



CATHOLIC EDUCATION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

28 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I wanted to firstly thank you for your strong support of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA), and especially for our wonderful staff, over the past six weeks. Our system's commitment to a Christ-centred and student-focused education has been at the forefront of our efforts as we have been challenged by and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are aware, in alignment with the Western Australian Government's position, from Wednesday 29 April, Catholic schools will reopen. CEWA continues to be in full compliance with the National Cabinet's "COVID-19: National Principles of School Education". [Link to National Principles](#)

Students in Years 11 and 12 are strongly encouraged to attend classes for face-to-face teaching. Parents of children in Years K to 10 have been given the choice as to whether their children attend school or undertake learning from home. Parents are reminded that they should not send their children to school if they are unwell.

Please be assured that the best possible teaching and learning will be offered to all students in Years K to 10, either through on-line learning or the completion of school developed work packs. Any child who attends a Catholic school will be taught and supported in their learning and pastoral welfare by their teachers and education assistants. The same opportunities will be provided to those children who are working from home.

I would like to provide you with some information about the planned transition of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) to full attendance at school by all of our students. We hope that this will occur soon.

CEWA is guided by, and in full compliance with, the COVID-19 National Principles for School Education. In making a final decision regarding the full return by students to schools, the following three considerations will need to be satisfied:

1. Our students and staff must be safe at school.
2. The education provided to all students must be high quality and equitable.
3. Teachers will provide teaching and learning opportunities to students through one mode of delivery.

In determining the achievement of these three conditions, CEWA will undertake a formal review of its current position on Monday 11 May. We will closely monitor the Government's daily health advice, guided by the Chief Health Officer of Western Australia and informed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) [Link to advice](#). We will also continue to plan for the physical, cleaning and hygiene requirements that will be required for a full return by all students to school. Attendance rates will be monitored daily to ensure that we are offering the most effective and appropriate teaching and learning strategies for our students.

I am aware that your principal has recently written to you reaffirming that every child's place in a Catholic school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial situation. Information regarding fee relief and details of the Health Care Card discount scheme have also been provided to you. If you have any concerns with school fees, I strongly encourage you to contact your principal to have a confidential conversation.

I share your strong desire to see our schools return to the vibrant and engaging environments which have always been hallmarks of Catholic Education; where teachers can welcome their students on a daily basis and teaching can be delivered to all children within the rich learning environments of our classrooms.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Sayce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'S'.

Dr Debra Sayce  
Executive Director