



Carey
Baptist
College
Forrestdale

Attempt the Extraordinary

23 March 2020

Dear Parents

We are indeed living in extraordinary times. Much of the world is currently experiencing circumstances that have not been widely seen since war time in terms of rationing, control of movement and curfews.

While the Department of Health advises that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in Western Australia remains low at this point, leadership and staff at Carey are working to ensure that our students, families and staff stay safe and healthy. We are informed by and act on up-to-date advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. We also recognise that this is a rapidly evolving situation and advice to the school community may change quickly. We want to assure you that if and when the situation changes the leadership at Carey will act quickly to keep you informed.

The Prime Minister released this media statement yesterday, Sunday March 22:

“Statement on schools

All leaders agreed that children should go to school tomorrow [today]. Leaders agreed that we cannot see children lose an entire year of their education as a result of school closures caused by COVID-19.

Leaders committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

Leaders also thanked all teachers and school staff for their support.

State Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed that schools will remain open through to the end of the current school terms to support students whose parents choose to send their children to school. Victoria's school break will commence on Tuesday 24 March 2020.

All Leaders have committed to re-open schools at the end of the school break, subject to the advice of the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee.

If parents choose to keep their children home from school, parents must be responsible for the conduct of the children and to ensure they adhere to the social distancing arrangements in place.

Parents must be aware that while the majority of adults who contract COVID-19 have mild forms of the virus, the elderly or those with comorbidities can have more significant symptoms.

Schools will be encouraged to provide access to online and distance learning.”

Carey Forrestdale Health and Hygiene Measures

To reassure you that the school has increased its vigilance, we wish to inform you of the following measures that we will implement at this time:

- All parents are asked **not** to enter classrooms.
- Pre-primary and Kindergarten parents may i. still enter the classroom with their child once they have washed their hands or ii. farewell their child outside the classroom making visually sure that their child is passed into the care of the class teacher or EA.
- At the end of the school day we ask that parents collect their children from the front school gate.
- Pre-Primary and Kindergarten parents may follow the above procedures (second dot point above).
- Students are asked to wash their hands before entering the classroom, after recess and lunch and after toileting.
- Students are reminded about using good hygiene practices:
 - Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand gel.
 - Refrain from touching mouth and nose.
 - If coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow.
 - Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.
 - Avoid close contact with anyone if you, or they, have cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).
- Students who are unwell are being asked to stay home and recover.
- We are minimising the number of adults that come into the school as much as possible.
- All surfaces, doorknobs, tables and high contact areas are disinfected every day.
- Recess and lunch seating and eating procedures have been modified to create space between students.
- Seating arrangements in classes have been modified to create more space between students.
- Classes are encouraged to work outside in the fresh air and sunshine.
- All incursion, excursion and unnecessary gatherings have been cancelled or postponed.
- We are attempting wherever possible to cover all absent staff internally.

Parents have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation in the following ways:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason.
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe.
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.

The following general points of hygiene may also be helpful:

- If you have a sore throat, gargling with water with either lemon, vinegar or salt is effective.
- Because the virus can be carried in the hair and clothes, when you return to your home, shower and wash your hair. Then either wash your clothes or hang them in the sun.

Every effort is being made to ensure that the information that is circulated is accurate and up to date. Please also note that the information that we receive is updated regularly and in accordance with the evolving situation. As always your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Wise". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nigel Wise
Principal