



Dear Evelyn Scott School Community,

As promised, I am writing with additional information about the return of students to our school. Firstly, a reminder about the dates for our phased return.

Commencing 25 October (Week 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool and kindergarten• Years 1 and 2• Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 November (Week 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Years 3, 4 and 5
<i>From Weeks 1-4 of Term 4, onsite supervision and care continues to be available for vulnerable children and young people whose parents are essential workers.</i>	

Drawing on national and local health advice, we have developed a Return to School Plan which has three key priorities:

- the health and safety of staff and young people
- the mental and emotional wellbeing of students and staff
- ensuring continuity of learning

Below is an outline of [ACT Health Guidelines](#) that all schools are required to implement to ensure effective COVID-19 measures are in place.

Use of Check in CBR app	All staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers cannot enter school grounds except for an essential reason. Visitors must call to make an appointment, or in advance of attendance. All visitors must report to the front office.
Student illness	Staff and students who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who are unwell or display cold and flu-like symptoms will be required to go home.
Hygiene	Schools will maintain and promote appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene practices. Students will need to wash hands and use hand sanitisers throughout the day. Students will not be allowed to share food or drink.

Masks	Staff and visitors must wear a face mask on campus. Students in Preschool to Year 2 are not required to wear a mask. Students in Years 3-5 are encouraged to wear a mask if they are comfortable doing so. Masks may not be suitable for students with a disability or medical condition and schools will make allowances for those students not to wear masks. If wearing masks, students will be required to wear their own personal masks. However, if necessary, disposable masks will be available at school for those who require them. Disposable masks need to be changed every four hours.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible, particularly in single classrooms and school environments. It is, however, important for limiting the transmission of COVID-19. To promote physical distancing, we may adjust learning programs, break times, our timetable as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.
Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of 'high-touch surfaces', frequently used objects and play equipment.
Ventilation	All schools have been assessed to increase fresh air circulation and this may involve changes to ventilation, modified HVAC system settings and maximising the use of outdoor learning spaces.
Managing suspected cases	We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus, should the need arise. ACT Health will provide direction to the school and community, which may result in a full or partial school closure. A student who presents with cold and flu/COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask.
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	Anyone with cold and flu/COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately. ACT Health is not recommending routine COVID-19 testing of children, young people or staff using rapid antigen testing.
Wellbeing Supports	Wellbeing and learning supports, such as contact with the Learning and Wellbeing Coaches, will continue with the return to school. For parents and carers of students with a medical vulnerability, we will make reasonable adjustments for the safe return of your child. You must consult a GP and provide medical advice to that effect. Where adjustments onsite can't be made, the school will support your child to learn from home. Obviously, we will discuss this with you. If necessary, please contact our Wellbeing Coach – beth.matters@ed.act.edu.au

To further support the ACT Health Guidelines our school is making the following adjustments.

Learning and Teaching	<p>We will continue to deliver our Future Focused Learning model and Wabisabi Zen will continue to be used. We will continue to send out Unit Overviews and information about your child's learning and progress, as necessary.</p> <p>In order to work within the ACT Health Guidelines to provide safe on campus learning, we are not only required to minimise contact between student cohorts but reduce the number of people teachers come into contact with daily. Children will use their own classroom throughout Term 4 and our release program will be delivered safely. One teacher will deliver the release program to our junior students and another teacher will deliver the release program to the senior students. In this way, we will make sure that we minimise the contact between cohorts.</p> <p>Showcases will again be delivered virtually and we will not have an assembly this term.</p>
Break Times	<p>Break times will remain the same, however, children will have designated play spaces to enable them to remain in their junior and senior cohorts. This will be explained to children and reminders given.</p> <p>On arrival at school, children will go directly to their classroom to line up.</p> <p><u>Designated play spaces at break times</u></p> <p>Preschool - Preschool Playground</p> <p>Kindergarten - Year 2 - Junior Playground/Dirt Pit and trampolines</p> <p>Year 3 – Year 5 – Senior Playground, Mt Evelyn and grassed area</p> <p>Please note that the whole playground is closed before and after school and the nature play area is closed.</p>
Before and After School Care, Woden Community Services (WCS)	<p>At drop off and pick up parents/carers will text or call WCS and a staff member will collect children from or deliver children to the side gate closest to the gym. Classroom collection will continue for junior students with older students making their own way to OSHC.</p>

We will continue to review and adjust these measures, based on the most up to date advice from ACT Health.

We understand that there has been considerable change and uncertainty for our students during the pandemic. As we transition back to school, I'd remind you that you and your child can book an appointment with our 'Telehealth Support Service' on 02 6205 1559 between 9.00am and 4.30pm weekdays. With the return to school, your child will also be able to organise face-to-face sessions with our Wellbeing Coach, as necessary.

For more information about the return to schools, I'd recommend visiting [the Education Directorate's website](#).

You can keep up to date with the latest health information, advice and resources on the [ACT's COVID-19 website](#).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding as we return to face-to-face schooling.

We are really looking forward to seeing all our learners back at school.

Kind Regards,

Jackie Vaughan

Evelyn Scott School