

St Columba's School Bayswater

32 Roberts Street
BAYSWATER WA 6053
PO Box 61

BAYSWATER WA 6933
Tel: 08 9208 2700

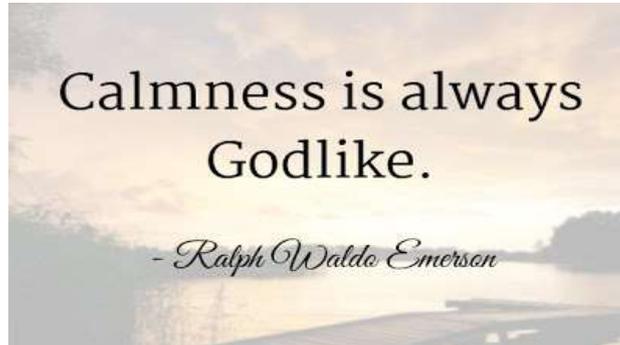
Fax: 08 9370 3985

admin@stcolumbas.wa.edu.au
www.saintcolumbas.com.au

Grow in Faith

Seek Wisdom

Live in Peace



Good Afternoon All

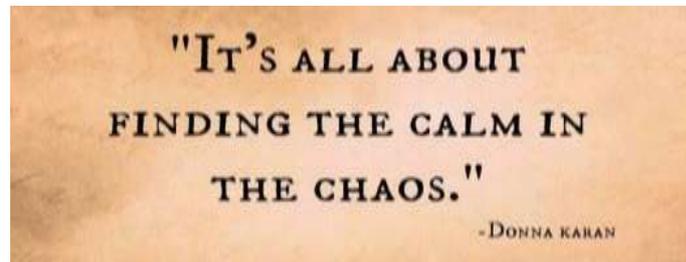
Just a quick update. We have not received any official information recently, however here is the information I placed in yesterday's Donegal.

Protocols for Social Distancing as advised by the Prime Minister:

Please note the following directives regarding before school drop-off, but also the entering of classrooms in the morning. We know you adore your kids and love doing puzzles, reading stories, settling them into their classrooms before school. We understand this, but as these are unprecedented times we are putting the following in place. Please do not be offended as this is what I have decided we need to do as a school. I also know you trust that we always have the kids, our staff and our families, best interests at the centre of my decisions. You are quality parents, so I know you get it.

1. The Kiss and Drive on Roberts Street will be supervised by staff in the morning between 8.15 and 8.40 am. Please do not drop PP children in Kiss and Drive before 8.15 am. To alleviate the congestion in our Pre-Primary and Year 1 areas, feel free to drop your little guys off at Kiss and Drive as we will take care of them until 8.30 am when we will then walk them down to their classrooms. Some of our PPs that have siblings can remain with their siblings if they wish. This is an option for Pre-Primary parents if this helps you with the morning routines. Two members of leadership will be coordinating this.
2. Staying in classrooms to read or do puzzles with your children between 8.30 and 8.40 am will cease until further notice. We need to ensure social distancing measures are in place. As you can appreciate, there can be up to 70 people in a classroom during this time. We would ask parents to drop their children off to their classrooms and then leave instead of mingling inside the room. Please do not be offended if staff ask that you leave the classroom. This is not how we would normally operate, as we are the exact opposite to this, but these are times of change. I know you understand this.

If you have any concerns with these protocols, then please do not lay concerns with the staff, please direct these to me.



In brief

1. Our St Columba's community and COVID-19 – we have our protocols in place.
2. Keep up to date with correspondences through the website under the NEWS section – we continue to roll as usual with all the precautions.
3. The cancellation of assemblies and events, larger group meetings are part of these times of change. Including the protocols as mentioned above.
4. We do ask that if you are unwell, or if your child is unwell, please do not come into school, even if that is to pick up another one of your children. If you are sick, please self-isolate. This ensures our community remains a safe environment for all our families and staff. You know we are in this together.
5. What will happen if there is a school closure – This is still an unknown. There are many rumours about what may happen, but we simply continue to follow what we are instructed from government. There are options. We will have a curriculum continue on-line in some form.
6. You know if you need any support we are here for you, you know that right...email through admin or directly to me and we will be in contact. It is what St Columba's people do. Pretty natural to be honest for you all to be there for others.
7. Our families, our kids, our staff are a resilient lot. We know we have each other's back. We look out for each other. That is core to who we are.
8. What we stand for in 2020, JUSTICE – which is how are we making the world better for other people.
9. You know the word I am living by UBUNTU – seeing this all the time. A way of life.
10. While life is a bit messy at the moment and there is much uncertainty, it is such a blessing to have each other and have a place to belong. St Columba's is like being home, it is family. A beautiful thing has been happening over the last week, amid all of this worry, so many parents have asked me how I am going. Not what I am doing, not what are all the action plans, but how I am going, like me, the person. Seriously, this is UNBUNTU at work, this is the St Columba spirit and the truth about who we are. No wonder I am the most blessed principal in the world. You know it. I have it so good!
11. A quick thank you for bringing calm to our school, especially for our kids. Hence the two quotes. Embrace this wisdom.

Take care, look after yourself and all those you love. Together we can make an uncertain time a place of calm and support for others. When updates come through, we will let you know the latest directives from government.

Thanks again for all the support and understanding. You are kind and generous. It is something that you have created. You deserve an abundance of good things your way.

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