



St Norbert
College

8 April 2020

COVID-19 Update: Term Two Arrangements

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our College staff this week finalise teaching and learning plans for Term 2 – albeit under very unusual circumstances – we have been pleased to receive advice from Catholic Education Western Australia that Term 2 will commence as scheduled for schools in Western Australia.

For all Catholic schools, Saint Norbert College included, learning will continue to be delivered remotely and all parents and carers are encouraged to keep their children home.

As has been the case since we transitioned to remote learning in Term 1, parents and carers who are engaged in essential services or are required to maintain employment may choose to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.

We again remind parents to advise Administration via our attendance email absentee@norbert.wa.edu.au to confirm that they intend to send their child to school.

Please use “Attending School – Student Name(s)” in the Subject Line.

Parents will not be required to contact the school if their child is remaining at home.

Our staff will continue to work through Term 2 to ensure we can best support our students’ learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. Some staff may be working from home, or from the school, as appropriate.

As parents, you are playing an important hands-on role, assisting your children in engaging in learning at this time, as well as supporting them through any anxiety or worry they may be feeling. I would like to stress that parents are by no means expected to take the place of teachers, and we will be doing our very best to support you and your child, delivering the curriculum and providing pastoral care in the most engaging way possible remotely.

I have included, at the end of this letter, a list of the **“Help and Support Services”** available to parents, students and families in times of uncertainty, trauma and crisis.

As we continue to partner your child’s ongoing learning, we acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents and carers. At the commencement of Term 2, you will receive further details of our plans in this regard.

These plans have been well considered, and while we are initially planning for remote delivery of learning for the first five weeks of Term 2, we are also considering the potential for this to be extended as required.

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We remain committed to the care and wellbeing of our school and broader community, especially those most vulnerable who must remain our first priority. One aspect of this is considering the social and financial impact of this situation on many families.

As communicated last week, I wish to reassure every parent and carer that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial circumstances.

If parents or carers have concerns in this regard, I encourage you to contact our College Finance Officer fees@norbert.wa.edu.au should you need to discuss your personal financial circumstances and the measures outlined in previous letters. We appreciate that this may feel uncomfortable for some but urge you to make contact. This will allow the College to provide support for you where possible and will assist our financial modelling going forward.

We are endeavouring to manage this new reality as quickly, effectively and sensitively as possible during a time of great uncertainty.

Our school staff are grateful for the support and appreciation that so many parents and carers have shared as we journey together through this challenging time.

I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Harvey', written in a cursive style.

Simon Harvey
PRINCIPAL

Helplines and Supports

- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 – <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>
- Headspace – 1800 650 890 – eheadspace.org.au
- Mental Health Emergency Response Line -<https://www.mhc.wa.gov.au/getting-help/helplines/mental-health-response-line/>
- Family Help line: 9223 1100
- Parenting WA Line: 6279 1200
- Crisis Care (Crisis counselling): 9223 1111
- Police/ Ambulance: 000
- Child and Adolescent Health Service : Urgent mental health telephone support for children and families: Ph 1800 048 636

External Services Offering Online Counselling for Children and Young People

- **eHeadspace**
A non-acute online support service for young people aged 12 to 25 years.
Phone 1800 650 890
www.eheadspace.org.au (Online chat or email counselling)
- **Kids Helpline**
A helpline service for children (aged 5 to 12 years), young people (aged 13 to 25 years), and their parents and carers.
Phone 1800 551 800 (24-hour support)
www.kidshelp.com.au (Webchat or email counselling)
- **Youth Beyond Blue**
A non-acute youth support service.
Phone 1300 224 636 (24-hour support)
www.youthbeyondblue.com (Online chat, email counselling or self-help tools)