



ST ANDREW'S  
Catholic Primary School

Case : COVID-19 Parent update  
Date : 23 March 2020

---

## STATEMENT TO PARENTS / CAREGIVERS

Dear parents and caregivers,

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA governments, St Andrew's Catholic Primary School is planning to remain open at least until further notice, to provide the best possible education to your children. In line with Prime Minister's and the WA Minister for Education's advice, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time.

State and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

In considering the potential risks associated with COVID-19, our school has been working with Catholic Education Western Australia in conjunction with the WA Department of Health and the Department of Education throughout the evolution of COVID-19 to ensure that we have the best possible preparedness and response strategies in place.

We are working hard to ensure that our teaching and learning continuity plan supports students to engage in remote learning should our school be required to close. Those students who are not attending school because parents have chosen not to send them will be able to engage with their learning by collecting a work pack from the teacher. Work packs were sent home to all families yesterday, which will be able to be used in the period leading up to the Term One Holidays.

Whilst supporting family decisions and the need for children to continue learning at home, it is important to ensure that our teacher workloads are carefully handled and that we are mindful of the fact that our staff are still teaching a class of students, face to face, throughout the school day.

The delivery of curriculum for students in Kindergarten – Year 6 will be a combination of online and hardcopy delivery, depending on the age of the children, student/parent access to devices and connectivity capability. We are very aware of the concerns of parents, which have been brought to our attention, about solely using a device to maintain the learning while away from school. The children will have the opportunity to participate in a number of varying and different online platforms, according to their age and appropriateness, as well as their hard copy. Our school staff have decided that they will mainly be using a hard copy, at this stage. This of course may change in the near future.

Teachers will endeavour to provide students learning from home, with a range of activities similar to what are happening in class, however, the learning at home may look different to what is happening in class (time spent on activities, level of differentiation and limited teaching points for example). By keeping the activities simple, it will hopefully alleviate any back and forth communication between school and home that could impact our teacher's ability to maintain learning both here at school and for those at home.

60 Victorsen Parade,  
Clarkson WA 6030

Phone: (08) 6206 4100

Fax: (08) 6206 4101

email: [admin@standrews.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@standrews.wa.edu.au)

web: [www.standrews.wa.edu.au](http://www.standrews.wa.edu.au)

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU CLOSELY MONITOR YOUR CHILD WHILE THEY ARE ON THEIR DEVICES BOTH SOCIALLY AND FOR THE COMPLETION OF WORK.**

Individual parents should liaise directly with teachers, through DOJO or SEESAW, to determine the best way to communicate and provide work for the students. I take this opportunity of thanking our staff for their commitment to our students and school community and for the amazing effort they have put into ensuring the school functions to the best of standards.

Parents should also be aware that if your child requires extra work to be completed in this time, while at home, then extra activities, age and curriculum appropriate is available at the **LEARN AT HOME** website through the WA Department of Education. This site is available to all parents in Western Australia and is a valuable resource.

Please be assured that while the school remains open, social distancing will be enforced and cleaning regimes will continue to be completed to the highest possible standards to mitigate risks associated with the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I ask that you also have conversations with your child about the importance of these measures. If your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home.

In acknowledging the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 for families in our school community, I also assure parents that we remain determined that no family seeking a Catholic education for their child be denied the opportunity due to financial difficulty. **Catholic Education Western Australia is addressing potential concerns relating to fees and affordability that may arise as a result of COVID-19.**

COVID-19 is a changing situation that is affecting many areas of our lives, and it is normal for all of us to feel anxious and worried, your child included.

Our teachers and other school staff are doing a wonderful job in providing pastoral support to students at this challenging time. It is important to remember that as parents, you can help your child process all the information they are receiving and the changes that are taking place around COVID-19. You can stay informed and provide factual, age appropriate information about COVID-19 that will help your child feel informed and empowered, rather than afraid.

Everyone in the community has a part to play in helping control the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the latest advice of the Department of Health. I will keep you informed about any changes for our school as updates become available.

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

*Sam Fontaine*

**Sam Fontaine**  
Principal