



2. Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our first priority at St Joseph's is the health and safety of our school community.

As a school community, we have decided to postpone the following events:

- Grandparent's Day
- Year 5 excursion
- Year 5 Mass
- St Joseph's Feast Day Mass
- Colour Fun Day
- Harmony Day

We are in discussions with Educational Tours and Safaris (tour provider) regarding rescheduling the Year 6 Canberra Camp to Term 4.

Years 3-6 Cross Country training at Harleston Park has been moved to St Joseph's.

New dates will be confirmed in due course with as much notice as possible.

As you would appreciate, the decision to postpone these events has not been made lightly and has been made in consultation with the Archdiocese and State Government authorities. It has been agreed that it would not be wise to bring together large numbers of students, teachers and the public when the risks associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus) are significant.

We want to reassure you that the school is well-prepared for the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We are being provided the latest advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd to ensure that our school practices are helping to keep our school community safe from the outbreak.

Any incidents that arise will be addressed in accordance with our Critical Incident and Emergency Management Plan. We will also have access to resources and support from Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Health and Human Services.

As parents, you have a critical role in helping the school manage this situation:

- Exercise good judgment by keeping children home if they are feeling unwell for any reason.
- Talk to children about the situation, as they may be feeling anxious or stressed. You have a key role in helping students feel prepared and safe.
- Encourage children to be proactive and committed to their schoolwork, and to stay connected with the school and their teachers.



- Be mindful of travel arrangements in the coming weeks.

Families must contact the school and the relevant health authorities immediately, should a family member contract COVID19 (coronavirus).

The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of resources on its website, which explain the virus, detail risk-reduction practices and behaviours, and answer frequently asked questions. These are available at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

You can also find information about Catholic education's response at <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>.

This is an evolving situation, but we will keep you updated as things change.

We ask that you continue to work closely with the school and to contact the school should you have any concerns.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our students safe.

Warm regards,
Simon Collis

