



Special Message from the Principal

COVID-19 Update

Dear Calrossy Community,

I write to clarify the School's response to the COVID-19 recommendations from the Australian Prime Minister and the NSW Chief Medical Officer. Please be reassured that Calrossy is committed to the wellbeing and best interests of our students and will continue to be so. We are closely monitoring all information provided to us from Education and Health authorities.

The Government has indicated that it is considered safe for schools to continue with normal classes, undertaking increased hygiene and social distancing interventions to slow the spread of the virus and reduce risk of infection to students, staff and the community. Our school will do everything possible to protect ourselves and the wider community.

The Calrossy COVID-19 Response Team and School Executive have been meeting regularly to carefully respond to what is a complex and rapidly evolving situation. Whilst conscious of the seriousness of the spread of Coronavirus we also wish to minimise the over-reaction seen from parts of our community. The measures we are implementing are as follows:

Flu Like Symptoms in Children:

- All students who demonstrate fever or flu-like symptoms must remain at home until the symptoms clear. In the case of fever and or high temperature, take medical advice before returning to School.
- Students at school who demonstrate symptoms will be required to go home. Boarders will be isolated in the Health Centre, pending a decision to be collected by families.

Increased Hygiene Measures:

- Hand sanitisation and regular hand-washing of at least 20 seconds
- Instruction on correct hand-washing procedure, including songs for younger students to reinforce learning

- Instruction to sneeze/cough into the elbow
- Food preparation at Calrossy is operating at the highest standards
- Food to share with others is not permitted for the foreseeable future. No birthday cakes etc.

Social Distancing – Peers and Parents

- Outside visitors to our school are limited, including guest speakers, assembly guests, parents and itinerant visitors.
- Parents may only collect students from Kiss and Drop zones (or Reception, during school hours).
- Students have been asked to avoid handshaking and refrain from close physical contact.
- A full review of every School event is taking place each 24 hours.
- Careful consideration is taking place concerning large gatherings and events, taking steps to minimise risk of close contact.

Teaching and Learning

School classes will continue as normal until advised otherwise. However, students are encouraged to make their way directly home after school. Those who remain on campus to study in resource centres will be required to follow the appropriate hygiene measures. Normal study support will continue as usual. Kookaburra Club will continue and parents will collect children as routine.

Involvement in Excursions and ‘At School’ Events

- Many outside events have been cancelled.
- Where possible, expeditions and excursions will continue, if considered safe and low-risk. Activities where risks are hard to manage will be cancelled or postponed.
- School-based events are being continually reviewed.
- Parents and students will be notified of all changes as they occur.
- Our Japan Tour and the Cattle Team trip to the Royal Easter Show have been cancelled.

Co-Curricular and Sport

- All CIS, HRIS and AICES sporting events have been cancelled for the remainder of Term 1. Some Tamworth sporting associations have discontinued competition. Where safe, activities may progress, should risk be considered low.
- The Primary Cross Country on Friday 20 March will be a modified event, at school with no spectators) and the Secondary event, tomorrow, has been postponed.
- Students in co-curricular groups will be advised of the status of events. House Music, The War Cry Cup and School Experience Day will all be postponed till later in the year.

The Remainder of Term 1

Lessons will continue routinely at school for as long as we are permitted to do so. It is accepted that some families may choose to socially isolate their children from school, taking responsibility for them. Such absences should be notified and application for leave completed. Where possible, access will be provided to learning via our School Learning Management System, The HUB.

(However, please do not expect individual emails from staff.)

Calrossy is exploring the continuation of learning for students in the event of any forced prolonged school closure. Students are required to keep their Laptops and ICT devices with them in case of any sudden announcement. More details will be provided should it be necessary.

Reducing the Spread of Infection

To reduce the risk of infection within our School community, we ask for your support and assistance with the following:

- Immediately isolate your child if there are any symptoms of a cold or fever.
- Parents should only collect their children from Reception during school hours or 'Kiss and Drop' Zones and may not attend assemblies, school sporting or class events, until further notice.
- From today family members returning to Australia from overseas must self-isolate for 14 days. Please do not enter the School grounds if you have recently returned.
- If a member of your family has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, please notify the School.
- Overseas travel, especially with school students is discouraged. Please notify the School if you are intending to do so.

I recognise the impact that this worrying situation is having on students and their families. At school we are concerned for the wellbeing of our community and so we wish to maintain a 'business as usual' response for as long as possible. Please talk to your children about Coronavirus but also keep the facts of the disease in perspective as much of the social media and news talk is somewhat sensationalised.

The following links may be useful in providing parents with the facts and useful material in discussing COVID-19 with children and friends.

School TV segment on talking to children about coronavirus

https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus

NSW Health Coronavirus Information

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Please keep the School informed regarding anything that requires sharing, in order to ensure the wellbeing and safety for the children and adults in our community.

Kind regards

David Smith