



Macarthur Anglican School

Continuation of full-time face-to-face learning

Winter Term 2020

In line with health advice, Macarthur Anglican School is continuing to operate full time, with many additional activities recommencing in Winter Term 2020.

With updated health advice and changes to state and national restrictions, the School has recommenced the majority of school-based activities. This guide details a limited number of activities that remain under consideration. This advice takes into account the recent cluster of COVID-19 in Sydney and Victoria.

The following principles underpin these protocols:

- The School continues to be safe and operations are in line with AHPPC and NSW Health guidelines.
- All students should be learning on-campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.
- Existing infection control protocols at the School, and new health and safety measures put in place will help maintain the health and safety of students, staff and visitors.
- The wearing of masks while at the School is a matter of personal choice.
- All activities permitted at the School are safe and appropriate in accordance with the living with COVID-19 advice and will be responsive to changes in this advice.
- Macarthur continues to monitor and plan for any changes in local circumstances that may arise, including changes in health advice or local restrictions.

Have you visited Victoria or a local 'Hotspot' during the holidays?

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 according.

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 last term 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 school grounds 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.
- Community use of the School's facilities outside of normal school hours is able to recommence with the Headmaster's approval including activities involving general adult attendance. The organiser remains responsible for compliance with distancing and hygiene requirements aligned with the health advice of the day. All users of the School's facilities and visitors to the campus must be aware of the distancing, health and hygiene measures required by the School.
- 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.

School activities

Activities that have recommenced

- Some school sport, including inter-school sport competitions, will slowly recommence during this term. However, with the current COVID-19 cluster areas there may well be curtailed involvement as a cautious recommencement is considered more prudent.
- Musical ensembles and performances excluding inter-school activities.
- Other inter-school activities such as debating, public speaking and performing arts will slowly recommence with continued modification as appropriate.
- School assemblies and Chapel services (no external visitors). No Headmaster's Assemblies.
- All curricular and co-curricular programmes or services delivered by Macarthur staff with some modifications as appropriate.
- Practicum teaching for tertiary education students.

- External adult providers to support delivery of curriculum (e.g. Music tutors, sport skills development programmes, Science demonstrations, and day field trips to outdoor locations that require minimal physical distancing considerations).
- School photos including group photos (Staff photos to be taken where physical distancing requirements are able to be met).
- Staff Meetings and professional learning gatherings where appropriate social distancing measures can be implemented. Online meetings will continue to be conducted where appropriate.

Activities on hold until further notice

A small number of activities remain on hold and will be reconsidered during Winter Term.

- 2021 orientation days.
- Overnight trips and camps.
- Excursions (other than those with minimum community contact).
- Interstate excursions.
- Gathering of large groups of staff from other schools for face-to-face conferences or meetings, all day off-site professional learning activities, meetings or planning sessions.
- Parent and visitor attendance at Chapels, assemblies and other school events.
- Parent and carer volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers.
- School-based activities that involve large gathering of adults (more than 20 people). These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events.
- Certain large co-curricular and sports events have been cancelled or delayed. Many large-scale arts events and sports tournaments rely upon feeder activities and have long-lead time organisational arrangements. As a consequence, a number of annual activities are planned to be delayed or cancelled.

PLEASE NOTE: All International Tours have been cancelled until further notice.

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.