

23 April 2020

Dear Parents,


As a follow-up to the letter sent home to parents on Tuesday, 21 April relating to Term Two arrangements, and in light of recent feedback received, as well as media and public commentary made, there are inconsistent levels of understanding about Catholic Education Western Australia's (CEWA) Term Two advice.

At this time, when parents, caregivers and staff are seeking clarity, it is vital that there is consistency in messages relating to these Term Two arrangements.

Catholic Education Western Australia Term Two approach is in alignment with the National Principles for School Education and endorses the position announced by Premier Mark McGowan and Minister Sue Ellery. However, it is necessary that parents of Infant Jesus School have one clear message, that is in line with, and reinforces CEWA's position (outlined in the Letter sent to parents 21/4) which has been misunderstood by some. Hopefully the information below clarifies questions or concerns parents may have.

Why have WA Catholic schools adopted a single mode of instruction for the first four weeks of Term Two?

- The WA State Government, on the advice of the State Disaster Committee, continues to give parents of children in K to 10 the choice as to whether they send their children to school, or not.
- Catholic Education endorses the importance of parental choice, especially when it involves the health and safety of their children.
- This arrangement will invariably mean that in every classroom there will be some children in attendance, and some at home.
- On **Wednesday 29 April**, in line with the WA State Government's position, Catholic schools will open for children whose parents have chosen to send them.
- Catholic Education is committed to equity of the teaching and learning for all children. Given the State Government's position of choice for parents, Catholic Education needs to ensure that every child has an opportunity to be taught and to learn.
- In the spirit of equity, and reflecting parental choice, Catholic schools will provide appropriate and quality teaching and learning opportunities for all children, both at school and at home.
- Teachers are most effective in leading teaching and learning when they are able to focus on each child's learning needs. They do this by creating opportunities for children to be challenged and supported in their learning journey.
- It is very difficult for teachers to simultaneously deliver effective and meaningful face to face teaching in a classroom while at the same time supporting remotely other children's learning needs. In some ways this is analogous to driving a car and using a mobile phone at the same time!
- The WA State Government provided all teachers with professional development time in Week 10 of Term 1 to effectively plan for the first four weeks of Term 2, employing on-line or work pack delivery as the single mode of instruction.
- Given the challenges of dual modes of instruction, and to ensure that all children, whether at school or home, will be equally supported in their learning, **Catholic Education has made the decision that for the first four weeks of Term, on-line teaching and learning, or student work packs, will be the single mode of teaching and instruction offered to all students.**

- 
- As a Catholic school we are well prepared to operate in this space, supported by digital platforms such as Teams/Seesaw etc. **The preparation which has been undertaken by staff will ensure that for the first four weeks of Term 2, whether a student is at school or home, effective teaching and learning will be offered.**
 - The priority for teachers delivering on-line teaching and learning or supporting the completion of work packs, whether undertaken by students at home or school, is the pastoral care and wellbeing of each child. This will be achieved by regular contact between teachers and students, irrespective of their physical setting.
 - Children will be taught at school or home through on-line learning or work packs.
 - If students are attending school our staff will facilitate the on-line teaching and learning process, or completion of work packs, by ensuring that students are engaged with their education.
 - Students who attend school are required to engage with their on-line teaching and learning or completion of work packs.
 - School is not open for students to be simply supervised and not engaged with on-line teaching and learning or completion of work packs.
 - Teachers will be giving formative feedback on student progress, when and where appropriate, to both students and parents.
 - If or when significant numbers of students have returned to school, schools should continue to be agile in responding to the teaching and learning needs of students at both school and home.
 - Catholic Education Western Australia is hopeful that schools will return to normal operation as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Paul Hille
Principal