



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ST ANDREW'S
Catholic Primary School

Dear parents and caregivers

As restrictions have continued to be lifted and the majority of our students have now returned to classroom learning, it has been heartening to see the excitement of students and teachers alike as our school buzzes with life.

While it has been challenging for all in our community to adapt to the ongoing changes, there is an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the leadership and shared community responsibility that has meant that children can return to school, that parents can return to work and that we can all begin to enjoy time together again.

We hope that you have felt supported to decide whether to send your child to school or to engage in their learning from home, depending on your own family's circumstances. Our school staff have certainly done their very best to deliver a quality Catholic education to all our students, irrespective of whether they were being taught at school or at home.

Since the start of Term Two, we have been actively planning for all students to return to classroom learning as soon as recommended by Government and health authorities. As the health and safety of all our students and staff is our highest priority, we have now introduced a range of sustainable cleaning, hygiene and safety measures and have made some changes to our school practices that are designed to minimise risks of COVID-19 transmission in our school environment now and into the future.

On 11 May, following a comprehensive School Readiness Review of all Catholic schools in Western Australia, Catholic Education Western Australia has determined that Catholic schools across the State will return to classroom teaching and learning for all students from Monday, 18 May.

This recommendation aligns with the latest advice from both State and Commonwealth Governments and has been made with the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and our whole community as the first priority.

Students may continue to learn from home if they, or a member of their immediate family, are immune-compromised or are otherwise considered at-risk medically. Parents who plan to keep their children home to continue learning remotely are asked to please contact the school. These students will continue to be supported by school staff, however from 18 May, these students may not be engaged in the same learning program delivered in classrooms.

If your child is worried about attending school due to COVID-19, please remember you can find resources prepared by CEWA's Psychology Team here <https://covid19.cewa.edu.au/wellbeing/>. These may assist in supporting your child at this time, and we would encourage you to speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about how they are coping with being back at school or would like to know more about support available.

I am certain you share our staff's joy and gratitude that our students are able to return to school to resume classroom learning together. As members of our school community, we ask that you join us in continuing to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic at home and abroad.

Yours sincerely



Return to School Quick Reference Guide

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Effective 18 May 2020

From 18 May, all Catholic school students in Western Australia are required to attend school unless they are unwell or have a medical referral to continue their learning from home.

This decision aligns with WA Government advice and has been informed by the results of a comprehensive School Readiness Review undertaken by Catholic Education Western Australia on Monday 11 May.

Since the 'soft start' to Term Two, Catholic schools have been actively planning to return to classroom teaching and learning while supporting students who are learning from home. Across WA, more than 80% of Catholic school students are now back at school.

As the health and safety of all students and staff remains our highest priority, additional cleaning and hygiene measures are in place and some school practices have been altered to comply with advice regarding physical distancing.

Knowing this is a uniquely challenging time for all of us, Catholic schools will continue to focus on the care and wellbeing of students, staff and families as we journey together to manage the risks of COVID-19 in our community.



Student attendance

All students are required to attend school from 18 May unless they are unwell, have a medical referral to learn from home or live with a family member who is medically vulnerable.

Students with a medical condition

Students may continue to learn from home if they are immune-compromised or are otherwise considered at-risk medically.

- Parents who plan to keep their child home to continue learning remotely are to seek medical advice and will be required to provide medical evidence to the school. Students approved to learn from home will continue to be supported in their learning.
- Where a student's pre-existing medical condition is already known to the school, no medical evidence is required

If a child is unwell

Students who are unwell should stay at home. Parents are asked to seek medical advice if their child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19. Normal processes for advising the school of a child's absence will apply.

Student with medically vulnerable family members

Students may continue to learn from home if a member of their immediate family is immune-compromised or medically vulnerable.

- Parents who plan to keep their child home to continue learning remotely are asked to contact the school Principal and provide medical evidence to support their request.



School facilities

School canteen

School canteens can continue to provide a takeaway service and may provide limited dine-in service for up to 20 people, where they meet physical distancing requirements.

School library

School libraries are able to open with staff and supervisors observing required physical distancing.

Swimming pool

Access to school swimming pools is permitted for up to 20 people in total, ensuring physical distancing, health and hygiene practices are observed.

