



Dear Evelyn Scott School Families,

All of us at Evelyn Scott School have been working hard to put in place all of the elements to provide a safe and healthy back to school experience for your children. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all next week.

Please find some additional information about the return of students to our school campus. First, a reminder about the return dates for Evelyn Scott School students.

Commencing 31 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool (start of the week groups - Rosellas and Kookaburras) • Kindergarten • New student orientations - 10:00am to 10:30am • Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning Evelyn Scott School learners in Years 1 to 6

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 well-being of students and staff, and
- ensuring continuity of learning.

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

Student illness	Anyone who is unwell, symptomatic or who are household close contacts must not be at school or preschool. This applies to staff and students. If they attend when unwell, they will be sent home.
Masks	Staff, visitors and students* in years 7-12 must wear a face mask on campus. Students in years 3-6 are encouraged to wear a mask if they are comfortable doing so. Students in Preschool to year 2 are not required to wear a mask. 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. <i>* Masks will be available at school for those who require them. Disposable masks need to be changed every four hours.</i>
Physical Distancing and cohorting of staff and students	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 support cohorting of staff and students, we may adjust learning programs, stagger starts, breaktimes, and timetables as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. More specific information about what this means for your child is included below.
Hand hygiene and COVID smart behaviours	Schools will maintain and promote hand 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.

Environmental cleaning	Our school cleaning program includes regular cleaning of high touch point services, frequently used objects, common areas, toilets and play equipment.
Ventilation	All schools are following an Indoor Air Quality Plan. Improved ventilation and increased outdoor learning will be implemented where appropriate. Ventilation systems have been adjusted to increase fresh air circulation and plans will be updated to reflect improvements made since 2021
Vaccination	The ACT has one of the highest vaccination rates of any city in the world and this is reflected in our teaching workforce. COVID-19 vaccinations are also mandated for staff working across early childhood education and care services, preschools, primary schools, Out of School Hours Care, specialist school settings and P-10 schools, or schools that share campus space with students in year 6 or below. These requirements are in place until the conclusion of the public health emergency.
Visitors and use of Check in CBR app	All students aged 16 and above, staff and visitors must check in using the 'Check in CBR' app. Parents and carers are allowed on school grounds for scheduled appointments only. Special arrangements will be made for children starting at a new school or early childhood service in 2022, or children with special needs who require transition visits prior to the commencement of the new school year.
Wellbeing supports	<p>Wellbeing and learning supports, such as face to face appointments with the school psychologist or access to a Learning Support Assistant, will recommence with the return to school. They can be accessed through the schools established referral process. If the school psychology position is temporarily vacant, you can book an appointment for your child with our Central Telehealth team by filling a booking request form or emailing Telehealth@ed.act.edu.au. Central Telehealth Service is available between 9:30 – 4:30 pm during weekdays.</p> <p>For parents and carers of students with a medical vulnerability: If you wish the school to make reasonable adjustments for the safe return of your child, you must consult a GP and provide medical advice to that effect. Where adjustments can't be made, the school will support your child to learn from home.</p>
Managing COVID-19 in schools	<p>We are prepared to respond to a positive COVID-19 case on campus. A student who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated with suitable supervision, and parents will be required to collect their child. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask. Symptomatic staff and visitors will be advised to travel directly home.</p> <p>If a staff member, child, young person or visitor is diagnosed with COVID-19 and has attended a school site during their infectious period, they are required to advise their school.</p> <p>Where a COVID-19 case in a school leads to students and staff being assessed as at risk of exposure, those impacted will be informed by the school about what they are required to do in line with ACT Health requirements. If the exposure is considered low risk, students and staff will continue to be able to attend school while closely monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Risk assessments are based off the ACT Health Guidelines for Schools.</p>

COVID-19 screening

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get a PCR or Rapid Antigen Test immediately.
Free Rapid Antigen Tests will be provided to all staff and students in ACT schools for the first four weeks of term 1. Rapid Antigen Testing will be voluntary for staff and students. Students and staff will do the tests at home and are required to report any positive test results to their school and to ACT Health.

Rapid Antigen Testing kits will be available to collect from school during the first week of term. More information on the collection arrangements for our school will be provided in the coming days.

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

Student Drop off and pick up

Preschool classes (Rosellas and Kookaburras) will begin on **Monday 31 January**. Under the current COVID guidelines, two family members may enter the school grounds to do a one-to-one handover with the class teacher between 9:00am and 9:30am. You can enter the preschool learning space through the preschool main door (**Kookaburras**) and the preschool side preschool gate (**Rosellas**). The preschool staff will be there to welcome you to the outside learning space upon arrival.

