 will transition into Middle School, also located at Corio Campus.

4. What will class sizes be?

In Prep and Year 1, there will be a maximum of 22 students per class, while in Years 2 to 4, class sizes will have a maximum of 24 students.

5. How many students will it cater for?

The Junior School will initially accommodate 116 students. Based on demand, additional learning spaces may be introduced to expand to two streams per year level.

6. What are the start and finish times?

At this stage, the Junior School schedule is planned to follow the same structure as Bostock House:

- Start time: 9.00am
- Finish time: 3.30pm

7. Will there be an Early Learning Centre (ELC)?

Yes, there will be an ELC introduced at the Corio Campus offering an early learning programme for children aged three to five years. The ELC will be located on the western side of the Corio Campus, close to School Road entrance and nestled amongst other established residences. Please see the separate ELC FAQ document for more details.

Campus, Facilities & Location

8. Where will the Junior School be located?

The Junior School will be positioned on the northern aspect of Corio Campus, adjacent to Cameron Close. This location was carefully chosen for its seamless connection to the natural landscape, exposing students to diverse living systems and providing rich opportunities for hands-on exploration and discovery.

9. Where is the school drop-off point?

A new ring road will provide direct access to the Junior School from the Corio Campus entrance, with ample parking for drop-off and pick-up.

10. Will before and after-school care be provided?

Yes, to support our families, we will be offering a before and after-school care programme as is currently available at Bostock House. This will be available on both a regular and occasional basis, with specific details including cost and location to be shared with families once finalised.

11. Will there be bus transportation available?

There is a full schedule of bus routes servicing the Corio Campus from various points in and around Geelong, the Bellarine, Surf Coast and West Melbourne. A list of the areas covered may be viewed on the School website www.ggs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/school-transport and current parents can access up-to-date timetables and route information via Hive (parent portal). The provision of additional buses is currently being assessed and we will be seeking community feedback to understand demand.

12. Will the Corio Campus facilities be used by the Junior School students?

Yes. For example, sharing the same campus as the Handbury Centre for Wellbeing (HCW), including swimming pool and indoor courts, all-weather tennis/hockey courts and sporting ovals, will provide our Junior School students with ample opportunity for on-campus sports and physical activities during school time that would otherwise be conducted off-site. We also envisage on-site incursions, utilising facilities such as the School for Performing Arts and Creative Education (the SPACE) and Chapel of All Saints.

13. Will the Junior School have its own fields and playgrounds?

Yes. The Junior School site design includes a junior-sized playing field, an adventure playground and provisions for future sports courts as the School expands.

14. Will the Junior School students have opportunities for sports lessons – tennis, swimming and horse riding?

Swimming lessons are currently offered at the HCW by an external provider and are already available to families. Private tennis lessons are also available to GGS students through the xSoar Tennis programme.

The Equestrian programme is currently available to Middle and Senior School students at Corio Campus. Participation requires students to agist their own horse on campus and take full responsibility for its grooming, feeding and riding throughout the week. At this stage, horse agistment and participation in the Equestrian programme is not being considered for Junior School students.

15. Will there be food catering and/or lunch provided?

We do not intend to provide daily food catering, as is currently the case for Middle and Senior School students. However, the Nutrition Kitchen will be used to support special events that foster community connection and will provide catering for school activities as needed. Weekly lunch orders may be explored in the future.

Transition from Bostock House

16. Will the current Bostock House teaching staff be moving to the Junior School?

We greatly value our dedicated Bostock House staff and their contribution to our school community. They have been active in planning the transition and we anticipate that our teaching, administration and support staff will move to the new Junior School.

17. Will the House system remain the same?

Initially, we anticipate retaining the current House structure from Bostock House, which includes:

- Austin (blue)
- Morres (purple)
- School (yellow)
- Volum (red)

While changes may occur over time, we are committed to preserving the legacy of these Houses and the individuals they represent in a meaningful way wherever appropriate.

18. Will the name “Bostock House” continue?

We are continuing discussions with the Bostock family to explore how we can preserve the Bostock name in a meaningful way at our new location.

19. Will Bostock House continue as a school?

Once all students have relocated to the new Junior School, the Bostock House campus at 139 Noble Street, Newtown, will be listed for sale.

Parent & Community Engagement

20. Will there be an area for parents to gather?

Yes. The Junior School building will include a reception and nutrition kitchen, providing a welcoming space for parents to connect with staff and each other.

21. What opportunities will there be for parents to be involved?

At Bostock House, the Friends of Bostock (FoB) Committee has played an integral role in bringing families together, supporting the campus through fundraisers, social events and student experiences.

As we transition to the new Junior School, we look forward to exploring how this parent-led group will continue and evolve. We will provide further details as plans are confirmed, ensuring that families have meaningful opportunities to stay involved and connected within the school community.

Sustainability & Operational

22. What operational risks have been assessed?

A comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and community. Key considerations include site security, traffic management, watercourse safety and environmental factors. Measures such as perimeter fencing, well-maintained outdoor spaces, screened buildings and strategic planting selections have been incorporated into the design to support a safe and comfortable environment.

23. What are the key sustainability features?

The all-electric building design incorporates optimal passive performance, creating a highly sustainable baseline and therefore minimising energy inputs. A significant 196kW solar array will be incorporated, that can scale up to 380kW as the precinct expands. Rainwater harvesting will be utilised for toilet flushing, irrigation and wash down, minimising reliance on mains water for potable supply. A native landscape palette will significantly contribute to further ecological restoration of the site.

24. Will the Junior School be net zero?

The building has been designed to generate more electricity than it consumes thanks to its 196kW solar system and energy efficient and all-electric design. After 12 months of operation an appropriate energy storage option will be sized and installed to make the building truly net zero.

25. Have the traditional owners been consulted?

Yes. Our Corio Campus is located on Wadawurrung land. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of this land, where we learn, teach and work. We acknowledge that Wadawurrung Ancestors nurtured and cared for this land for tens of thousands of years. We share the Wadawurrung peoples' ambition to see their unique cultural heritage protected and respected for the betterment of those living on and engaging with their land, waterways and coastal areas. To support this commitment, we have developed a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to protect areas of cultural sensitivity.

Admissions FAQs

26. What do I need to do to apply for a place at the Junior School?

- **Current Bostock House students:** If your child is currently attending Bostock House, they are automatically guaranteed a place at the Junior School.
- **New applicants:** If your child is not currently attending Bostock House, you will need to complete the enrolment application form via the School website: www.ggs.vic.edu.au/apply

Upon receiving your completed application, a member of the Admissions team will contact you to schedule an interview. Please note: Submission of an application does not guarantee a place.

- **Students already registered for Geelong Grammar School:** If your child is already registered to join Geelong Grammar School and you would like to change their enrolment to the Junior School, please contact the Admissions team to discuss your options.

27. Is there an application deadline?

We encourage new families to submit applications as early as possible to secure a place.

28. Is there a waiting list?

Yes, waiting lists are already in place for some year levels in 2026. If a year level reaches capacity, applicants will be placed on a waiting list and places will be offered as they become available.

29. What are the tuition fees?

The Junior School will follow the existing Bostock House fee structure, subject to annual review as per Geelong Grammar School's policies.

A full schedule of fees is available at www.ggs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/geelong-grammar-fees

30. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

For all enquiries regarding enrolments, transition or general information, please contact our Admissions team at admissions@ggs.vic.edu.au or call +61 3 5273 9307.