



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Media Statement
21 April 2020**

Catholic schools in Term Two

In line with recent announcements from the WA Premier and Minister for Education, there will be a soft start for Term Two for Catholic schools in Western Australia.

The cautious approach to the start of Term Two is based on the latest advice from State and Federal Health and Education Departments, and will provide all Catholic school students with equitable access to high-quality ongoing education, as well as allowing parents to choose what is best for their child and family.

From Wednesday, 29 April, Catholic schools and colleges will be open, signalling the start of a phased approach to a return to normal operation.

Year 11 and 12 students are strongly encouraged to attend school in person from this date, however schools will make arrangements for remote learning if their parents choose to keep them home.

Parents have been asked to inform their school if their child in Year 11 or 12 will continue to learn from home.

For students from Kindergarten to Year 10, parents can choose to keep their child home or send them to school, with the same flexible learning plans in place for all students to ensure that all students benefit from a high quality education delivery no matter their situation.

Parents have been asked to inform their school if they are planning on sending their child in Kindergarten to Year 10 to school.

CEWA Executive Director, Dr Debra Sayce, said that Catholic schools had worked hard in Term One to prepare for a range of scenarios in Term Two, including flexible and remote education, but remained adaptive and agile in responding to a rapidly changing situation.

“CEWA is committed to access and equity for all students, and our schools will continue to deliver outstanding education and pastoral care support, whether at school or at home. Regardless of the setting, our students will be able to engage in a quality Catholic education,” Dr Sayce said.

“Our Year 11 and 12 students, at this important point in their schooling journey, have the first opportunity to return to schooling somewhat as normal, however there may be timetable and classroom changes and other measures taken to ensure that social distancing is maintained,”

“For those students in other years, we are absolutely committed to supporting engaging learning for all.”

“For most Catholic schools this will mean that all students are participating in the same remote or flexible program in a classroom or their own home – this ensures that no one is unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged, and I am confident that our staff are doing an outstanding job of creating meaningful learning in these uniquely challenging times,” Dr Sayce said.

CEWA has confirmed that these arrangements will be in place for the first four weeks of Term Two, with a review taking place on 18 May.

ENDS