



23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We write to provide you an update on the current advice that we have received related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on your child's school.

Our national and state governments along with health and education departments have assured us that, with the exception of Victorian schools who are in the last week of Term 1, continuing to operate our schools is consistent with the best medical advice available and is in the public interest. This advice is premised on schools and offices continuing to follow the hygiene and other guidelines already in place. I thank all our staff and students for their diligence in this regard.

Our staff and leaders have excelled in managing the challenges and are adapting to differing situations with compassion and efficiency. Our school staff are capable professionals who are doing a magnificent job in helping form and educate your children. The leaders in our schools will work collaboratively to embrace these unfolding challenges intelligently, professionally and with your child's interests always first.

Last evening, the Prime Minister made a number of announcements regarding places of social gathering, and the need for Australians to strictly adhere to measures to ensure social distancing.

The Prime Minister made the following important points:

1. The health advice from the State, Territory and National Chief Medical Officers regarding schools operating has not changed from previous advice.
2. The Prime Minister has said that schools across the Nation, except in the case of Victoria, will remain open until the end of this Term. This is likely to evolve quickly; we will continue to communicate updates as they come to hand. The Victorian Premier last evening confirmed that all Victorian schools will commence the Term 1 vacation from Tuesday 24 March.
3. The Prime Minister also advised that if parents choose to have their child learn from home, they will be allowed to do so, however these children will be required to be properly supervised at home and not congregating outside of home with other young people.

Considering this announcement by the Prime Minister, each State and Territory Government and Catholic Education Commission will be providing relevant up to date information for schools, to which we will continue to refer.

We continue to acknowledge the difficulties that families are experiencing at this challenging time. Rest assured that your schools are doing all that they can to manage the safety and wellbeing of your child. We thank you for your trust and understanding.

With best wishes.

Dr Wayne Tinsey
On behalf of the EREA Executive Team

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