Preschool classes (Wedge-tailed Eagles and Reed Warblers) will begin on **Thursday 3 February**. Under the current guidelines, two family members may enter the school grounds to do a one-to-one handover with the class teacher between 9:00am and 9:30am. You can enter the preschool learning space through the preschool main door (**Reed Warblers**) and the side preschool gates (**Wedge-tailed Eagles**). The preschool staff will be there to welcome you to the outside learning space upon arrival.



Preschool Main entry (above)



Preschool side gate (to the left of the main entry)

Kindergarten begins on **Monday 31 January at 9:00am**. Under the current COVID guidelines, two family members may enter the school grounds to do a one-to-one handover with the class teacher. You can enter the school grounds through the main gate (pictured below), located between the administration and gymnasium building. Upon entering the gate, please head right to the Junior play area and building. On the first day, Kindergarten families will be directed to table in the playground to collect a sticker with your child's name and class. At 9:00am when the school bell rings (Bird's song) the Kindergarten teachers will guide all of the children to the ***Junior Building***. Families will say their goodbyes prior to the children entering the building with their teachers. As per our current COVID guidelines, parents will not be permitted to enter the building beyond this point. The school day finishes at 3:00pm. The gate will be opened for parents and carers at 2:50pm. Families are required to collect their child directly from the teacher outside the classroom and cannot leave school without a parent or carer.



	<p><u>New students in Years 1 to 6</u> who are starting Evelyn Scott School in 2022 for the first time are invited to a 30-minute orientation visit on Monday 31 January from 10 to 10:30 am where they will meet their teacher, see the school grounds and see the learning spaces. <i>*Please note, this is an optional visit should your child wish to attend with a parent or carer.</i></p> <p>New learners and a parent/carer can enter the school grounds through the main gate located between the administration and gymnasium building as seen above.</p> <p><u>Returning ESS learners in Years 1 to 6</u> will begin their first day on Tuesday 1 February at 9:00am. Under the current COVID guidelines, family members of learners in Years 1- Year 6 are unable to enter school grounds. Please note Preschool and Kindergarten parents are exempt from this guideline, so you may see other parents entering the school grounds.</p> <p>Learners can enter the school grounds through the main gate located between the administration and gymnasium building as seen above. Upon entering the gate, learners in Year 1 and Year 2 will head right to the junior play area buildings, while learners in Years 3 – Year 6 will head to the left to the senior play area and buildings. Learners will be directed to collect a sticker with their name and class. At 9:00am when the school bell rings the teachers will guide all of the learners to their classrooms.</p>
Hygiene routines	Handwashing will be encouraged throughout the school day, before and after break times and eating times. Hand sanitiser is available in the entry way of each building and in every classroom. Teachers and support staff will be assisting learners to follow correct hygiene procedures.
Teaching and learning	Our school will aim to follow our planned curriculum within our current cohorting arrangements. More information will be communicated to families about teaching and learning at Evelyn Scott School at the commencement of the term
Break times	Learners use different parts of the playgrounds according to their year group level to minimise cross cohorting
Out of School Hours Care	Parents and Carers are required to access Out of School Hours Care via the school's main gate (as pictured above). Parents and Carers are required to contact OSHC by phoning the number on the gate and waiting for staff to meet and collect/handover learners from the entrance. Parents and Carers are not permitted into school grounds to access OSHC at this time.
School canteens and uniform stores	Evelyn Scott School does not currently have a school canteen in operation. School Uniforms are available to purchase online via The School Locker . Deliveries can be sent to your home or to the school for collection
Events and Excursions	Until further notice, camps and excursions have been postponed to a later date, yet to be advised. If you have questions regarding refunds, please email our business Manager: emma.dale@ed.act.edu.au

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

During this time we may experience impacts on our workforce due to the requirements of staff to isolate under ACT Health directions. We will work closely with the Education Directorate to make appropriate adjustments to ensure student and staff safety. This may include using casual relief

staff, combining of classes, limiting or cancelling non-essential activities, switching to the provision of supervision only or possibly temporary transition to remote learning.

Remember, all adults and children aged 5 years and above are eligible for vaccination. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated, we encourage you to book them in by calling the COVID-19 vaccination line on 5124 7700 daily between 7am-7pm. Bookings can also be made with some [GP clinics and pharmacies](#).

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. We look forward to seeing all our students back at school.

Kind Regards,

Jackie Vaughan

Principal

Evelyn Scott School