



Sydney Catholic Schools

23 March 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

I start by acknowledging the deep concern and uncertainty that our students, parents and staff are feeling at this difficult time.

I thank everyone in our communities across Sydney Catholic Schools for their strength, support and kindness to each other during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Premier of NSW announced this morning that while schools remain open for supervision, parents are encouraged to keep their children at home. Please be assured that should you rely upon your child attending school, we will care for her or him and provide supervision.

While the advice of our Government and public health experts is that schools are safe places to be, it should also be recognised that our teachers and other school staff have their own concerns about the situation which must also be heard and respected.

The Premier has indicated schools will provide a single unit of teaching for both children at school and at home. We understand this to mean that our school will be providing remote learning modules. These modules will include some online work and a variety of other activities that continue key learning areas. The same work will be delivered in class for students who continue to attend school.

I assure you that:

- our schools will continue to be places of safety and learning and we will protect and care for every child no matter what
- parents will not be left without the assistance of our school communities if circumstances change and we will be there for parents with particular needs or situations
- our staff are the foundation of our schools and their health and welfare is just as important as anyone else in the community
- each school community will be supported to manage the situation and respond to the needs and views of their communities practically and with respect.

Thank you for your support and perseverance at this time. Your school will continue to communicate with you and keep you updated as the situation develops. Updates are also available on the Sydney Catholic Schools website which can be accessed via <https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/coronavirus-updates>. If you have any concerns please contact your child's school. God Bless.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Farley
Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools

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