



St Columba's School Bayswater

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Faith Wisdom Peace Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

8 February 2022

Dear parents and guardians

Last night we were informed of the following from the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Sue Ellery and the Minister for Child Protection and Community Services the Hon Simone McGurk. The announcement is related to the new high caseload protocols specifically for school and childcare settings.

Please note that these changes **will take effect from today Tuesday 8 February 2022.**

You can find a copy of the information sent out at this link.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/high-caseload-measures-schools-and-childcare>

Many of the announcements are already in place in our school and this will create minimal disruption to students. We will review all changes announced today to ensure our internal processes align with the new protocols.

For us as a school the biggest change is around what parents need to do. Please see below the expectations of parents entering the school site as of today.

PARENTS ON SCHOOL SITES

- Parents will be permitted on school sites for drop-off and pick-up in **outdoor locations only**; consequently, parents should not be visiting classrooms;
- A parent should only attend the school office in the event of a significant pastoral or welfare issue related to their child; wherever possible interactions by staff with parents should take place over the phone or via email/online;
- Gatherings of parents on school sites should be avoided;
- Parent-teacher interviews should occur online or over the phone;
- Mask wearing for parents is for all outdoors where physical distancing can't be maintained in regions with existing mask mandates. To avoid any confusion this means that our parents should always wear a mask when on the school grounds.

The school will continue to follow Health Department directions if a case associated with our school occurs.

We understand that there is a level of uncertainty for parents at this time. However, please know that we will continually keep you all up to date as we receive any notification or changes. Let's stay calm and work together in this crazy world.

Thanking you for your understanding and support.

Sandro Coniglio
Principal