



18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers at Immanuel Gawler,

These are certainly unprecedented times and we all find ourselves making the best decisions we can based on the information we have at the time. As a Lutheran School we are blessed to have the support of a number of organisations and most importantly of a God whose promise is to always be with us.

At the heart of any decisions we make it is the absolute responsibility we have to ensure a safe environment for our school community - students, staff and family members.

And so, armed with the latest DECD, SA Health and LESNW advice we write to let you know some directions we will be taking in the coming period.

Precautions – we reiterate the message contained in our email communication earlier this week, that is...

- If you or your child/ren are sick and show any of the symptoms of Corona Virus you must stay away from school.
 - The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other colds and flus and include:
 - Fever
 - Sore throat
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Difficulty breathing
- While coronavirus is of concern, it is important to remember that most people displaying these symptoms are likely suffering with a cold or other respiratory illness – not coronavirus.
- Practising good hand washing and sneeze/cough hygiene and keeping your distance from others when you are sick is the best defense against most viruses. Importantly:
 - Washing hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet.
 - Covering coughs and sneezes.
- We are reiterating these messages at school and proactively working with children to enact them.

Sports Day - we will need to postpone this to a later time. However, on the proposed day we plan to make it special for students by providing rotational sports activities where students can dress up in their team colour and win points for their house teams towards the Bob Fielke Spirit Award. And while parents won't be able to attend, we will share the day via digital updates etc. The planned Sausage Sizzle for the students will go ahead.

One of the clear messages from health authorities is that we need to limit/minimise the possibilities for transmission and spread through proximity, and that gatherings (especially in confined spaces) should be the subject of reviews. So, on the basis of that advice;



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Reading in the mornings - for a while we will ask parents and care givers to minimise their school interactions. While parents are still welcome on site, we'll scale back things like reading in the morning and non essential entries into classrooms where possible. Parents are still welcome to come into classrooms but we'll be seeking to minimise the possible exposure to the virus through this.

School Gatherings - it's been our normal custom for all students to meet in Taikondi after recess and lunch but we will stop doing this for a while. Students will line up at classes after breaks and we will need to cease gathering for things like Worship and Praise and assemblies for a while. While we will continue to meet in teaching teams (grades of the same level) we won't be going beyond this size in the coming period.

Learning at Home - we recognise that some students may need to stay away from school and so we will utilise the See Saw platform to share learning activities that students can do at home. Early each week we will load some activities (Maths, English, UOI) that students can do in the event that they can not access their learning here on site at Immanuel. By using the See Saw platform students can upload what they have done (if they want to) so that staff can see it as well. The activities we will provide are simply a resource and there is no compulsion to complete it - we will not be using it for assessment and reporting.

Camps and excursions - we expect that most of these will not be able to go ahead in the coming period, however, on the basis of a thorough risk assessment, some might. For example, an excursion/camp to a venue that is only being accessed by our students at that time and is predominantly 'outdoors' may very well be able to go ahead. For each case we will do the assessments, consult and pass on as much information as we can and ensure parents/caregivers have the opportunity to input into decisions. Our staff team is considering opportunities to ensure we continue to have a relevant, challenging, engaging and significant curriculum offering via either adaptation or the creation of new opportunities.

Stress and anxiety - some students will have concerns and anxieties. www.headspace.org.au is a good resource to go to for advice and support. We will do our best to reassure students who have concerns and our normal well-being practices will support this.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk about any of this. Student welfare is at the centre of every decision we make and we have not taken any of the steps outlined in this letter lightly. We will be supportive should parent/caregivers decide to keep children away from school in the coming period.

We will enact these changes from Thursday the 19th March 2020.

Daryl Trigg