



Phase 3 School Operations Guidelines

ADVICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Effective 8 June 2020

In line with the latest State Government and Department of Health advice, current Term 2 arrangements have been reviewed and the following will apply from Monday 8 June 2020:



Student attendance

All students are required to attend school unless they are unwell, have a medical referral to learn from home or live with a family member who is medically vulnerable.

Students with a medical condition

Students may continue to learn from home if they are immune-compromised or are otherwise considered at-risk medically.

- Parents who plan to keep their child home to continue learning remotely are to seek medical advice and will be required to provide medical evidence to the school. Students approved to learn from home will continue to be supported in their learning.
- Where a student's pre-existing medical condition is already known to the school, no medical evidence is required.

If a child is unwell

Students who are unwell should stay at home. Parents are asked to seek medical advice if their child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19. Normal processes for advising the school of a child's absence will apply.

Student with medically vulnerable family members

Students may continue to learn from home if a member of their immediate family is immune-compromised or medically vulnerable.

- Parents who plan to keep their child home to continue learning remotely are asked to contact the school Principal and provide medical evidence to support their request.



School facilities

School canteen

School canteens can continue to provide takeaway service and provide a dine-in service for up to 100 people provided at least 2m² of floor space is allowed per person and physical distancing requirements are met.

School library

School libraries may now be accessed for up to 100 people in a shared library space, and up to 300 people where the facility includes multiple divided spaces. Library access must be managed and supervisors and staff are to maintain physical distancing.

Swimming pool

Swimming pools may open for up to 100 people in any given space ensuring physical distancing and health hygiene protocols. Change rooms may now open. Vac Swim and in-term programs can proceed.

Uniform shop

Uniform shops may now open to parents and caregivers where the school can assure adherence to physical distancing requirements of 2m², enhanced cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population. Parents and caregivers visiting the uniform shop should be required to sign in, providing contact information in the event that this information is required by the Department of Health.

Where a school operates a uniform shop, increased cleaning and hygiene practices must be put in place to ensure that the uniform shop meets the required AHPPC guidelines.



School activities

Incursions

Incursions can occur, should they not exceed 100 people for indoor settings and 300 people in outdoor settings. Supervisors/staff are to maintain physical distancing.

Interschool activities

Interschool activities with a total not exceeding 100 people for indoor settings and 300 people in outdoor settings can occur. Encourage good hygiene practices including hand washing before and after lessons. Physical distancing of one person per 2m² should apply where practicable.



School sport

Contact sport and training is now permitted. Equipment may be shared, however schools should ensure regular cleaning of equipment is undertaken and encourage good hygiene practices including handwashing before and after sport.

Interschool sports can occur with a total not exceeding 100 people for indoor settings or 300 people for outdoor settings.

Excursions

Excursions with curriculum relevance can occur. However, they should not exceed 100 people for indoor settings and not exceed 300 people in outdoor settings. Supervisors/staff are to maintain physical distancing. Interaction with the general public should be limited where practicable.

Camps

Camps can recommence, however should not exceed 100 people. Schools should follow CEWA excursion policies, developing mitigations that lower the risk of transmission and promote good health, hygiene and physical distancing within the camp facility. Schools must also ensure camp providers comply with WA COVID-19 Health guidelines.

Examinations

Examinations may proceed for up to 100 people. Physical distancing and hygiene protocols should be applied with entry and exit points identified.

Work Placements

Work placements may recommence. Schools should conduct work placement risk assessments and ensure employers comply with WA COVID-19 Health guidelines.

Assemblies and school community events

Assemblies and other school community events may recommence with total not exceeding 100 people for indoor settings and not exceeding 300 people in outdoor settings. Physical distancing and good hygiene practices should be applied with entry and exit points identified. Careful consideration should be given to the arrival and departure of people, including entry and exit points to avoid crowding.

Choir

Choir can continue with a total not exceeding 100 people with no interaction with students from other schools. Encourage good hygiene practices including handwashing before and after lessons and physical distancing of one person per 2m² should apply.



School visitors

School meetings

School Boards, Parents and Friends and staff meetings can resume during school hours and after hours for up to 100 people when adhering to physical distancing and enhanced cleaning requirements.

Parent and caregiver meetings

Pre arranged parent/caregiver meetings can proceed, adhering to physical distancing and hygiene protocols.

Parent and caregiver access

Parents and caregivers are allowed onto school grounds to drop off and collect their children. To ensure the 2m² rule is adhered to, parents are asked not to enter classrooms at the beginning or end of the school day.

School visitors

Visitors and third party providers on school sites can occur only when the school can assure adherence to physical distancing requirements of 2m², enhanced cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population. Visitors on school sites should sign in and identify rooms/areas visited should this information be required by the Department of Health.

Use of school facilities

Third party service providers and community groups may access facilities to re-establish activities. All visitors and third parties on school sites should adhere to physical distancing requirements of 2m², enhanced cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population. Visitors on school sites should sign in and identify rooms/areas visited should this information be required by the Department of Health.



Health and hygiene

Arrangements for Term 2 continue with regard to safety, to reduce direct contact, enhance personal hygiene practices, and strengthen cleaning regimes in schools. This arrangement will need to continue for Phase 3 and be reviewed for Phase 4.

Cleaning

Cleaning guidelines are based on, and continuously reviewed in line with, advice from the Department of Health.

Increased cleaning will continue in Term 2, with cleaners present throughout the school day to undertake continuous cleaning regimes.



All schools have cleaning staff on site during the school day to regularly clean and disinfect high-contact surfaces that are frequently used by students and/or staff.

Schools continue to be required to confirm the revised cleaning requirements have been complied with on a weekly basis.

Playgrounds are open and play equipment is being cleaned before school and after each break.

Maximising the use of physical space

Schools should maximise the use of indoor and outdoor spaces to physically distance students where practicable. This may include conducting lessons outdoors or in environments with enhanced ventilation.

Students and staff should consider the following guidelines to reduce contact:

- Avoid direct physical contact (handshakes, hugs, etc.).
- Utilise staggered start and break times.
- Use alternative locations within the school.
- Unwell staff or students to remain at home.
- Combine or split year groups and classes as appropriate.
- Use alternative locations within the school boundaries to deliver classes.

Physical distancing of one person per 2m² is still a requirement for all adults.

Personal hygiene:

- Schools are to ensure arrangements are in place for regular and thorough hand-washing for students and staff.
- Posters and information regarding handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene should be displayed in schools.



Remaining prepared

Catholic schools will continue to review and respond to cleaning and hygiene protocols in line with advice from the Department of Health.

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, any temporary school closure will be advised by the Department of Health and the school will enact its Six Step Response Plan in the event of a confirmed case.

When making decisions on applying this guidance the following should be considered:

- The AHPPC definition of vulnerable populations is based on age and [underlying medical conditions](#) that are limited and considered relatively serious.
- The AHPPC advises that there is a relatively low risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools amongst children.