Uniform shop

Due to the variable arrangements in place at schools, parents and caregivers are asked to contact the school to determine arrangements for their school uniform shop. Where a uniform shop is open, the following considerations will apply:

- Until further notice, children should not be 'trying on' uniforms for fitting purposes.
- Where possible, parents should have the opportunity to make a specific appointment time to attend the uniform shop to avoid excessive numbers of people gathering in the store. If this is not possible, restrictions should be in place to limit the number of people in the store to allow for appropriate physical distancing.

- If parents are unable to access new uniforms for their children they should contact the school to discuss.
- Increased cleaning and hygiene practices are in place to ensure that uniform shops meet the required AHPPC guidelines.



Teaching and Learning

Semester One reporting

School systems and sectors across the country have been offered flexibility in relation to reporting for Semester One, 2020. Catholic Education Western Australia is awaiting advice from the Australian Government with regard to their requirements. Parents will be notified as soon as this advice has been received.

Face-to-face parent / teacher meetings will not occur until further notice.



School activities

In-school activities

Incursions for senior school students for purposes of course completion may proceed. However, they should not exceed 20 people in total, and supervisors and staff are required to maintain physical distancing.

Excursions and camps

Excursions for senior school students for the purpose of course completion may proceed. However, they should not exceed 20 people in total, and supervisors and staff are required to maintain physical distancing.

Assemblies, school Masses and school community events

Assemblies, interschool activities and school based extra curricular activities will not recommence until further advice is received from the Department of Health. However, co-curricular activities may proceed.



School Visitors

School meetings

School Boards, Parents and Friends and staff meetings may resume after school hours for up to 20 people where physical distancing and enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols are observed.

Parent and caregiver meetings

Pre-arranged meetings with parents and caregivers are permitted for purposes of new enrolments, pastoral care case management, student behaviour and engagement, medical reasons and other emergencies.

School visitors

Visitors to school sites should be limited to essential health, wellbeing, case management and maintenance providers, and occur only when the school can assure adherence to physical distancing requirements and enhanced cleaning requirements. Contact with the broader school population must be kept to a minimum.

Use of school facilities

While service providers and community groups who have previously had access to facilities will be eager to re-establish activities, the current restrictions and health advice do not allow non-school related use of school facilities at this time.



Health and hygiene

Keeping students and staff safe

The health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff is our highest priority. Additional cleaning measures are already in place in all Catholic schools.

Unwell students or staff are to remain at home until they receive a medical clearance to attend school.

Physical distancing

Whilst physical distancing is not required for students in schools, students are actively encouraged to do so wherever practical. Physical distancing is still a requirement for all adults.

Parent and caregiver access

Parents and caregivers are advised that they are not permitted to exit their vehicles when dropping off or collecting their children.

If parents and caregivers are walking their children to and from school, they should undertake their drop-off or pick-up at the school gates. Schools are required to make arrangements for parents and caregivers to drop and collect students at designated locations.

Personal hygiene:

- Schools are ensuring arrangements are in place for regular and thorough hand-washing for students and staff.
- Posters and information regarding handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene are also displayed in schools.



Remaining prepared

Catholic schools will continue to review and respond to cleaning and hygiene protocols in line with advice from the Department of Health

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, any temporary school closure will be advised by the Department of Health and the school will enact its Six Step Response Plan in the event of a confirmed case.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear parents and students

Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer

Schools have now been open for students since the commencement of Term 2 and I am very encouraged by the way the school community, parents and students are caring for their health and attending school in a responsible way. This is building community confidence in the safety of our schools with the overall attendance rate reaching over 82%.

WA recently recorded 14 days with only 2 reported cases, both of whom were rapidly identified and are in isolation. With over 56,000 negative tests and only 7 active cases, there is no evidence of community transmission.

The WA State Government has recently announced further decisions about the easing of restrictions in our state as part of a phased approach in the management of the pandemic. These decisions have been based on public health advice and will continue to be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead.

Public health measures already in place to protect the community will remain a focus during this time, including broad testing, comprehensive contact tracing when a case is identified, isolation and quarantine measures where required, and education about social distancing and hand hygiene. Plans remain in place to ensure immediate response to any reported infections in the school setting when needed to prevent the spread of any illness.

I continue to recommend that schools should remain open to all students and families should be encouraged to return their children to the classroom. If your child is more vulnerable due to health problems or your have a vulnerable adult living in your home, then I would recommend seeking advice from your specialist medical practitioner as to whether returning to school remains the best option for you.

We need to remain diligent during this time and I encourage you to please make sure you keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or your child have fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Thank you again for your leadership and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON

Chief Health Officer

May 2020