



Fairholme College

TOOWOOMBA

COVID-19 UPDATE

18 May 2020

Dear Parent/s

We look forward, where possible, to the on-campus return of our students from Kindy to Year 12 on Monday 25 May, in particular, **all day students** and many boarders. Currently, we have been directed to a ceiling of 25% occupancy in boarding. Whilst most aspects of school operation will be familiar, there are considerations that continue to be observed as a result of the presence of COVID-19 in areas of Australia and Queensland. Thus, there are some changes for students, parents and staff. Our actions in boarding and the day school continue to be informed by Government legislative guidelines in both Health and Education - all in the interests of community health and safety.

We continue to:

- Observe physical distancing practices where applicable and possible. In particular, we are conscious of the importance of physical distancing between adults and have made changes to staff rooms and staff meetings accordingly.
- Use online methods for Assemblies and other gatherings that exceed ten people or do not allow for appropriate distancing.
- Observe the small group restrictions in relation Music and Sport operations.
- Restrict visitors to campus.
- Ask for drop off and pick up practices to be observed as per details below.
- Give emphasis to and support appropriate personal hygiene practices and ensure robust regular cleaning throughout the College.
- Request that neither staff nor students attend school if they are unwell and that parents collect their child in a timely manner should they become unwell during the day.

ABSENCES

We anticipate the return of **all day students** from next Monday, and many of our boarders, also. Where it is not possible to return due to a health situation, or exceptional family circumstances, or due to the boarding restrictions currently in place, please make contact with your Head of Sub School or Head of Boarding to discuss that circumstance. We appreciate continued prompt advice for any absences via the app, email or telephone.

COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

During the past weeks we have, of course, established protocols for a school response to an instance within the Fairholme community. As is the process across schools in all states and territories in Australia, we will be directed by Public Health in our actions. If we look to schools that have closed due to a case of COVID-19, we note that closure has been for a minimum period of three days. For us, this would mean closure of our day school to allow both contact tracing processes to occur and deep cleaning procedures to take place. In boarding, this would mean either an absolute lockdown of the Boarding House with all staff and girls, or the collection of boarders by parents or guardians within a four-hour period. Our preference is to avoid a lockdown wherever possible, given the heightened risk of spread in that situation as well as the obvious logistical difficulties that may arise. Whilst we naturally hope and pray that a case of COVID-19 will not occur in our community, we must also be prepared to respond if directed and to be cognisant that this may be a possibility.

RESUMPTION OF SOME ACTIVITIES IN THE ARTS AND SPORT

We are pleased that there has been some relaxation in the operations of the Arts and Sport. As such, instrumental, singing and speech and drama lessons have recommenced. Small group ensembles and sectionalised choir and instrumental groups have also resumed rehearsals. Some swimming and triathlon groups have been able to recommence training, as well as small group outdoor exercise sessions. These are important aspects of many of our students and we look forward to seeing and hearing them re-engage in these fundamentally important activities.

STUDENT DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS

As we eagerly anticipate 25 May we are looking closely at the way in which traffic flow can be bettered to reduce the congestion of students and cars: in essence, some social distancing in the car park will respect distance between adults, particularly. We seek your assistance in dropping off and picking up quickly, without lingering, or leaving the car.

Kindy parents continue to park and walk their daughter or son to and from kindy at the lengthened drop off and pick up times of 8.30 – 9am and 2.30 – 3pm.

***Junior parents (Prep- Year 6)** continue to drop and go or stop and pick up at the front of the Junior School between the times of: 8-8.20am and 3-3.30pm. in the afternoon *You will note an extension of time in the afternoon to allow an easing of traffic.

***Middle School** parents continue to drop and go or stop and pick up between the times of 8 – 8.15am in the morning and (a change) **after 3.30pm** in the afternoon. If you can give consideration to a pickup in a side street that would be most helpful.

