



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

GBW:vt

16 March 2020

Dear parents and carers

Thank you again for your understanding as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19 (coronavirus). As always, the health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our top priority.

The Government has announced major new measures to respond to COVID-19. They are:

- 'Non-essential static gatherings of more than 500 people' can no longer occur.
- Every person who arrives in Australia from any country 12.00am 16 March must complete 14 days of self-isolation
- No cruise ships are able to arrive in Australia for the next 30 days.

The government has also repeated its advice that schools remain open for students and staff.

There are changes for schools

While schools are open, there will be some very important changes. These are being made to maximise the health and safety of students and staff. They are explained below:

- *All school excursions outside of your school's local community will to be cancelled until further notice, including all overnight excursions and school camps*
- *All major arts and sports activities and events will temporarily cease. This includes whole school sporting events and inter-school events*
- Smaller, local inter-school sport and other activities will be able proceed
- Schools may choose to stagger recess and lunch breaks
- Schools will avoid large gathering such as whole school assemblies and other non-essential school activities involving more than 500 students
- Schools will use technology options for communication and collaboration where that's possible
- 'Social distancing' is being encouraged. This includes avoiding handshakes, hugs and other forms of incidental social contact
- No groups of students will visit aged care facilities or attend other facilities in the local community (e.g. hospitals, pre-schools etc) where there are elderly people or other people with underlying health conditions.

LEARNING FOR TODAY'S WORLD



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Your school will keep you updated about other changes. There will also be regularly updated information on the [CEDP website and Facebook page.](#)

Important Health Information

The three most important things we can all do that really make a difference are:

- Wash hands regularly and thoroughly
- Sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands
- Keep your child at home if they are unwell or show signs of being unwell.

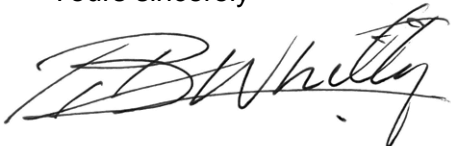
Learning is continuing and your school will also be able to provide online opportunities to support students if needed.

Up-to-date information on COVID-19 is available at

- [Australian Government Department of Health website](#)
- [NSW Health website](#)
- [Smart Traveller](#)
- [Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support. We will provide more updates in the days ahead.

Yours sincerely



Gregory B Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta