



# St Columba's School Bayswater

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## COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope that this notice finds you all well and enjoying your day. Next week will see a few changes at St Columba's School regarding the new regulations from Monday 8 June for COVID19. While we all acknowledge the challenging time we have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been some benefits and positives when supporting the children as an educational community.



1. Resilience and Independence - Our students have embraced the opportunity to demonstrate both resilience and independence. It is always a pleasure to welcome our students to school each morning, but it has been heart-warming to watch how the students, and their big brothers and sisters, have stepped up to show all us adults just how independent they can be, carrying their own bags, putting all their equipment into class and starting the day efficiently and effectively. With the support of staff, the students are able to farewell their parents with a smile and get ready for the day.
2. Student Emotional Wellbeing - We have noted how much more settled the students are in making their way to class independently, even those in Kindy and Pre-Primary! We are very proud of how amazing our students have been and have noted that the students have taken everything on board and settled so quickly into their new routines. Parents and staff have supported each other in encouraging this with our students. Well done everyone for bringing this positivity to the day.
3. Maximising Teaching and Learning Time - With all our parents and carers making a concerted effort to assist us by dropping their children to school on time, teaching and learning is starting each morning on time, right on the bell. This is enabling us to make the most out of the day for the students in our care and by all accounts, everyone is thoroughly enjoying this new routine.
4. Patience and Courtesy - Whilst there will inevitably be some changes along the way, our parents are to be acknowledged and thanked for their efforts in working with us to ensure the new drop off and pick up routines continue to run smoothly. We are grateful for everyone's efforts and for the patience and courtesy that parents and carers are showing towards staff and to one another. All that we have put in place so far has been for the safety of our students.

In a time when it is far too easy to focus on the things that may not be going well, we want to celebrate how our entire community has rallied together in whatever ways they can to make the most of the situation in which we currently find ourselves as we move into a 'new normal'. We hope also that these wonderful efforts and supportive approaches continue in the future.

#### **Parents allowed on School Sites for Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

Commencing next week, Monday 8 June, parents are welcome onto the school grounds to drop-off and pick-up children. There are guidelines around this procedure.

#### *Please note:*

- Before school, parents can enter the school grounds, but are not to be entering classrooms. Students to be dropped at the door.
- Social distancing is imperative for parents. Social distancing must be observed with other members of the school community. Parents are requested to leave promptly and refrain from socialising on school grounds during times of drop-off and pick-up.
- After school, parents will be able to enter the grounds from 2.40 pm. This will minimise wait time within the school grounds and have control over the number of parents gathering on-site.
- As this is a time of transition, Kiss and Drive will continue to operate on Roberts Street and Milne Street. We will monitor whether Milne Street continues as the K and D is only approved for the short term by the City of Bayswater as part of COVID-19.
- The end of the school day will revert back to pre-COVID-19 schedules. 2.45 pm close of day for Kindergarten. Students from PP-6, who have Kindy siblings, will also be collected at this time. These students will wait in the undercover area for their parents.
- The end of school day for our PP to Year 6 students will be 2.55 pm.
- **Kindergarten parents will need to drop their children off at their classrooms and collect them at the end of the day.**
- **Pre-Primary parents wishing to continue to drop-off and collect their children from the Kiss and Drive, will have communication from their classroom teachers to ensure we have management processes in place to ensure all students' safety.**

Although parents and guardians are now allowed to enter the school grounds for drop off and pick up, we will continue to maintain our current supervised drop off and pick up areas before and after school to minimise unnecessary visitors onto school grounds. We therefore encourage where possible, parents continue to use this service, or allow your children to enter the school grounds by themselves as many have been doing since returning to school this term.

#### **Morning Drop Off and Start of School Times**

Just a quick reminder that **school classrooms open at 8.30 am and that school starts at 8.40 am** for Years Pre-Primary to Year 6. The **Kindergarten starts at 8.45 am**. As school is now compulsory, **students arriving after the start times must sign in at the office.**

#### **Playground Equipment Before and After School**

No playgrounds are to be used before school. The basketball area will continue to be utilised, as will the handball courts as these are sprayed with disinfectant before school in the morning.

Thank you for adhering to these updates and the continuing support of your children and our staff at St Columba's School. Stay safe and enjoy your week.

Warmest regards



Art Lombardi  
Principal