



Emmanuel Catholic College

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1 February 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians

As previously communicated, I appreciate how challenging the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the impact on society and individual circumstances can be to us all. It is an ever-evolving situation, and it is my aim to keep the College community duly informed at all times without inundating you with information. Despite changing circumstances, I am confident that the College is extremely well prepared for a variety of eventualities.

My obligation as Principal is to exercise due care and protection of your child and all students. My expertise and authority are limited to the design and safe delivery of your children's educational programme and as such I wish to highlight the following as it pertains to the College operations in regard to College ventilation, vaccination requirements 16+ and the College COVID-19 School Response Plan. As part of the Catholic Education System, we are subject to all government guidelines and restrictions, and I have a responsibility to ensure that these are adhered to throughout the daily operation of the College.

College Ventilation

The College is committed to adhering to the advice of the Chief Health Officer in ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all within our community. Following an internal audit of our school's teaching and learning spaces during the Christmas holidays, only those spaces with appropriate ventilation will be used in the 2022 school year. An external audit of our spaces will also be carried out in the next month or so to ensure such measures are fully compliant. Should any space be deemed insufficiently ventilated please rest assured that either:

- I. the room will not be used by students or staff; or
- II. air purifiers will be installed to meet the required standard.

It is important to note that both natural and mechanical ventilation methods are utilised in our school along with the critical strategies of staff vaccinations, the wearing of masks, enhanced cleaning and ongoing expectations of high levels of hygiene. Each measure is being used to keep our students and staff safe.

Vaccination requirements 16+

Under current Government Guidelines there is a requirement for those aged 16+ to provide evidence of vaccination in order to gain entry to a variety of venues. This will impact student ability to take part in a number of excursions and College events. Regardless of age I wish to place this on the radar of all

families as throughout the year this will extend to even more students and events, including but not limited to performing arts and sport. With such attendance being out of our control we will do everything we can to minimalise students being unfairly disadvantaged.

COVID-19 School Response Plan

The COVID-19 School Response Plan will be enacted in response to a confirmed COVID-19 case in the College. In summary, if notification of this takes place during the school day the following will occur:

- Department of Health informs the school Principal of a COVID-19 positive test result of a student or staff member and may suggest school closure for the short term.
- Principal liaises with CEWA to enact immediate closure of the College and will provide adequate support to the individual and inform relevant family contact.
- Staff to be advised confirming school closure plans.
- All relevant parties to be informed of school closure.
- Parents / Guardians will receive a text to direct them to an App/email notification of school closure plans and arrangements for collection of students. Please note students may not catch public transport. If walking home or being collected by someone other than a legal guardian written permission must be emailed to the Head of Year.
- Staff to notify students and provide direction to collection times and locations.
- Students to leave College grounds.
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- All staff and students will need to isolate themselves until they receive advice from WA Department of Health.
- Follow up email clarifying the situation to be sent to all families later that day.

In the event that the school is required to close and such notification is received out of school hours, a text message will be sent directing families to an App/email notification with further detailed information.

It is my hope this plan will never have to be enacted but I do believe it prudent to inform the College community of the plan should it be required. If you have any further concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Regards



Mr Paul Watson
Principal