

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been a little while since I have touched base with you. Rather than sharing mixed messages, I felt it best to wait until the updated guidelines / restrictions were published as of Monday 17 August, 2020.

The NSW Department of Education and NSW Health have updated their guidelines and restrictions. I have provided a summary for you in this email; however, I have attached the full article for you.

Physical distancing

Physical distancing of students in schools is not required under the AHPPC guidelines.

All teachers, support staff and parents must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m).

Parents should ensure school pick up and drop off arrangements enable them to physically distance from one another and from staff.

Transport

Bus services to and from schools are scheduled to run as normal.

Schools are operating fulltime while actively following health advice.

Students should be at school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe
- they are currently unwell.
- In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. Schools will make arrangements for students who present as unwell or have flu like symptoms to be sent home.
- NSW Health have requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested. Students and staff with flu like symptoms will need to provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result before being permitted to return to school.
- Schools are not required to conduct widespread temperature screening or mandate the wearing of a mask.
- Students have access to hand sanitiser and tissues in each classroom and desks, chairs and high touch areas are cleaned prior to each lesson.
- Where possible, students will stay within their relevant cohort group (i.e. class, year group, or stage) for all learning activities within the school.
- Inter school activities must remain within the local community or zone. This applies to all interschool sport and physical activities, curriculum activities, arts activities and extra-curricular activities.
- Only providers that are essential to the delivery of curriculum can continue to provide services and programs until further notice.
- Parents/carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on the school site.
- All group singing (choirs) and/or other chanting activities, as well as the use of wind instruments in group settings, are not permitted. Special arrangements are in place for HSC students.

- School formals, dances, graduation or other social events are not permitted. Schools may hold a Year 12 assembly at school without parents to recognise the completion of school.

Activities/site usage that can take place:

- Use the school library.
- Engage in sporting activities within restrictions.
- Canteens can open at principal's discretion.
- All VET work placements can proceed subject to the availability of placement, appropriate risk assessments, and a COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation and a COVID-19 Safety Plan is in place.
- School assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors).
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum (e.g. music tutors, sport skills development programs, science demonstrations, drama tutors, Healthy Harold).
- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements can take place (e.g. DoE Environmental Education Centres and sport and recreation facilities, trips to local river to collect water samples).
- Face-to-face TAFE attendance.
- SRE/SEE lessons within restrictions.
- P&C meetings and events must be on-line only.
- Parent/teacher meetings will be online unless involving serious matters that require face to face discussion. The school will be organising parent/teacher phone interviews. Booking information for this will be forthcoming.

Activities on hold for Term 3

- Year 7 orientation has been delayed until Term 4.
- School camps.
- Excursions (other than field trips explained above).
- Face to face professional learning for staff. Refer to the Physical distancing guidelines.
- Parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events
- Parent and carer volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted)
- School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events.
- Interschool sport, drama, debating and other events that are not within the local community or zone including gala days and regional sporting carnivals.

Kind regards,

Vally Grego

Principal

17/8/2020