



24 March 2020

'I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE
AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.'
JOHN 10:10

Dear Parents/Guardians

In line with the latest advice from the Australian and Western Australian Governments, Holy Cross College is planning to remain open at least until the end of term to provide the best possible education to your children. As advised by the Australian Prime Minister, The Hon Scott Morrison MP and the Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time.

State and Territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

In considering the potential risks associated with COVID-19, our school has been working with Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) in conjunction with the Western Australian (WA) Department of Health and the Department of Education and Training throughout the evolution of COVID-19 to ensure we have the best possible preparedness and response strategies in place.

The College is working hard to ensure our Learning Continuity Plan supports students to engage in remote learning should our school be required to close. Where parents choose to keep students home at this time the following procedure will apply:

- Students may access learning online to same level that is normally provided by teachers. Staff will not be available during class times to interact with students studying from home as they will be committed to classes onsite.
- The College's Learning Continuity Plan will not be fully operational until a full school closure or where the ratio of the number of students staying at home to the number remaining at school is such that teachers have the capacity to provide full online delivery while delivering to students in the classroom.
- Early Learning teachers have prepared home learning packages for parents to use in the event of school closure. Students staying home should only complete these tasks on approval of the class teacher.

Please be assured that while the school remains open, social distancing will be enforced and cleaning regimes will continue to be completed to the highest possible standards to mitigate risks associated with the spread of COVID-19. I ask that you also have conversations with your child about the importance of these measures. If your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home.

In acknowledging the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 for families in our school community, I also assure parents that we remain determined that no family seeking a Catholic education for their child be denied the opportunity due to financial difficulty. Catholic Education Western Australia is addressing potential concerns relating to fees and affordability that may arise as a result of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a changing situation that is affecting many areas of our lives, and it is normal for all of us to feel anxious and worried, your child included.

Our teachers and other school staff are doing a wonderful job in providing pastoral support to students at this challenging time. It is important to remember that as parents, you can help your child process all the information they are receiving and the changes that are taking place around COVID-19. You can stay informed and provide factual, age appropriate information about COVID-19 that will help your child feel informed and empowered, rather than afraid.

Everyone in the community has a part to play in helping control the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the latest advice of the Department of Health Western Australia. I will keep you informed about any changes for our school as updates become available.

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

As always, I ask that you contact your child's House Tutor/Class Teacher if you have any concerns that may relate to your child.

Yours sincerely

Peter Collins
Principal