

Criteria for Students Eligible to Attend On-site Remote School UPDATE

Tuesday 4 August 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

As you would be well aware, last Sunday **the Victorian Government announced the move to Stage 4 - State of Disaster Restrictions** to slow the rapid spread of the coronavirus pandemic throughout our communities.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from tomorrow Wednesday 5 August and are likely to apply until the end of Term Three.

The Victorian Government announced that, to assist the move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and to keep the vast majority of people at home and to prevent unnecessary circulation, it was redefining the parameters around an **“essential” worker** which would then be clarified with the introduction of a **“permitted” worker**.

As the Premier announced this morning, permitted essential workers would need to carry the appropriate signed document from their employer and downloaded from the Government website to authenticate their type of work, their work hours and travel requirements.

Onsite Staffing During Stage 4 Restrictions

- Schools will continue to ensure that sufficient staff are available for necessary on-site supervision during stage 4 restrictions. All other staff are required to work remotely from home.
- The change of terms from **"essential" workers to "permitted" workers**, which will be spelt out in greater detail this week will have immediate implications for the number of children who will be eligible to attend remote schooling onsite from tomorrow Wednesday 5 August. We would anticipate a significant drop.

The criteria for students who can attend on-site has changed as follows:

- **children whose parents are permitted workers.** The Victorian Government has announced a list of essential businesses who qualify as an essential service and will provide further advice about this over the coming days.
- **vulnerable children** in out of home care, children known to Child Protection and other agencies and children the school identifies as vulnerable
- **children with a disability who also fit one of the above two categories.**

The changes to the criteria, will have a major impact on families who currently access remote and flexible learning onsite at SPA – averaging between 25 - 35 children per day.

Schools are legally obliged to follow all directives issued by the Governments, DHH&S or the CEM and CECV and unfortunately as with the majority of our families, **a number of families will no longer satisfy the strict criteria and will not be permitted at school.** We await further updates over the coming hours from the CECV.

In the meantime, **families who are eligible and satisfy the Government criteria can access the school website to book your child into remote learning at school.**

NB: The Authorities have reiterated that if your child can be supervised at home, they must remain at home, however difficult. These steps remain critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families and to slow the spread of this global pandemic.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Phil Doherty (Principal)