



28 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

On Thursday and Friday last week we had two very successful days of Off Campus Learning (OCL). Teachers produced high quality lessons and resources and the majority of students were thoroughly engaged. Students and teachers enjoyed catching up, even if it was online. We had fewer absentees than we've had in a very long time!

While messages from the Federal and State Governments are contradictory in certain aspects, we are continuing to follow the advice of the State Government. **Last week they reaffirmed their position that students should continue learning from home for the first five weeks of Term Two, until 22 May 2020.** On the 15 May the situation will be reassessed.

All teachers are engaged in the delivery of online lessons, which is particularly challenging if they are also supervising children. We have planned and adapted teaching arrangements in order to accommodate a certain number of students whose parents are unable to supervise their learning at home, but I am concerned that these numbers are steadily creeping up. Whilst the Federal Government has announced that students in schools do not have to comply with social distancing protocols (but teachers should), at Saint Stephen's we prefer to follow these guidelines. Unfortunately, this is not possible if large numbers of students are on campus. Students of a certain age are expected to self-monitor their learning and should not require adult supervision.

Please remember if you do fall into the category of parents whose children may attend school, you will need to fill out the weekly survey so that we have ample time to ensure that we have enough staff available for supervision.

I would like to remind parents, that whilst we would dearly love for all students to be back on campus, the State Government directive is clear:

- *Stay home as much as possible (home confinement).*
- *Keep 1.5 metres away from others as much as possible.*
- *Avoid shaking hands, kissing or hugging others.*
- *If you can, work from home.*
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All Queenslanders should stay home unless leaving for [essential reasons \(Opens in new window\)](#), including:

- *shopping for essentials - food and necessary supplies;*
- *medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements;*
- *exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements;*
- *work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.*



Developing character, inspiring hope

*In addition to leaving your house for essential purposes, from Saturday 2 May 2020, Queenslanders may also leave for [recreational purposes](#), while social distancing rules are followed. This means you can go on a picnic, go for a drive, take a boat or jet ski out, shop for an outfit or a book — but you can only go out with one other person or the people you live with, and you must stay within 50km of home.*

We eagerly await the time when we can all be at school together, not only for the obvious benefits of face-to-face teaching and learning, but also because as human beings we all crave the social interaction. But this is exactly what the State Government is directing us to avoid, even with the lightening of some restrictions from 2 May 2020.

For those of you who are supervising younger students at home, please remember that if they need more breaks than the daily plan suggests, let them take the breaks. The same is true for you; take breaks as needed, relax when required and don't put too much pressure on yourselves.

*Loving God, please grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart.  
My soul is like a turbulent sea.  
I can't seem to find my balance so I stumble and worry constantly.  
Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and  
walk the path you've laid out for me.  
Amen*

Kind regards



Kim Cohen  
**Principal**