

Wednesday, 6 May 2020

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PLAN RETURN TO FACE TO FACE TEACHING

All systemic Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn are preparing for a formal transition for students to return to face to face teaching, based on the advice of government and health authorities.

Our Catholic schools in NSW are currently planning for a return to face to face teaching from the week beginning Monday, 11 May (Week 3 of Term 2). Systemic schools in the ACT plan to transition from the following week, beginning Monday, 18 May.

We are a system of 56 schools and recognise the importance of the local and regional context of our schools. NSW and ACT Governments have different approaches to the return of students to school given the prevailing community and health context. These different approaches inform our plans for students to return to face to face teaching in our Catholic schools across the Archdiocese.

While we are immensely proud of the outstanding efforts of our Principals and teachers in preparing and delivering a quality remote learning program for all of our students, we believe that face to face teaching offers the best learning experience for students, academically and pastorally. The intention is for a return to face to face teaching as soon it is safe and reasonable to do so for students and staff in their local context.

Individual schools are deciding the specifics regarding how students will return, and consideration is being given for how to deliver a program to all students, if families decide to keep their children at home. Social distancing regimes will remain in place for all adults in school environments.

Director of Catholic Education, Mr Ross Fox noted that “In developing plans for a return to face to face teaching and high attendance levels, it is also possible that circumstances, for example the community transmission context, may change at short notice and we would then need to adapt our plans accordingly. A return to remote learning could be reconsidered following further advice from government and health authorities in the future.”

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