



Tuesday, 1 March 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday, the State Government announced new state-wide requirements that will be introduced on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

This update requires all students at St Francis Xavier in Years 3 – 6 to wear masks whilst indoors (exemptions apply) as of Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Fortunately, many students have already been wearing or trialed mask-wearing last week.

Currently, a close contact is defined as any person in a room with a confirmed case for two hours where masks were not worn. A close contact is required to isolate at home for 7 days which has implications for students learning and the entire family. By wearing masks, the risk of students being identified as a close contact and being required to isolate at home is reduced. Students in other year levels are welcome to wear masks if families believe it to be beneficial, however, it is not a government directive.

During the day, teachers will be working with students to ensure adequate breaks are provided to support students.

Students are required 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.

As a reminder, masks are mandated unless a student has;

- a medical exemption due to 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 and visitors 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