



St Columba's School Bayswater

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Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

COVID-19 Update 20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

School closures have not been advised in Western Australia, at this stage, and we are receiving regular updates on the course of action required from Catholic Education WA. I will keep the community informed as information comes to hand.

At present, we are engaging with some families, who are self-isolating, due to compromised health or health concerns, to ensure students continue learning at home. In the current climate, we fully understand and support individual family decisions.

Whilst supporting these decisions, and the need for children to continue learning at home, it is important to ensure that our teacher workloads are handled with care. We must be mindful of the fact that our teachers are still teaching their classes during the day, and preparing and assessing in the evenings. My priority is for our teachers to maintain their focus on their classroom learning and their programs of instruction as per usual operations.

For those families who are self-isolating, learning at home may look different to what is happening in class [time spent on activities, levels of differentiation, teaching instruction]. Tasks set for home will be achievable by your children and hopefully require minimum intervention from you as parents. There may be some activities where your children will need your support in instruction. We will work with you as best we can to support your children during this time. Individual teachers will liaise directly with families to determine the best way to continue this into the future.

I take this opportunity to thank our staff for their commitment to providing the very best for our students in their classrooms, while also doing their very best to support our students who are currently working from home. Their willingness to work alongside parents and go to the extra effort to offer this support is appreciated. I wish to acknowledge this from me personally as Principal, as I am sure you would as parents, as we all endeavour to keep St Columba's School functioning with as much routine as is possible during these challenging times.

In the event of a school closure, in consultation with CEWA and the Health Department WA, St Columba's School will continue our educational delivery as much as is possible. Activity grids, on-line access and digital resources will enable students to access the curriculum. We will be using Seesaw as our main platform for communication and provision of the curriculum.

Please continue to view the NEWS section of the school website to access the latest correspondence from our school on COVID-19. We will remain focused on the wellbeing of our students, our staff and our families. We encourage all members of our community to show an awareness for the escalation of the status of COVID-19 which is now at 'community spread' level as of Thursday 19 March.

We thank you for your support and understanding at this time. Continue to look after yourself and take care of your families, friends and colleagues. Do not hesitate to contact the administration if there is any further clarity required on our position at St Columba's School.

Kindest regards

Art Lombardi
Principal