



St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

23 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have continued to monitor closely the decisions being made by Government and Health officials as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact on Australian society. In response to the growing concern around the COVID-19 outbreak, St Mark's, along with all ASC schools, is moving into our distance learning program. We are strongly urging families to keep their children at home COMMENCING TOMORROW, Tuesday 24 March.

Where families cannot take care of their children at home, including families where parents are frontline health or essential workers, supervision will be provided at school DURING NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS in this instance. The length of the school day, and start and finish times, remains the same for those students attending school.

Staff will take the next few days to ensure all distance learning programs are finalised, so the remainder of this week will be a transition process to the new mode of teaching and learning. The School will move exclusively to distance learning from next Monday 30 March and will continue this learning until the last day of Term 1 on Thursday 9 April. The usual school holidays dates will apply.

Our Distance Learning Plan is shared with you so that you can understand how it will operate within each of our sub-schools. It may be accessed via this [LINK](#). While learning will look and feel a little different for our students for a while, it is very important that learning does continue through this time.

Please note, the School will only be open for those families who cannot supervise their children at home. Where families have no other option than to send their children to school, students will be supervised by staff at school and will also engage in the distance learning plan which will be operating for the whole school.

The reduced number of students on site allows us to ensure appropriate social distancing for the safety of our students and staff as well as provide support to families who cannot be spared from their essential jobs during this time.

Normal services such as the Cafeteria / Primary Kiosk will not be in operation, so students attending the school site from next Monday need to bring their lunch and recess. If the Cafeteria / Primary Kiosk closes this week, families will be notified.

The School is here to support all our families during this difficult time. We understand all families are facing unexpected challenges due to COVID-19 and we want to reiterate our support for you, our school community. For those families under severe strain, please contact the school so we can talk about how to best support you during this time. Contact may be made with our Business Manager, Mrs Carolyn Gray, at cgray@stmarks.wa.edu.au or by telephone at 9403 1301.

We urge all families to take seriously this response by the School. For those families whose children will not attend school from tomorrow, please ensure you keep your children AT HOME, in the interests of their health and the health of the wider community. If you do have to go out for essential reasons, please keep to the social distancing rules recommended by Government.

We caution against using older grandparents or relatives for childcare during this time, due to the increased risk of COVID-19 for this group.

As we move into an uncertain time around the country, we hope that St Mark's will continue for your family to be a source of stability, strength and learning. It is important we all care for each other and understand that each of us is doing their best in unusual and unprecedented circumstances.

You and your families are in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely

Steven Davies
Principal