



Letter to Families

15th May 2020

Dear St Emilie's Parents and Caregivers

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

Yesterday, Premier Mark McGowan and Minister Sue Ellery also provided clarity in relation to school attendance and operations for all schools, effective Monday, 18 May. Parents are therefore advised that **all students** in all Western Australian schools, including Catholic schools, **are required to attend school, unless they are unwell, or have a medical referral** to continue their learning from home.

Students may only 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 of children in these situations, who plan to keep their children home to continue learning remotely, are asked to contact the Office and their child's class teacher, before classes commence on Monday.

Once we have a clearer idea who these students may be, we will plan accordingly. As teachers will be **face to face teaching all day** as of the 18th May, these students will continue **to be supported by school staff**, however it is important for parents to understand that, while we will do our very best, students may not be engaged in exactly **the same learning program** delivered in classrooms.

Since the start of Term Two, we have been 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.

While it has certainly been a very challenging time for us all, it is wonderful seeing children return to school, keen to learn and appreciative of being back in the classroom and school environment. With children returning to school, parents returning to work and restrictions slowly beginning to be lifted, it is a time for **ongoing vigilance** and optimism.

Your valuable feedback has indicated that you have felt well supported in your decision-making to this point (ie whether to send your child to school or to engage in their learning from home, depending on your own family's circumstances). Our staff have certainly done an excellent job delivering a quality Catholic education to all our students, irrespective of whether they were being taught at school or at home. Likewise, parents have also done an outstanding job juggling learning, parenting, working, and in many cases, working from home.

We all have much to feel proud of and grateful for and I believe we can now look forward with greater optimism to what we hope will be a calm, settled, healthy, productive and enjoyable term ahead. If your child is at all worried about attending school, or concerned about COVID-19, please check out the resources prepared by CEWA's Psychology Team here: <https://covid19.cewa.edu.au/wellbeing/>. You are also encouraged to **contact your child's teacher** if you have any concerns about how your child is coping with being back at school or if you require any further information or support.

As we need to continue a whole school **drive through arrangement** for the whole school for the foreseeable future, we will be trialing **A NEW DRIVE THROUGH ARRANGEMENT** as of Monday, so please read the instructions included with this letter carefully. **Please also find below** some important information from CEWA and the Chief Medical Officer that you are asked to read prior to Monday.



We are all looking forward to resuming classroom learning together next week and I once again **thank you for your most wonderful support, patience and trust** during a time of so much change and upheaval. It is a real privilege to walk beside you, to ensure that your child continues to be safe and well supported - academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, and, as significant adults in our children's lives, this will take time, patience, hard work, expertise, wisdom and great love from us all.

I ask that you continue to support our staff as they begin the task of assessing your child's needs and planning to meet them comprehensively and sensitively in the year ahead. We will be emphasising a mindset of - persistence, having a go, working hard, cooperating and collaborating, and seeing mistakes as daily learning opportunities. We will also be reinforcing the high expectation we have of treating others with care and respect, as children re-enter the school environment and navigate their way through friendships and relationships. And so the journey begins!



Yours sincerely,

Tania Thuijs
Principal

NEW DRIVE THROUGH ARRANGEMENT

as of Monday 18th May

Mornings

Years 1-6	Drive and drop from 8.30am to 8.45am
K-PP (and siblings)	Drive and drop from 8.45am to 9am

Afternoons

K-PP (only child)	Drive and pick up 2.30pm to 2.40pm
Years K/PP-6	Drive and pick up 2.45pm to 3.15pm

Next week we are trialing splitting the car park, to enable **two lines of traffic** to pick up and exit in the afternoons.

This will mean that:

- If you are a Kindy or PP family with just one child, you will drive through and collect your child from drive-through as normal.
- If you are a family with children Kindy -Year 6, they will sit as a family group in one of two locations ready for collection from 2.45pm.

A-K family surname - pick up normal drive through

L- Z family surname - pick up in new second drive through

AFTERNOON PICK UP PROCEDURE



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR ALL ST EMILIE DRIVERS

NO OVERTAKING - y° < lCb°%l..yO«

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THANK YOU!

Please note that parents are still **not permitted to exit their car** until we receive further notice from both the Government and CEWA.

We are aware that there are a few little ones who are finding it difficult to leave the car. If this is the case for you, please park in the church carpark and call the office and we will send a staff member to your car.

Thank you :)



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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.



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.



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.



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.

