



KEIRA HIGH SCHOOL

Address: Lysaght Street, Fairy Meadow, NSW 2519

Postal: P O Box 19, Fairy Meadow, NSW 2519

Website: www.keira-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Telephone: (02) 4229 4644

Facsimile: (02) 4226 9983

Email: keira-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

24 March 2020

Supporting our School Community

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

The purpose of this communication is to provide the school community with current information about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The NSW Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, announced on Monday 23 March 2020, that the NSW government is encouraging families, where it is practical, to keep their children at home.

Our school will remain open and operational, but with much fewer students.

Supporting continuity of learning for all students

Our staff have been working hard to develop a suite of learning resources and options for students to undertake from home. Whether your child is at school or at home, the aim is for all students to access the consistent learning content provided by our school. This may mean sending work home, either with physical materials or by email, or by making use of one of our online platforms at our school.

The school will be using Google Classroom as the platform for online learning. Each year group will be provided with an information sheet identifying google classroom codes for each subject.

Support for students at school

Students who attend school will receive supervision as they complete online units of work, not traditional classroom experiences.

If your child will be attending school, it is advised that students bring their own device. The school strongly recommends that students choose a laptop device to ensure that their BYOD maximises their learning experience. If your child is unable to bring their own device, there will be access to a school device.

Please take note: The school canteen will not be operational so please ensure your child brings their own recess and lunch. Students are also encouraged to bring a drink bottle.

Support for students at home

I encourage you to access the [Learning from Home](https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home) resource which provides practical advice to parents and carers on how to best create and support a productive learning environment in the home.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home>

Communication is important

The NSW Department of Education website provides up-to-date information about the department's response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Please access this website for current information. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>

The Keira High School website <https://keira-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> details information specific to the school and also provides a direct link to the NSW Department of Education's website.

How can you support your child

It is perfectly normal for children to have questions about events that are covered in the media, such as the information currently being distributed about COVID-19. Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions and you can help your child by remaining calm, reassuring them and clarifying information accurately.

There is a common misunderstanding that talking with your child about a topic such as COVID-19 may increase their anxiety. This is not the case. It is important to listen to your child and answer their questions as honestly as possible and correct any misunderstandings.

Keeping up to date with the facts from reliable sources will help 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 child is being exposed to television and social media and encourage them to talk to you about what they are seeing and hearing.

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

Support is also available through a number of agencies and community organisations.

Parents and carers can:

- call the National Coronavirus Health Information line (1800 020 080)
- review the [NSW Health COVID-19 website](#) for the latest information and advice
- obtain help and information from the local General Practitioner or Community Health Centre

We have worked closely with our neighbouring high school, Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts and our six partner primary schools to ensure that all members of the extended learning community are informed of the content of this communication.

As always, we appreciate the role that all members of our community play in ensuring that our students at Keira High School are supported in their learning.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D J Robson
Principal



Mrs S Gray
Deputy Principal



Mr T Loades
Deputy Principal



Mr G Guevara
Deputy Principal