



Term 1 Plan: ACT Catholic Education Schools January 2022

This plan is subject to health advice at the time. The **health and safety** of students, staff and their families is the priority.

Return to school 2022	<p>New students start school on Monday 31 January 2022. Continuing students return on Tuesday 1 February 2022.</p> <p>Catholic Education ACT schools will deliver on-campus learning with the following measures in place to minimise transmission of COVID-19 onsite. Early childhood services will continue to operate for all children.</p> <p>Our approach is informed by advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).</p>
General requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination - All eligible students (ages 5 and over) and all staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccination requirements apply to all people working in early learning centres, preschools, primary schools, Out of School Hours Care, or schools that share campus space with students in Year 6 or below. • Access to Rapid Antigen Tests: all school-based staff and students will be provided with two Rapid Antigen Tests per week for the first four weeks of Term 1. • Check in requirement - All staff and visitors must check in using the Check in CBR app. Timely and accurate student attendance (roll marking) is to be completed for each class. • Physical distancing and hygiene - All schools will have a completed COVID-19 Safety Assurance Plan. Staff, students and visitors must not attend school campuses if they are unwell and will be sent home if they have symptoms of COVID-19. All staff, visitors and students will be required to physically distance where possible, and maintain appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene. Density quotients will apply in non-student areas (one person per two square metres indoor spaces). • Cohorting - Schools will limit unnecessary physical interaction between students on school grounds and the mixing of student cohorts (those not routinely learning together) in line with public health directions. This may include staggering breaks and dedicated entry and exit points for different year groups based on school-specific requirements. Student cohorts will have identified shared areas and use of shared spaces will be staggered. Limiting interaction between students does not apply to siblings. Where possible, mixing of staff cohorts will be minimised by assigning or staggering the use of common areas, such as staff rooms and facilities. • Masks - Staff and visitors at all schools, and students in years 7-12, must wear a face mask indoors on school sites, unless exempt, or under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ when eating or drinking, when communicating with a person who is hard of hearing, when exercising vigorously, when outside alone, during an emergency, when performing tasks where wearing a mask may present a health and safety risk, or during music rehearsals or performances (however a mask must be put back on when the tasks are completed). ○ Students in years 3 to 6 are encouraged to wear a mask at school if they are comfortable doing so - this is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers. Children in preschool to year 2 should not wear masks as they are likely to be worn incorrectly and may present a choking hazard. Masks may not be suitable for students with disability. Schools will make allowances for those students to not wear masks if required. • Cleaning - Enhanced COVID-Safe cleaning practices will be in place to ensure regular cleaning of high touch surfaces (such as handrails and desks), frequently used objects (such as staff desk top computers), common areas, toilets and play equipment. • Ventilation - All ACT public schools have Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) plans in place to increase fresh air circulation. Ventilation systems have been adjusted to increase the fresh (external) air being supplied to classrooms that are connected to HVAC systems. Classrooms that are not connected to large HVAC systems typically have external ventilation and split system AC units so the fresh air source can be readily controlled. Use of outdoor areas for learning will continue to be maximised.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Students - Schools will continue to support learning from home for students who are medically vulnerable to COVID-19 and not attending face to face learning. All Catholic Education students continue to have access to school counselors. • Supporting Staff - School staff are essential workers. All staff have access to wellbeing supports. Teachers will not be required to deliver remote and on campus learning to the same class at the same time.
Facilities & hire	<p>All activities on school sites must comply with density requirements of one person per two square metres in non-student areas, in line with the most current public health social measures.</p> <p>School canteens and uniform stores can operate online and counter sales, with COVID safety business checklists in place.</p> <p>P&F/Community Council contactless fundraisers and events can go ahead on school sites with COVID safety measures in place, with a minimum number of volunteers necessary to be on site.</p>

Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers can attend school sites for scheduled appointments and events. COVID safety measures must be in place to manage onsite visitors, including check in, physical distancing requirements and wearing of face masks indoors. • For children starting at a new school or ELC in 2022 or children with additional needs, COVID Safe Plans for parents or carers to attend the education settings will be in place. <p><u>Primary Schools, P-10 schools, specialist schools, and flexible education vaccination requirements.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All visitors and volunteers who work directly with children or have regular contact with children must have been fully vaccinated in accordance with the most current public health direction.
Excursions and school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extracurricular activities and incursions can occur on school sites for individual students, classes or cohort groups with COVID Safety Plans in place. • Essential excursions and activities involving individual classes or year groups are allowed, where these form a core component of the curriculum. A COVID-safe plan should be developed ahead of any excursion. • Indoor and contact sports involving individual classes or cohort groups are permitted. • School sporting teams can train together and participate in community sporting competitions. • No swimming and athletics carnivals in Term 1. Schools may consider alternative ways to run intra-school competitions (eg competing within small cohorts only). • No international excursions. • Students from individual classes or cohort groups can participate in a dance class, school choir, band or orchestra. Singing and playing wind instruments are allowed with appropriate physical distancing to be maintained. • No school assemblies, performances and concerts until further notice.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments will be undertaken as per normal processes as much as is practicable.

All actions in this plan are subject to change based on health and operational requirements.