



St Columba's School Bayswater

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Faith Wisdom Peace Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

15 May 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As always, I hope that this notice finds you all well and safe.

A brief update regarding COVID-19 and what has been happening over the last week. On Wednesday CEWA Executive held a TEAMS meeting with all Principals in Catholic education. Along with this we had the Premier Mark McGowan's announcement yesterday in relation to students returning to school.

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.

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 their Principal explaining their circumstances. Please place this in an email directly to me [art.lombardi@cewa.edu.au] by Sunday 17 May. 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. As there is such a short turn around, please be aware we will do our very best to have learning activities for home at some point early next week.

As of next week commencing **Monday 18 May**

- **ALL STUDENTS** will be required to be back to school as of **MONDAY 18 MAY**. (This means that schooling has now returned to mandatory attendance as per the School Act).
- Absences will be marked as unauthorised and students will require a note for being absent. This can be entered via the school website.
- Class instruction will be back to face to face teaching as per normal teaching.

- Remote learning will cease as of today.
- Drop off and pick up arrangements that restrict parents and carers, and non-essential visitors, from entering school grounds remain in place.
- Parents, (until further notice), are to remain off school site. (Thank you for your support with this)
- For the safety of your children and others, I encourage that **if your child is in any way unwell**, i.e. runny nose, head ache, sore throat, coughing, feeling lethargic etc. PLEASE ensure you **keep your child at home**. If a child presents unwell, we will contact parents to collect their child. This is in line with Government directives.

ABSENTEEISM

As mentioned above, should your child remain absent from school without good reason, they will no longer be provided with learning packages and their absence will be marked as unauthorised. There are exceptions for students who are medically vulnerable or those who have a family member with chronic health issues.

WELLNESS, HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Our students' safety and hygiene is imperative at all times. Our number one priority is to maintain our current regime. That is, students washing hands, use of hand sanitiser, cleaning and disinfecting of taps and fountains, cleaning door handles, toilets, playgrounds, desk surfaces. A reminder to all parents of students returning that there is no drinking directly from fountains and all students require a water bottle for filling.

I would like to thank students for the resilience they have shown throughout this time of disruption. They have been amazing in the way they have returned back to our school routines and the way they have assisted us with the Kiss and Drive procedures before and after school. From our little guys in Pre-K all the way to our Year 6 leaders, they have the biggest smiles in the morning and afternoons. Excitement of coming to school and the excitement of seeing their parents at the end of the day. Quality!!!

To our parents and staff, your support, understanding and commitment to who we are as St Col's people has been greatly appreciated. To see all work together in the care for our children and their wellbeing continues to be the reason for why we turn up to this very special place each day.

Wishing you all many blessings.

Warmest regards



Art Lombardi
Principal