



Tuesday 21st April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Below is information from the NT Department of Education for schools in Term 2 2020.

Thank you

The Northern Territory Department of Education would like to sincerely thank students, parents, carers and the broader school community for their ongoing support for our educators in schools and early childhood education and care services during what is an unprecedented time.

The Northern Territory Government position, in line with the latest health advice from the [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\)](#), is that schools are safe and all students are expected to attend in person from Day 1, Term 2, 2020.

Term 2 in the Northern Territory

From 20 April 2020, all Northern Territory students are expected to physically attend school. Where families elect not to send their child to school, the child must be learning at home.

Students who are unwell must remain at home. If a child falls ill during the day, parents/carers will be contacted by the school and required to arrange for them to be collected as soon as possible.

Information on Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses

VET courses will resume in Term 2, 2020. This means the Acacia Hill School senior years students who are undertaking Cert I Hospitality will recommence that course next week.

Classes

The Early Childhood satellite class will be located at Acacia Hill School for Term 2, with the intention of returning to Bradshaw Primary in Term 3. All other satellite classes remain in their existing host school (Sadadeen Primary, Bradshaw Primary, Larapinta Primary, Braitling Primary and Centralian Senior College).

Assessments

Assessment and reporting expectations remain the same as normal.

For students learning from home, parents or carers are asked to return completed learning materials to the school for marking and assessment.

Measures in place to enhance hygiene practices

Acacia Hill School is undertaking the following practices:

- Continue to practice and promote good hygiene including implementing routine hand washing by all children and staff members, before and after class and before and after meal breaks
- Communal water fountains are only used to fill water bottles, not for direct drinking from taps
- Food or drink is not to be shared
- Continue routine cleaning of all high-touch places such as door handles, handrails, light switches, keyboards, mice, and play equipment
- As far as possible, encourage the avoidance of handshaking, hugging and kissing, or games that include holding hands or other physical contact
- There are no school excursions for the time being
- Assemblies will be held on Skype or Zoom
- Allied health practitioners are requested to continue to make appointments with children at home, not at school
- Workmen are requested to come to the school after 3:00pm.

All schools in the Northern Territory have received additional funding to enable them to increase their current cleaning regime. Schools have been provided a cleaning fact sheet which has been developed by the Department of Health to inform what enhanced cleaning practices should be undertaken during this time.

Hydrotherapy pool

Our hydrotherapy pool has some tiles coming loose, and this will be fixed over the next month or so. The current advice is that special schools can continue to use hydrotherapy pools, so once our pool is fixed, hydrotherapy lessons will recommence.

Parents and carers on school grounds

Where possible, parents and carers are asked to drop or pick up their child at the front office. However, we understand that for some students, having a familiar routine of walking to the classroom with a parent is a really important part of the child's day at school. In this case, we ask parents to observe physical distancing and to depart as quickly as possible within a calm and supportive time frame for their child.

Learning from home

Where families elect not to send their child to school, the child must be learning from home.

Where a child is learning from home due to vulnerabilities to COVID-19 or direction by a health professional to self-isolate or quarantine, the school will provide learning (online or printed) to support the continuation of learning from home.

Parents and carers who choose to keep their child at home can access a range of resources on the [Learning Together website](#) and some other learning materials may be provided by the school if we have the capacity to do so. Where a student is learning at home, the parent or carer is responsible for the student's learning, safety and wellbeing at home or elsewhere.

Notifying the school of absences and roll marking

Parents and carers must notify their child's school if they will be learning from home and not physically attending school.

- Where families are keeping their child at home due to vulnerabilities to COVID-19 or direction by a health professional to self-isolate, they will be marked '**O – Out of class**', which counts as present for school reporting purposes.
- For a child who is sick, they will be marked '**S – sick**' which counts as 'present' for school reporting purposes.
- Where families voluntarily withdraw their child from physical attendance of school, they will be marked '**X – absent with unacceptable reason**'. This does not count as attendance for school reporting purposes.
- Where families have not communicated with the school and the child does not attend, they will be marked '**U – unnotified**' which does not count as attendance for school reporting purposes. The school will follow up and try to make contact with these families.

Supporting online safety

Parents and carers are encouraged to access the [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au) for specific advice regarding COVID-19 including:

- [an online safety kit for parents and carers](#)
- [an online safety booklet for parents and carers](#)
- [advice for school leaders keeping schools and learning safe online](#)

Outside school hours care

Outside school hours care (OSHC) services will continue to operate. This will include on-site OSHC or other services off site that cater for school age children, such as long day care or family day care. Please check with your local service.

School transport

School buses will continue to operate.

Additional cleaning practices, physical distancing and hygiene practices will be in place. The school buses are cleaned twice daily.

Talking to your child about COVID-19

Listen to your child; answer their questions as honestly as possible and correct any misunderstandings. This will help them feel informed and understand what is happening.

Stay up to date with the facts from reliable sources so you can keep conversations calm, considered and constructive. Provide information in words that are appropriate to the age of your child.

Children can be distressed by hearing repeated stories so monitor how much your children are being exposed to television and social media and encourage them to talk about what they are seeing and hearing.

Tips for [talking to kids](#) about coronavirus (COVID-19).

Advice on keeping children healthy

Remind your child to cover their nose and mouth when they cough or sneeze (catching their cough or sneeze in their elbow), keep their hands clean by washing them regularly with soap and water, and try and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth before washing their hands.

If your child is required to stay at home, it is important that they maintain a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet, good sleep and social contact at home and by email and phone with family and friends.

Advice on wellbeing support for children

Contact the school if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing to discuss the most appropriate support.

You can also seek support from:

Kids Helpline – 1800 551 800 – kidshelpline.com.au

Headspace – 1800 650 890 – eheadspace.org.au

Parent Helpline – 1300 30 1300

Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Concerns about COVID-19

You are encouraged to stay informed of the latest health developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Coronavirus NT website](#).

If you need to speak to someone about your concerns, contact the National Coronavirus Hotline: 1800 020 080.

Acacia Hill Annual School Improvement Plan 2020

Although we had to cancel our planned whole school professional development day with Tracey Ezard, where we were going to work on refreshing the school vision and values, we have continued to have some meetings with Tracey by Zoom so that we continue this important piece of work. We are finding ways to ensure we include student and parent voice in this piece of work.

Kind regards

Julie Permezel
Principal