



19 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

The College has responded to the great uncertainty that we have been faced with by COVID-19, making decisions based on the Health advice that we have received from the Federal Government, the NSW Government Health Department and the NSW Department of Education. Quite often this advice has been conflicting, providing very little time to adapt. The guiding principle associated in the development of the plans that we have implemented has been to do all we can to ensure the health and safety of staff and students, while providing engaging learning experiences both online and when students return to school. We have been cautious in our approach, introducing a range of measures to promote a hygienic, healthy and safe environment allowing a staged approach to return, to allow us to evaluate and adapt the measures introduced. At the end of this letter, I have included a key piece of advice provided by the NSW Government Department of Education which outlines the recommended phased approach to a return by all students to face-to-face teaching. We have followed this advice and just yesterday you would have received information from me outlining how we have implemented this staggered approach at St Edward's.

You may have heard just this morning the NSW Premier make an announcement regarding the return of all students in NSW Department schools to full time face-to-face teaching on May 25. This announcement was made without any consultation with various education sectors and is not in alignment with the original advice provided to schools, from which we have planned.

I have made the decision, in consultation with EREA, to follow the plan that was distributed to families yesterday, with the continued staggered approach leading up to all students returning to face to face teaching on Monday June 1. This decision has been made, taking into consideration many factors associated with our context. As outlined in the implementation plan that you received, the reconfiguration of classrooms, thorough cleaning of the entire school and the establishment of a new staff room facility to allow appropriate physical distancing of staff is critical to ensure the safety of staff and students. We are also continuing to evaluate the health and safety measures adopted, thinking carefully about how they will continue while all students are on site. In addition to these considerations, teachers will require planning time to prepare for the return for face-to-face learning.

I have also received questions from families overnight, raising concerns about bus transport to and from school. The College has not received any specific advice from the NSW Government regarding bus transport. The only advice that is available regarding transport is on the NSW Government Transport Website on: [NSW Government Transport](#).

Local bus companies have indicated that normal school services will operate and that they will continue to:

- Maintain extra cleaning on buses, with every bus receiving a disinfectant treatment every day, including all regularly touched areas such as handrails, poles, seats and doors.
- Exercise additional procedures for all Busways employees to follow in order to limit any chance of the virus spreading. This includes issuing employees with hand sanitiser, requiring employees to wash their hands



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every time they enter and leave a worksite, employees staying home if they are unwell, and minimising the handling of cash.

Unfortunately, this is one area associated with students returning to school which is out of our control.

I appreciate your ongoing support and patience. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 4321 6400, or at principal@stedwards.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions or would like to discuss the information outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely

Mark Bonnici
College Principal

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PHASE 0

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

At all times

- Schools are safe places for students, teachers and staff.
- All students engage with a single unit of work.
- Keep up-to-date with your school's communications to make sure you receive important messages about timetable changes.
- Any identified cases of COVID-19 will continue to be managed in line with health advice, including temporary school closures where necessary.

Learning from home

Practical resources and guides to support students are available at the department's [Learning from home hub](#).

Schools are open for families who need it.

- Families are encouraged to keep their children at home wherever possible, with no student to be turned away.
- Students who attend school are supervised only, not in their regular classes.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You must continue to

- Keep your child/children at home if possible.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

Students at school at least one day per week.

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which day, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school one day a week.
- You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which day of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

You must continue to

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

Students at school at least two days per week.

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which days, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school two days a week.
- You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which two days of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

You must continue to

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

Students at school five days per week, with social distancing measures.

- Students with increased health risks may continue to learn at home to suit their individual needs.
- Students remain in the same classroom for the day, break times can be staggered to reduce mixing between class groups.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school every day.
- Access community services run on school sites, where they are not restricted by Public Health Orders.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.
- Walk your child/children into and out of school while maintaining social distancing.

You must continue to

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue to learn at home if they are required to learn remotely.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

Students at school five days per week, with full school activities.

- Normal school breaks and entry/exit processes will resume.
- Infection control procedures will continue on a school by school basis.
- Communication to staff, students and families regarding NSW Health advice will continue.
- Continued communication to the Early Childhood Education sector regarding NSW Health Advice.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school every day.
- Participate in school excursions and inter-school activities.
- Use playground equipment at schools.
- Drop your child/children off at school as you would normally do.
- Participate in school based activities such as volunteering in classes and assemblies.
- Use services that usually operate at your school like canteens and other community run activities.

A managed return to school

Guidelines for families