



15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

COVID-19 UPDATE (as at 15 May 2020)

I write to update the information provided to our community earlier this week (13 May 2020) about student attendance from next week.

Premier Mark McGowan and Minister Sue Ellery yesterday provided the State Government's advice in relation to school attendance and operations effective Monday 18 May 2020. As Catholic Schools continue to work closely with the Department of Education and AISWA, with direction from State and Federal Government, I am pleased to provide further clarity in relation to arrangements for student attendance and operations at Ursula Frayne Catholic College.

While the *Quick Reference Guide* ([Attachment](#)) provides detailed information to parents/carers regarding arrangements for students returning to school, I need to highlight the following:

- 1. Compulsory Student Attendance**
- 2. Student Attendance Exemptions**
- 3. Maintaining a Healthy School**
- 4. Support for Students**
- 5. Canteen Arrangements**
- 6. Parents and Caregiver Access**
- 7. Balmoral Campus – End of Day Arrangements**
- 8. Transition Towards the 'New Normal'**

[1] COMPULSORY STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Effective Monday 18 May 2020 all students enrolled in Western Australia Catholic schools are required to attend on-site unless they are unwell or have a medical referral to continue their learning from home.

On 11 May 2020, following a comprehensive School Readiness Review of all Catholic schools in Western Australia, Catholic Education Western Australia has determined that Catholic schools across the State will return to classroom teaching and learning for all students from next Monday.

This recommendation aligns with the latest advice from both State and Commonwealth Governments and has been made with the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and our whole community as the first priority.

[2] STUDENT ATTENDANCE EXEMPTIONS

Students may continue to learn from home if they, or a member of their immediate family, are immune-compromised or are otherwise considered at-risk medically. Parents who plan to keep their children home to continue learning remotely are asked to please contact the College via admin@ufcc.wa.edu.au. These students will continue to be supported by school staff, however from 18 May 2020, these students may not be engaged in the same learning program delivered in classrooms.

[3] MAINTAINING A HEALTHY SCHOOL

Since the start of Term Two, we have been actively planning for all students to return to classroom learning as soon as recommended by Government and health authorities. As the health and safety of all our students and staff is our highest priority, we have now introduced a range of sustainable cleaning, hygiene and safety measures and have made some changes to our school practices that are designed to minimise risks of COVID-19 transmission in our school environment now and into the future.

On the advice of the Chief Health Officer of Western Australia, we need to remain diligent during this time. You are encouraged to keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or your child has a fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers, and school staff.

It is also important that students and staff continue to follow everyday preventative actions which are critical to slow the spread of the illness: These include:

- staying home when sick;
- covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissue immediately;
- washing hands often with soap and water

[4] SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

If your child is worried about attending school due to COVID-19, please remember you can find resources prepared by CEWA's Psychology Team [here](#). These may assist in supporting your child at this time, and we would encourage you to speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about how they are coping with being back at school or would like to know more about support available.

[5] CANTEEN ARRANGEMENTS

To ensure that the safety and wellbeing of our community, new and improved measures have been adopted by our College canteens in preparation for term 2. Opening Dates for each campus are as follows:

- Duncan Street Campus Canteen – Monday 18 May (week 4)
- Balmoral Street Campus Canteen – Monday 25 May (Week 5)

Please be advised that no cash transactions will be accepted, and all purchases must be pre-ordered.

Parents of students and students can order recess or lunch, using the [Online Ordering](#) system on 'My Student Account'. Orders must be placed prior to 8:00am on the required day.

If you haven't utilised this service before you will need to read the [My Student Account](#) (MSA) instructions on how to set up your MSA and load funds onto the account. Once the information is active you can order your son or daughter's recess or lunch.

All orders on Duncan Street will be collected at the Canteen, whilst Balmoral Street students will have their order delivered to their classroom.

Next week the specials of the day at Duncan Street are:

- Monday – spaghetti bolognese / vegetarian pasta bolognese
- Tuesday – Thai green curry and rice/ vegetarian curry
- Wednesday – spinach ricotta pasta bake
- Thursday – chicken teriyaki and rice / vegetarian (tofu) teriyaki with rice
- Friday – beef burrito bowl/beans burrito bowl

[6] PARENT AND CAREGIVER ACCESS

Unfortunately, parents and caregivers are still not able to access the campuses until further notice. However, some on-site meetings are permitted **by appointment** for new enrolments, pastoral care case management, student behaviour and engagement, medical reasons and other emergencies.

[7] END OF THE DAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS ON BALMORAL CAMPUS

The arrangements in relation to the staged end of the day procedures for the Balmoral Campus will remain in place until further notice.

[8] TRANSITION TOWARDS THE 'NEW NORMAL'

As restrictions have continued to be lifted and a significant proportion of our students have now returned to classroom learning, it has been heartening to see the excitement of students and teachers alike as our school buzzes with life. However, we need to be mindful that schools are still in a period of transition, which at this point, remains undefined. As such, many aspects of the College's broader curriculum remain curtailed or suspended (e.g. extra-curricular activities; sport and Physical Education activities) based on current health directives.

While it has been challenging for all in our community to adapt to the ongoing changes, there is an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the collaboration and shared community responsibility that has meant that children can return to school, that parents can return to work and that we can all begin to enjoy time together again.

We hope that you have felt supported to decide whether to send your child to school or to engage in their learning from home, depending on your own family's circumstances. Our school staff have certainly done their very best to deliver a quality Catholic education to all our students, irrespective of whether they were being taught at school or at home.

I am certain you share our staff's joy and gratitude that our students are able to return to school to resume classroom learning together. As members of our school community, we ask that you join us in continuing to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic at home and abroad.

With regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Mills', with a horizontal line underneath.

Geoff Mills