

19th March, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The rapid evolution of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak continues to be a challenge for everyone in education. I am aware that it has caused concerns for parents, staff and students.

Because the health and safety of our school communities is our highest priority the school's decision to stay open is based on advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers. At the present time the advice from Dr Brett Sutton, Victorian Chief Health Officer, is that 'pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.

When advice from the Chief Medical Officers changes, we will communicate those changes to our school community. Until that occurs, your child's education at school is our focus at Sacred Heart School.

We continue to actively monitor developments, and are working closely with the Catholic Education Sandhurst. The Diocese and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria are partnering with the Victorian Department of Education and Training and Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure our practices reflect current advice and support the needs of our school community.

I am receiving regular updates from the CECV and Catholic Education Sandhurst, and am ensuring my school leadership and staff are aware of coronavirus reporting and management practices and are well-placed to respond as circumstances change. School leadership and our teaching staff are committed to ensuring that learning remains available to students as part of all students' entitlement to access the Victorian curriculum.

We have plans in place to support students to learn from home, but while we remain open the emphasis will be on the learning and teaching currently in place in the classroom.

Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be assured, the wellbeing of every student at Sacred Heart School is our highest priority.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Hindson
Principal