

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



COVID-19 Safety Procedures at Southern Cross

Dates for our phased return:

Commencing 25 October (Week 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood centres (ECEC) • Preschool and kindergarten • Years 1 and 2 • Year 6 • Years 9 and 10 • Out of school hours care (OSHC)
Commencing 1 November (Week 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 3, 4 and 5 • Years 7 and 8
<i>From weeks 1 to 4 of term, 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 children and staff,
- the mental and emotional well-being of children 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.

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 in advance to make an appointment. All essential visitors must report to the front office.
Student illness	Staff and children who are unwell are not able to attend school. Students who present unwell 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. Unfortunately, this includes birthday cakes/cupcakes and treats.
Masks	Children in preschool to year 2 are not required to wear a mask. All adults who are on school grounds will be required to wear a mask. Disposable masks are made available for staff and will be changed every 4 hours throughout the day.
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, breaktimes, our timetable as well as pick up and drop off arrangements. Please note: We are asking that only one parent drop off/pick up at your child's specific location. 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. Indoor air quality plans will be available on our school website by Friday 22 October.
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 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.
Will schools have routine testing for COVID-19?	Anyone with 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 face to face appointments with the school psychologist or children working alongside a learning support assistant, will recommence with the return to school. <i>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.</i>

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

Drop off and pick up	<p>Drop off times will be between 8:50-9:10am. Pick up times will be between 2:50-3:05pm.</p> <p>In line with advice provided, we are asking that no adult enter the school grounds without an essential reason. If you believe your reason for being on school grounds is essential, please call reception on 6142 0020 to discuss with a staff member.</p> <p><i>The focus for everyone will be on wellbeing and connectedness. This will be a strong theme in all that we do at Southern Cross to ensure happy and safe children and families.</i></p> <p>Southern Cross Early Childhood School will now have three drop off and pick up points for each of the following cohorts (please also see the map attached to this email): Preschool: One parent will drop off and collect their child from the bike track gate. Entry will be via the top, main carpark. Adults are not to enter the bike track area. Staff will be on hand to walk the preschool children to their main outdoor learning environment after saying goodbye. Kindergarten: One parent will drop their kindergarten child to the staff carpark gate on Wirraway Cres. Staff be on hand to walk kindergarten children to the main outdoor learning area. Year 1/2: One parent will drop their year 1/2 child to the gates at the back of the school, near the oval. Staff will be positioned near the bus stop at the back corner of the fence (near the Balance Challenge Circuit – see map). Staff can walk your child along the footpath to the gates near the oval if you would like to drop off on Wirraway Cres. Year 1/2 children will place their bag outside of the classroom and make their way to the treehouse to play with their peers.</p> <p>Drop off with siblings – If you are dropping a child to preschool, you are welcome to send your kindergarten or year 1/2 child to walk around the preschool outdoor learning area, to the treehouse (for year 1/2 children) and past the oasis to the blacktop (for kindergarten children). There will be staff at the treehouse who can supervise the kindergarten child who is walking to the blacktop. For kindergarten and year 1/2 siblings, we are asking that you walk along the fence line on the footpath on Wirraway Cres to both the kindergarten and year 1/2 drop off points.</p> <p>Late arrivals or early pick ups: Please head to the flagpole area at the top of the school and call reception on 6142 0020. A staff member will come outside to meet you and either take your child to their class or collect your child from class and walk them out to meet you.</p>
Hygiene routines	At Southern Cross we are fortunate to have hand washing facilities in every classroom. Children and staff will be asked to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will be located in every classroom/room across the school.

	All children and adults who enter the school building will be required to either wash their hands or use hand sanitiser. Hand sanitiser will be located at each entry point gate.												
Teaching and learning	<p>The teaching and learning program and curriculum will remain consistent in term 4 (both through teacher-led remote learning in weeks 1-3 and face to face learning in weeks 4-11). Teachers will be encouraged to take the learning into our outdoor learning environment (including our courtyards) as often as they can (weather permitting). We are fortunate to have a large and wonderful outdoor learning environment for our children to continue their learning. More information about how teachers will do this will be provided in our school newsletter.</p> <p>We will ensure our three cohorts (preschool, kindergarten and year 1/2) learn and play in separate areas across the school day. This also includes our preschool children playing and learning separately from Munjawari (children in Anglicare) in the preschool outdoor learning space.</p> <p>Wellbeing: To ensure the delicate balance of wellbeing/connection and continuity of learning for our children, the first 30mins of each day will be dedicated to outdoor play, connecting with peers and educators and settling into school routines. Children will remain in their allocated play area until 9:30am each day. Teachers will then gently move their class group to their learning area for the morning.</p> <p>Mindfulness: Our staff will also be engaging the children in mindfulness throughout day. This will occur in our outdoor learning environment as often as possible.</p>												
Break times	<p>Break times will remain the same, however we will be dividing our playground into two sections to allow for our kindergarten and year 1/2 cohorts to remain separate. See below for our timetable.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Main Playground (Yellow and purple playground, blacktop)</th> <th>Treehouse/Oasis</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Before School 8:50-9:30am</td> <td>Kindergarten</td> <td>Year 1/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lunch 11:00-11:50am</td> <td>Year 1/2</td> <td>Kindergarten</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1:30-2:00pm</td> <td>Kindergarten</td> <td>Year 1/2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Main Playground (Yellow and purple playground, blacktop)	Treehouse/Oasis	Before School 8:50-9:30am	Kindergarten	Year 1/2	Lunch 11:00-11:50am	Year 1/2	Kindergarten	1:30-2:00pm	Kindergarten	Year 1/2
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Anglicare	<p>Before and After School-Care: Drop off and pick up will occur at the doors near the Bright Star Café (see map). A staff member will walk your child to the group of children, or a staff member will collect your child and bring them to you outside the doors.</p> <p>Education and Care and Walga: One parent will sign their child in and out, outside the front of the main doors (under cover at the main entry). Parents are asked to not enter the main building. If you can see families gathering in the entrance, please wait outside under the trees to ensure physical distancing is possible. Anglicare will endeavour to ensure the process is as quick as possible.</p>												
School canteens	<p>The Bright Star Café will remain open. Families are welcome to continue ordering lunch for their child. Please place your money and order in a clearly labelled envelope and hand over to the staff member who meets your child at the drop off point. If you need to get a lunch order to the Bright Star Café after drop off, please head to the flagpole area at the top of the school and call reception on 6142 0020.</p> <p>Alternatively, you may wish to use the new Flexischools online ordering system. Information regarding this was sent out in our Monday Week 2 Newsletter.</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, and as we transition back to school, I'd like to 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. 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](#).

Kind regards,

Kelly
Principal