



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Geraldton Western Australia 6530

Monday, 21 February 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As you are aware, under current WA Government requirements mask-wearing indoors now includes Geraldton. In relation to schools, this is expanded to outdoor environments where physical distancing cannot be maintained. As evidenced in Perth, primary students are being significantly impacted by positive COVID-19 cases resulting in entire classes being identified as close contacts and being required to isolate for 7 days. This has significant implications for students learning and the entire family, and one that ideally can be avoided at St Francis Xavier.

To minimise this risk, I request all parents when dropping off or collecting their child to support one another by wearing a mask in areas where social distancing is not possible. This includes the Early Childhood and the front of the school at the conclusion of the day.

In addition, I ask parents to consider contacting the school administration via email [admin@sfx.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@sfx.wa.edu.au) or phone 9923 5800 to resolve any inquiries.

### **Students in Year 3 – 6**

Students in primary schools are not required to wear masks while at school. The Minister for Education, however, has stated that as case numbers increase there will be a requirement for students from Year 3 onwards to wear masks at school.

To be prepared, I encourage parents and caregivers of children in Years 3 and above to discuss with them the possible wearing of masks at school and the potential for this to become compulsory in the days ahead. We are aware that some of our children are already choosing to wear a mask at school which is suitable.

As part of an education program to support your child in transitioning to a possible mask mandate, we will be implementing a voluntary 'try a mask' day this Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, to allow students in Years 3 and above to become familiar with the correct wearing of masks. Students are asked to bring their own masks to school. Should students misplace or lose their mask, the administration has a limited supply available.

If you are purchasing masks for your child, especially for younger children, please ensure that they are child-sized and fit appropriately.

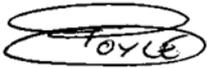
Once the State Government updates to level 2 masks will be mandate unless students;

- have a physical, developmental or mental illness, injury, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable;
- are communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication;
- performing forms of physical exercise; or
- are consuming food, drink or medicine.

Likewise, staff must wear a mask at all times while indoors, unless they are providing teaching or instructions to students, in which case they can remove the mask if they wish to do so.

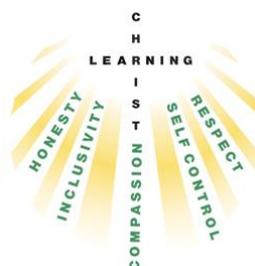
I will continue to keep you updated regarding the ongoing management of COVID-19 at St Francis Xavier and I provide every assurance that your child's wellbeing and safety at school remains my highest priority.

Thank you for your support regarding this matter.



Ben Doyle  
Principal

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