



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

GBW:cs

18/03/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share key information about the Australian Government's response to COVID-19. The Prime Minister's announcement today addressed the following important matters:

- Schools will remain open at this time.
- Non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people (including staff) will no longer be permitted from Wednesday 18 March 2020. An indoor gathering refers to a gathering within a single enclosed area (i.e. an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent, temporary, open or closed). There are some essential services that are exempt from this restriction.
- Outdoor events of fewer than 500 attendees may proceed; however, there is a range of protocols that must be followed.
- Social distancing protocols apply. This includes being able to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people.
- The advice level for all overseas travel has been raised to the highest level. That advice is that all Australians regardless of the destination, age or health should not travel overseas at this time. There is also updated advice on domestic travel.

As you know, health and safety are our priority, and we are closely following the advice of the relevant authorities. We understand that the measures listed above mean significant change at a school level. Our staff are working hard to make the appropriate adjustments and really appreciate your support at this challenging time.

In the event that school closures are required at a later date, we are well prepared to respond. This includes a strong commitment to working with schools and families to ensure continued learning using means that are appropriate to each community.

The [Australian Health website](#), [NSW Health](#) and [Smart Traveller](#) are the government information sites. We will continue to keep you updated including through the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website and Facebook page.

Yours sincerely

**Gregory B Whitby AM KSG**

Executive Director  
Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

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