



Macarthur Anglican School

COVID-19 Updated Guidelines and Protocols

Winter Term 2020

August 2020

Based on new advice from NSW Health and the Department of Education in NSW, updated measures for school activities have been put in place to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools for the remainder of Winter Term.

The following principles underpin these measures across NSW schools:

- Where possible, students will stay within their relevant academic, pastoral or co-curricular group (i.e. class, year group, House group, or stage) for all learning activities within their school in order to limit close contacts to the relevant student cohort.
- Inter-school activities must remain within the local community or zone. This applies to all inter-school sport and physical activities, curriculum activities, arts activities and extra-curricular activities organised or sponsored by the school.
- Only non-school providers that are essential to the delivery of curriculum can continue to provide services and programs until further notice.
- Parents/carers and other non-essential visitors are not allowed on school sites other than essential meetings and for drop off or pick up of students.
- All group singing including choirs and the use of wind and brass instruments in group settings, are not permitted. Special arrangements are in place for HSC students. Individual lessons are permitted.
- School formals, dinners, dances, graduation or other social events are not permitted. Schools may hold a Year 12 assembly at school without parents to recognise the completion of school.
- Schools may consider delaying events until later in the year.

In light of these principles Macarthur's protocols include:

1. Activities and campus usage that can take place

- Use of the IRC can operate with appropriate social distancing measures in place.
- Intra-school sporting activities with appropriate restrictions. Off campus venues if outdoors are permitted with some indoor venues permitted where Macarthur is the sole occupant of that venue. Shared facilities are prohibited.
- The Junior Canteen, Senior Cafeteria and Café and the Uniform shop are operational with restriction such as 15 minute time limits, physical distancing or appointments as appropriate.
- School assemblies are limited to 15 minutes and are to have no external visitors.
- Students from other schools may attend Macarthur for essential curriculum related reasons or placements (e.g. auditions or placement tests such as GATEWay).
- External providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum (e.g. music tutors, sport skills development programs, science demonstrations).

- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements can take place (e.g. Environmental Education Centres and sport and recreation facilities, trips to the local river to collect water samples).
- School photos.
- Parent meetings should be online or by phone unless it involves serious matters that require face-to-face discussion.

2. Activities on hold for Winter Term

Until further notice the following activities must NOT take place. Reviews of these will occur throughout the term and are likely to take place in early next term.

- MISA, IPSSO, NASSA and CIS sport activities.
- MISA, IPSSO, HICES activities such as public speaking and debating unless they can be conducted online.
- Kindergarten and other new student orientation for 2021.
- Year 7 orientation for 2021.
- School camps and overnight trips.
- Excursions, other than field trips explained above.
- Interstate excursions.
- International excursions (cancelled until further notice).
- School or community-run playgroups.
- Face-to-face professional learning for staff including the Morning Meeting.
- Parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events.
- County use of the School's facilities.

COVID Testing

If a student or adult has undergone COVID testing they should exclude themselves from School until a negative test result is reported. Please ensure that the relevant Head of School is informed if your child is going for a COVID-19 test.

Have you visited Victoria or a local 'Hotspot' recently?

Students who visited Victoria or any of the sites indicated on the identified dates on the NSW Health website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>) should not attend Macarthur until they have completed their self-isolation period of 14 days.

- Students and families should follow Health advice to self-isolate and be tested if they visited any of the venues on specified days (as above).
- If a student has visited a venue listed on the Health website they should inform the person undertaking the test regarding the venue and date of their visit as this will help manage the outbreak.
- It is essential students and families adhere to Health advice regarding self-isolation and provide family members with the relevant information re isolation if advised by Health.
- It is essential that families inform the School of the period of self-isolation so that the roll can be marked accordingly.

The latest advice on the Public Health Order requirements for staff, students and visitors returning from Victoria can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/border-restrictions#mandatory>.

