



St Mary MacKillop College

CHOOSE LIFE WITH COURAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

COVID-19 Update

Changes to parent interaction

The College is implementing measures, as mandated by the WA government and CEWA, to minimise the risk of COVID-19 entering or being transmitted on school grounds. This includes:

- Prohibiting indoor face-to-face events
- Cancelling or postponing school camps
- Modifying pick-up and drop-off times where practicable
- Restricting contact between different year levels.

The following changes are in effect as of today:

Parents at pick-up and drop-off

Parents will be permitted on school site for drop-off and pick-up **in outdoor locations only** - but gatherings of parents on site should be avoided. Parents are not permitted to enter classrooms. Mask wearing for parents is expanded to outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Where possible, please use the in-car drop-off and pick-up. In an effort to alleviate traffic congestion Primary teachers will release students using the in-car pick-up a few minutes early.

Parent-Teacher interaction and meetings

Parents are not permitted to enter the classrooms, and Primary teachers have been instructed **not** to meet face-to-face with parents either before or after school. Please email your child's teacher and arrange all discussions via phone or email.

Administration offices

Wherever possible, interactions between administration staff and parents should take place over the phone or via email/online. Parents should only attend the College office in the event of a significant pastoral or welfare issue related to their child.

Parents can pay their fees online (Bpay/Direct Debit) or with credit card over the phone. Secondary Assistance and Health Care Card Scheme applications can be made by emailing finance@mackillop.wa.edu.au for an application form. These can be emailed back with a copy of their card.

Uniform Shop

Wherever possible, parents should email uniform orders to uniform@mackillop.wa.edu.au, and they will be delivered to the student on a Tuesday or Friday. Parents can also telephone the Uniform Shop directly on **9752 7513**, and pay with their credit card over the phone.

Parent entry to the Uniform Shop is now via the side door access, and limited to between 9am and 3pm. Students can enter through the front door as usual on our normal opening days, including before and after school.

Upcoming College events

Swimming Carnivals: to restrict contact between different year levels, students in Years 8-12 will participate in a 'swimming trial' format competition within their year group: Years 8 and 9 on Thursday 17 February, and Years 10, 11 and 12 on Friday 18 February. To compete in these swimming trials, students will need to nominate with their House Coordinator during PCP tomorrow (Wednesday 9 February). Years 4-7 completed their swimming trials last week.

Sacrament Parent Meetings: Until notified otherwise, there will be no face-to-face Parent Sacramental Meetings for Years 3, 4 and 6. Further information will be sent closer to the Sacrament dates to outline the process for that year level.

Primary Assemblies: Monday morning and Year group assemblies will not take place until further notice. Merit certificates and AR Awards will be presented in your child's classroom, and a photo of your child with their award and their teacher will be emailed to parents. At this stage, Year level assemblies will be filmed and a link emailed to parents.

College Production: rehearsals and performances of 'Singin' In the Rain' has been postponed until further notice.

After School clubs and bands: Homework classes, band practice and LAG have all been suspended until further notice.

School Camps: No school camps are planned for Term 1.

Thank you for your cooperation with this. Following this letter is information sent out by the WA government this week regarding close contacts, isolation and testing protocols that apply to school settings.

We will continue to monitor all situations and respond where and when needed.

Yours sincerely



Frank Norton
Principal

Changes to definition of 'close contact'

Close contacts of a positive case in a school setting are now defined as follows:

- **Interaction for more than two hours** in a small indoor space or classroom environment with a infectious person, where masks have been removed for this period.
- **Face-to-face contact for 15 minutes or more** with an infectious person, where a mask was not worn by the exposed person or the person with COVID-19.
- **Someone who has been notified by WA Health** that they are a close contact.

Please note that testing and isolation protocols will be the same as those that apply in the general community.

Common parent questions:

I am a close contact, and quarantining at home – do other people in my household need to self-quarantine?

No. Only close contacts of a positive case need to self-quarantine. People should take extra precautions and have no interaction with close contacts.

I am a parent/guardian of a child, who is a close contact of a positive case from school. Do I need to self-quarantine with my son/daughter?

Not always. If a child can quarantine independently in a separate area of the house and does not require hands-on care then other members of the household are not required to self-quarantine.

If a child tests positive or needs care throughout their self-quarantine period, then other members of the household will be required to self-quarantine.

For more information: <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/.../Quarantine-and-isolation>

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19:

- If a PCR test is unavailable, **report** positive RAT test to WA Health.
- **Self-isolate** for a minimum of 7 days.
- If you still have **symptoms on Day 7**, continue isolating until symptoms clear.
- If you have **no symptoms after Day 7**, you can leave isolation – no test is required.

For more information on the test and isolation protocols in WA, visit www.wa.gov.au