

St Francis



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Journey as Family in Peace through Love

PO Box 3506
Tannum Sands, Queensland 4680

T: (07) 4973 3600
F: (07) 4973 3611

E: info@sftsrok.catholic.edu.au
www.stfrancis.qld.edu.au

Thursday 16 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing with a further update about Term 2 arrangements in our Catholic school.

Term 2 Arrangements

As the Premier has advised, the arrangements for Term 2 will be that many students will learn from home for at least the first five weeks of the term. The situation for the second half of the term will depend on updated health advice and it is expected this advice will be received and communicated to parents during the week commencing 15 May.

Our Catholic school will be open during Term 2 for children of essential workers where home supervision is not possible and for all vulnerable children in our community. Students who attend the Catholic school will be supervised as they undertake the *Learning from Home* program. It is important that any child who is sick does not attend school for the safety of other students, their families and our school staff.

The Queensland Government provides the following definitions that may be of help:

- **Essential workers** are any workers who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business/work during this time;
- **Vulnerable children** include children identified by schools or who are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order, or are subject to a youth justice order.

If you have not already done so, to assist with our initial Term 2 planning, *please advise the school by no later than Friday 17 April 2020 3pm if you anticipate that you will need to send your child/ren to school from Week 1 of Term 2 by emailing info@sftsrok.catholic.edu.au*

This will assist us to make appropriate arrangements for students who will be attending school.

Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

We know this is an unsettling time for the whole community and it is important that as a Catholic school community and as families we provide reassurance for our students and keep their lives as normal as possible.

As such, we will be supporting our students in the following ways during this period:

- Your child will have contact with the school on a regular basis
- Access to support materials and student activities that support well-being (see Weekly Matrix of Learning)

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Student Attendance

New arrangements for recording attendance during this learning from home period will be in place during the first five weeks of Term 2 (up to 22 May).

During this period if a student is learning from home and they are unwell and unable to participate in learning, parents are requested to advise their school using the normal notification procedures.

If a student needs to attend school, the normal procedures for notifying the school of any absences will still apply.

Finally, our school will maintain regular contact with students using several methods. If the school becomes aware that a student is unexpectedly absent from either learning from home arrangements or their school, we will notify the student's parents using our established unexplained absences procedure.

Tuition Fees

Recent correspondence on Tuition Fee Relief in Catholic Education – Diocese of Rockhampton Schools for Term 2 can be found [here](#).

Social Distancing

To ensure compliance with social distancing measures, parents must not congregate in areas around the school (e.g. before or after school in car parks / outside classrooms / at the school gate). All persons entering and leaving the school grounds must maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from each other.

School Communications

As we start Term 2, we will continue to communicate with you through the normal school channels whenever new information is available.

You can contact the school by email at info@sftsrok.catholic.edu.au and 4889 8320.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick and the vulnerable at this time and also with the frontline health and emergency services workers bringing care and healing to those affected by the virus.

I know this will be a challenging time for our community, state and nation and I thank you in advance for your support for our students and staff and your understanding as we go forward.

May God continue to bless us all.



Mrs Kathleen Watt

Principal