



**MANDURAH
BAPTIST COLLEGE**

BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS

PARENT UPDATE

K-12

TERM 2



“Schools are safe and open for learning”

In line with the latest health advice current Term 2 arrangements have been reviewed with the following changes, from Week 4, Monday 18 May 2020:

All students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.

This means students are either:

- at school;
- have a medical referral to learn from home;
- recorded as absent if they do not attend; or
- students who are unwell, should stay home.

Families are asked to define the category of absence when contacting the College.

Students with medical conditions (as above) who are not able to attend school will be supported to learn from home. SEQTA will continue to be the forum for remote learning.

Parents/carers and visitors will continue to drop students at the gate unless for a pre-arranged appointment.

Students with medical conditions

Parents and carers of students with a medical condition, or a family member/carer in their home with medical condition, should seek medical advice.

Medical referral process

If the advice is that their child should not attend school, the parent/carer should notify the College and provide the school with a medical certificate.

Where a student/parent or carer's pre-existing medical condition is already known to the school, no medical evidence is required.

Attendance

From Monday 18 May, it is expected that all students attend school, except those medically referred to learn from home or those who are unwell.

Students medically referred to learn from home will not be penalised for non-attendance. Once the parent/carer informs the school they intend to seek medical referral to learn from home, attendance for these students will be recorded as 'enrolled in remote learning'.

Students who are unwell should stay home and parents/carers notify the school, as per normal process. Any unapproved absences must be accounted for as per usual.

School activities

From Monday 18 May, based on Health advice, the following applies:

- The Café continues to provide takeaway service.
- The Senior School Library is open from 8.00am until 4.00pm daily.
- Inter School activities and camps will not be conducted.
- Incursions for the purpose of course completion (i.e. senior secondary subjects) will proceed, however, they will not exceed 20 people in total, and are to maintain social distancing.
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- Assemblies and other school community events will not be conducted at this time.

- Meetings can resume after hours for up to 20 people when adhering to social distancing and enhanced cleaning requirements. We will not resume Parent Connect (Senior School), P&F (Primary School) or Parent Teacher Meetings for the short term.
- Pre-arranged parent/carer meetings with staff for the purposes of enrolment, case conference, student behaviour and engagement, medical reasons or other emergencies can proceed.
- Visitors to school sites will be limited to essential health, wellbeing, case management and maintenance providers, and occur only when the school can assure adherence to social distancing requirements.

NOTE: As per the WA COVID-19 Roadmap, all school activities will be reviewed in preparation for Phase 3.

Reporting to Parents Semester 1

School systems/sectors across the country have been offered flexibilities in relation to reporting requirements for Semester 1, 2020.

MBC will report using our regular report templates, with all of the usual information typically contained in Semester 1 reports; however, timelines will be extended and reports PP-12 will go out at the **end of Term 3 Week 1**.

Health, Hygiene and Cleaning

Arrangements for Term 2 continue with regard to safety, to reduce direct contact, and enhance personal hygiene practices, as previously reported.

Students and staff are encouraged to reduce contact e.g. avoid direct social contact (handshakes, hugs, etc.); use alternative locations within the school where needed; unwell staff or students to remain at home.

Personal hygiene: Arrangements are in place for regular and thorough hand-washing for students and staff. As previously reported extra cleaning agents are available. Visible messaging regarding are regularly displayed.

School fees

As we mentioned at the end of last term, the 25% off Term 2 fees concludes when remote learning ceases. Having said that, the college is going to apply the 25% discount to the last 2 weeks of Term 1 also, as a way of providing further support, giving 5 weeks of discounted fees.

We are keen to talk with any family who [are](#) financially struggling, to assist you in keeping your child as part of the MBC community. Please contact us if you need further financial assistance with tuition fees.

The next governmental review is scheduled for **Week 7** of this term.

Quick Q&A

Update for Weeks 4-7

An update of recommendations has been provided to school for operational matters as we move into a new phase for Weeks 4-7 of this term. NB. Not all [COVID-19 information](#) is covered in these questions and answers, but rather an update of key shifts in policy.

