



31 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus Update- Education Support Students should remain at home

As you are aware, the Department of Education (DoE) has encouraged families to keep their children at home if they have the capacity to do so. As of yesterday, DoE has clarified that Education support settings are unique environments, that present a more complex environment for our students and staff in regard to the current pandemic threat.

Students who require close proximity with staff and those who have a cognitive or communication impairment that makes it more difficult for students to regulate their behaviour are at greater risk of acquiring and/or transmitting the virus. This includes students who require toileting, feeding, dressing and manual handling and those who are unable to regulate social distancing and behaviour.

The Department of Education has been in close consultation with the Chief Health Officer throughout. Given the spread of COVID-19, and the vulnerability of our education support students, the decision has been made that our **education support students should remain at home**.

We recognise that every student has a unique situation and we will be working with families on the individual case management of your child with a view to safely supporting our students at home, as outlined above.

We know our school is different to most schools, and our students have different educational needs. This undoubtedly will be one of the biggest challenges we face. Your child's education will continue, but it will look different. No matter what the situation, we will be staying connected with all our students.

I understand this is unsettling news but I want to assure you that the safety of all students and staff is our number one priority. I am very aware just how challenging this must be for you and how difficult it must be for our wonderful students to fathom just why they cannot attend school.

In this respect, I can advise that our teachers and EAs staff are actively pursuing ways of connecting with our students and their families, including 'work at home' kits which will shortly be mailed out to you.



One of the best aspects of our school is our ability to look after one another. I am here for every one of you and your children, as are all our staff. These are unprecedented times and I am confident we will pull together and get through this.

In closing I want to encourage you to access:

1. Our School website and hitting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) information button at <http://kenwickschool.wa.edu.au/> for the latest actions taken to support your child; and
2. The Department of Education website <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/coronavirus-school-update> for the latest on the system-wide management of this pandemic.

In respect to our website, we will continue send text messages to alert of any new information and resources placed on it.

As always, should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on

9459 1888.

Yours faithfully

Mark Watson
Principal-