Guidance for parents, community and visitors to the Campus

- Staggered drop-off and pick-up arrangements for the Junior School in force for sometime now remain in place for Winter Term and parents should follow the instructions of staff in these areas. Parents are not to enter the classroom or playground areas unless a meeting has been scheduled.
- The timetable and bell times for students in Years 5 to 12 revert to the usual timings with House Group and other in-school activities returning to normal.
- Parents and visitors who need to be on-site for scheduled meetings, Uniform Shop purposes, or for any other purpose, must sign the [School Visitor Declaration](#) available at the Uniform Shop and all points of sign-in to the Campus.
- Non-essential adults are still not permitted on the School campus or at school events. This includes parents and carers except for face-to-face parent/teacher meetings that are deemed essential (e.g. to discuss academic progress or other welfare matters).
- Construction and maintenance providers may attend schools for asset-related activities.
- The Headmaster will continue to restrict, limit or prohibit activities if deemed to be contrary to the advice of the day.

Safety and hygiene

Physical distancing is not required for students

Physical distancing of children in schools is not required by the AHPPC guidelines. Research has shown limited transmission risk associated with school children in the school environment.

Notwithstanding this advice, some activities will be modified, including appropriate social distancing measures, to accommodate specific attributes inherent to the activity such as choirs and bands.

Assemblies (apart from Headmaster's Assemblies) and Chapel services will take place without parent involvement and with some modification as appropriate.

Physical distancing requirements remain for adults

Macarthur staff need to remain vigilant and take all precautions to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at the School and when out in the community. When physical distancing is combined with good personal hygiene, the spread of illness and infection can be

slowed. Staff should exercise good personal hygiene and cleanliness including around staff spaces and shared usage areas.

All adults must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m) including teachers, support staff, and visitors.

Staff should socially distance in common spaces and staffrooms and avoid shared items as much as possible.

Non-essential visitors to the Schools are not allowed.

Hygiene measures

Macarthur will remain vigilant in applying infection control and personal hygiene practices while at the School. Macarthur encourages regular washing of hands, will exclude any staff or students who are unwell, will avoid the sharing of food and personal items and will have appropriate cleaning protocols for any shared items such as musical instruments, learning and sporting equipment between uses.

Students should continue to bring water bottles from home to fill at water bubblers rather than drink directly from the bubbler.

The wearing of masks while at the School is a matter of personal choice.

Attendance and roll marking

All students should be either:

- at school;
- at home because they are currently unwell having notified the School; and/or,
- at home because they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition (or in limited cases where a family member has an ongoing medical condition).

If parents believe that their child has a condition which means it is not safe for them to return to school, they will need to provide a medical certificate. These are likely to be children that are at higher risk of severe illness if they contracted COVID-19.

Macarthur encourages families in these circumstances to speak with their doctor or health care provider to develop an action plan to support decision making about their activities, including attendance at school. Where there are only a few cases in the local community, the actual risk of getting COVID-19 is low. Further information is available from the AHPPC resource [Living Well in the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Students in a higher risk group can return to the School with the written support of their health care provider.

Please note, it is the current advice that students who are residing with a family member who is identified as being at higher risk should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises

otherwise. Parents or care givers should provide written confirmation from the treating health professional that the student is unable to attend school and for what period of time.

If students are away from school because they are unwell, there is no expectation that they complete school work. It is important that unwell students rest.

If students cannot attend school due to a long term illness or underlying health condition, as is current practice, Macarthur will continue to provide work for the period they are prevented from being at school.

If a student falls ill while at school, the School's current protocols apply including contacting the student's parent or carer or emergency contact, to collect the student.

Recording absences, medical certificates and case management

If a student is absent for more than three days without a medical certificate, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

In relation to medical certificates, if there is an ongoing pattern of poor attendance and major concerns, under [chapter 16a](#) of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1999, the Headmaster may contact the GP to discuss the matter.

Our primary concern is the wellbeing and safety of the students in our care.

Enhanced cleaning

The School's cleaning is delivered in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Target areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails. Enhanced cleaning is delivered as part of the daily cleaning of the Campus.

The Campus continues to receive an additional clean during the day in line with AHPPC guidance. This includes cleaning frequently touched areas in bathrooms after recess and lunch, as well as replenishing supplies such as soap and hand towels that are provided by the School. High touch surfaces such as balustrades and handrails in the playground are also disinfected.

As per normal operational restrictions, a cleaner cannot enter a classroom while students are in the classroom. During the day, teachers should encourage students to use disinfectant products to wipe down their own learning spaces after each lesson or learning period. When a student is sent home the classroom that student has vacated is cleaned. The students vacate the room while an in-depth cleaning takes place.

These cleaning protocols will remain in place until the end of Winter Term, 2020, or until such time as changes in the health advice occur.