



Marian College

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www.mariansw.catholic.edu.au

A Community growing in Faith and Love • Serving Others • Striving to Achieve • Thinking for the Future

Thursday 19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

The current advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that schools remain open. This advice is constantly under review and we will update you if it changes.

We are all aware that some people in our school communities have heightened levels of concern and anxiety regarding the many impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. These thoughts and feelings are normal and understandable. Most adults and children will be able to manage these feelings through being resilient and practising positive coping skills. However, some may feel overwhelmed and unable to adequately express their concerns. This may result in escalated levels of distress or worry.

Families and caregivers of children and young people should discuss news of the virus with those in their care in an open and honest way. Try to relate the facts without causing alarm, and in a way that is appropriate for their age and temperament. It is important to listen to any questions they may have, and to let them know that they are safe and that it is normal to feel concerned. If the media or the news is getting to be too much for them, encourage them to limit their exposure.

We feel that it is important for us to help promote ongoing wellbeing and good health across our school community. Dr Michael Carr-Gregg developed a video, *SPECIAL REPORT: Coronavirus*, for parents and school staff. Catholic Education Melbourne acknowledges the generosity of SchoolTV in making the report accessible to parents and staff in Catholic school communities. Please click on this link to access the video:

http://coms.cem.edu.au/EmRedirect.aspx?nid=363fb3bd-0ccf-4bba-9769-e0e106a44829&sid=0b248cfa-1aba-4f7f-bde0-e14ef774b96d&url=https%3a%2f%2fschooltv.me%2fwellbeing_news%2fspecial-report-coronavirus

You can also access quality factual information from credible sources (click on the links below)

- [Victorian Government Health Department](#)
- [Victorian Government Education Department](#)
- [Catholic education's response to COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)](#)
- [World Health Organization](#).

I am receiving regular updates from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV), and ensuring school leaders and staff are aware of coronavirus reporting and management practices, and are well-placed to respond as circumstances change. Some of you may also be concerned as to how the College will be providing for continuity for learning in case of a school closure. The school's leaders and 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.

The methods our students will use to access this learning from home will be a school-based decision, and will vary according to need and context. We already have localised resources and ideas for supporting the students' learning from home. Learning from home requires careful management and may not be available immediately. If you require please contact the school directly to discuss educational continuity options. At some point today you will receive further information about the protocols that we will put in place to facilitate learning from home.

Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9363 1711 or at principal@mariansw.catholic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Pisani
Principal