All school activities will be reviewed in Week 7 of Term 2, subject to the AHPPC advice and in line with the WA COVID-19 Road Map timeline.

Canteen

The cafe continues to provide takeaway service.

Can parents visit the cafe? Parents must utilize the online service as they are unpermitted to enter the college grounds past the Administration.

Library

The Senior School Library is open to students 8am until 4pm

Incursions and excursions

Can interschool sports recommence? Interschool sports cannot occur at this time.

Can incursions recommence? Only incursions for the purpose of course completion (senior school subjects) should proceed, with only 20 people in total, and supervisors/staff are to maintain social distancing.

Can excursions recommence? Only excursions for the purpose of course completion (senior school subjects) should proceed, with only 20 people in total, and supervisors/staff are to maintain social distancing.

Can work placement and work experience continue? Senior secondary students that are school-based apprentices or trainees can continue their related part-time employment in order to complete their qualification. Schools must confirm employers will provide a COVID-19 safe work environment consistent with Health guidelines.

Assemblies

Can assemblies occur? Not at this time. Where possible alternate methods of sharing information will occur.

Meetings on site

Can the school hold meetings on site out of hours? Meetings can resume after hours for up to 20 people only. Social distancing, good hygiene practices and the 4sqm rule per person applies to all meetings. Enhanced cleaning of all facilities used for meetings is in place.

Can other on-site meetings, including staff meetings, occur on site? Yes, staff meetings can resume after hours for up to 20 people, or if spread across a large facility e.g. Theatre, to allow for social distancing. Social distancing, good hygiene practices and the 4sqm rule per person applies to all meetings. Enhanced cleaning of all facilities used for meetings is in place.

Pre-arranged parent meetings with staff for the purpose of enrolment, case conferences et cetera are permitted where adhering to social distancing. Case management meetings, including external parties, are permitted where adhering to social distancing.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Who can visit the school site? Visitors to the school are limited to essential health, wellbeing, case management and maintenance providers, and occur only when the school can assure adherence to social distancing requirements, enhanced cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population.

This is in addition to essential personnel attending school sites for the purpose of curriculum relevant incursions for the purpose of senior schooling course completion.

Are third party providers allowed to use school facilities during the school day? No, third party providers cannot access the school or students during the school day; however, providers essential for student wellbeing and support are permitted.

Are third party providers allowed on sites out of school hours? Activities undertaken are those that are permitted in Phase 2 of WA's Roadmap; and are at the discretion of the college.

Work placements and work experience

What about students who have a contractual arrangement as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship? Senior secondary students that are school-based apprentices or trainees can continue their related part-time employment in order to complete their qualification.

Schools must confirm employers will provide a COVID-19 safe work environment consistent with Health guidelines.

Can students undertake work placements or work experience? No. Work placements and work experience cannot take place at this time. Exemptions are provided above.

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Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear parents and students

Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer

Schools have now been open for students since the commencement of Term 2 and I am very encouraged by the way the school community, parents and students are caring for their health and attending school in a responsible way. This is building community confidence in the safety of our schools with the overall attendance rate reaching over 82%.

WA recently recorded 14 days with only 2 reported cases, both of whom were rapidly identified and are in isolation. With over 56,000 negative tests and only 7 active cases, there is no evidence of community transmission.

The WA State Government has recently announced further decisions about the easing of restrictions in our state as part of a phased approach in the management of the pandemic. These decisions have been based on public health advice and will continue to be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead.

Public health measures already in place to protect the community will remain a focus during this time, including broad testing, comprehensive contact tracing when a case is identified, isolation and quarantine measures where required, and education about social distancing and hand hygiene. Plans remain in place to ensure immediate response to any reported infections in the school setting when needed to prevent the spread of any illness.

I continue to recommend that schools should remain open to all students and families should be encouraged to return their children to the classroom. If your child is more vulnerable due to health problems or your have a vulnerable adult living in your home, then I would recommend seeking advice from your specialist medical practitioner as to whether returning to school remains the best option for you.

We need to remain diligent during this time and I encourage you to please make sure you keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or your child have fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Thank you again for your leadership and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON

Chief Health Officer

May 2020