



24 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA Governments, St Helena's is planning to remain open at least until the end of term to provide the best possible education to your children. In line with the Prime Minister's and the WA Minister for Education's advice, you 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 in conjunction with the WA Department of Health and the Department of Education throughout the evolution of COVID-19 to ensure we have the best possible preparedness and response strategies in place.

As I have communicated recently, as a staff we are working hard to ensure our teaching and learning continuity plan supports students to engage in remote learning should our school be required to close. Those students who are now not attending school because parents have chosen not to send them will be able to engage with their learning remotely through See Saw or Teams. Specific details will be forwarded to you in the coming days. Please monitor your SMS and email communications.

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

At this point in time, I ask families with children attending school to limit their need to visit classrooms and/or the office. Wherever possible, please use email or phone as your means of communication. Additionally, apart from Pre-Kindergarten to Year One, students should be encouraged to arrive and exit school through drop-off/pick-up in the school's drive through area. The fewer people alighting from vehicles and the less adult traffic, the better we can maintain physical distancing requirements.

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 will 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.



55 Fortescue Place
Ellenbrook WA 6069



(08) 9297 7500



admin@sthelenas.wa.edu.au



sthelenas.wa.edu.au



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/ren 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. I will keep you informed of 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 me directly if you have any concern that may relate to your child.

Sincerely



Lina Bertolini
Principal

