



Information

Students returning to school from 18 May 2020

Key messages:

- School students required back at school from Monday 18 May 2020, based on health advice.
- Students who are medically vulnerable or have household members with chronic illnesses can continue to learn at home once an exemption has been approved.
- ATAR written exams to go ahead as scheduled from 2 November 2020.
- Students at residential facilities can return home on weekends subject to the discretion of the principal or residential manager.

On 14 May 2020 the State Government announced all compulsory aged school children attending State, Catholic, and independent schools will return to classroom learning from Monday 18 May 2020.

Exemptions based on medical grounds

There are exceptions for students who are medically vulnerable or those who have a family member with chronic health issues. If an exemption is required on medical grounds, please arrange to speak with the school to seek this exemption prior to Monday 18 May 2020 or as soon as practical thereafter. Students the Department of Education assesses, and provides an exemption, can continue to learn from home and will be supported by their schools and the Department of Education with the provision of learning packs.

Carers and Community Service Organisations may contact you requesting support and approval to seek an exemption from the Department of Education based on medical grounds and you should support these requests where:

- The child has a medical condition that may place them at increased risk if they contract COVID-19.
- There is a member or members of the household who have a medical condition that may place them at increased risk if they contract COVID-19.
- The household may have members within the 'vulnerable cohort' for COVID-19 e.g. Aboriginal and over 50 years old, non-Aboriginal and over 60 years old.
- There may be other children in the care arrangement that are not returning to the classroom environment due to safety concerns and the carer family is choosing to isolate for several reasons.

When a carer or Community Service Organisation informs you that it is their preference that the child does not return to the classroom and would like support to seek an exemption from the Department of Education, you must consider, and where relevant obtain, the following information:



- Medical advice from the child's General Practitioner or medical team.
- Medical advice relevant to other household members and their vulnerability to COVID-19.
- If the carer has the capacity to support distance education learning, (or online learning where the school is offering on-line learning).
- The educational needs of the child, this may require a discussion with the child's teacher and/or teacher's aide.
- The social needs of the child and how they will continue to be met when not attending school. This may include Zoom, Skype or Facetime with family and friends, participating in on-line learning activities etc.

Should children not attend school without good reason or an exemption from the Department of Education, they will no longer be provided with learning packages and their absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Keeping children safe while at school

The Department of Education has introduced increased cleaning at all schools, with regular and frequent cleaning of all equipment, particularly high contact equipment.

Staff and students who are unwell are requested to not attend school. If they do attend, they will be asked to return home until they are better.

Whole school assemblies, camps and interschool activities will still not be permitted.

A COVID-19 research study which forms part of the DETECT program to test for COVID-19 among school students and staff, without symptoms, has been introduced at selected schools. As per the bulletin on 8 May 2020 children in the CEO's care are encouraged to participate in this study if invited to do so.

The Department of Education will continue to monitor COVID-19 and schools over the coming months and make any changes that may be required as the COVID-19 situation continues to change in Western Australia (WA).

Entering school grounds

Drop off and pick up arrangements that restrict parents and carers, and non-essential visitors, from entering school grounds remain in place. These arrangements will be reviewed as part of Phase 3 of the McGowan Government's WA roadmap. For now, children must be dropped-off at the school gate or designated location. If you are unsure of the drop-off location, please contact the school.

Residential and boarding schools

Students in residential facilities will be now permitted to return home at weekends at the discretion of the principal or residential manager. The health advice remains that home visits should be reduced.

Home visits for children in care should be managed in accordance with their care plan.



Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) and Semester One Reports

For Year 12 students, the 2020 ATAR course written exams will go ahead as scheduled from 2 November 2020. Written examinations will take the same form as previous years, with a three-hour duration.

For Year 9 students who were unable to sit the NAPLAN this year due to COVID-19, more flexibility will be introduced into the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA). This will give Year 9 students the opportunity to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy standards required to achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

Teachers will be required to report information about students' learning progress, to date, in semester one, but will not be required to assign an A-E grade. Teachers will continue to provide informal feedback to parents and carers throughout the semester as required.