



ROLEYSTONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR PARENTS CORONAVIRUS EDUCATION PLAN 2022

The changes that are occurring in our society at present with regards to the Corona Virus outbreak are concerning. With some schools now being forced to close, I felt it important to share with you both the philosophy behind our plan, and the direction our plan will take when required.

Our school has a clear plan for your children and their education, should we be required to close the school. I would like to make clear, that although there are a lot of unknowns moving forward, there are some non-negotiables for our school moving forward. Our focus from the Corona Virus outbreak in 2020 has not waivered. We will be focussing on the mental and physical health of every student, parent and teacher in our community. As such, I share with you our Statement of Intent for this year. You may notice very little change to the approach of last year.

- 1. You do not need to worry about whether you are going to need to home school your children. Should learning from home be required, we will be preparing you to school your children through trauma. Some people have described this as Crisis-Schooling, not Home-Schooling.**

You are not Home-Schooling! Home-Schooling requires extensive planning, knowledge and understanding and has the support of other Home-Schooling parents to engage in social activities and out of the home learning opportunities. It is something that many parents do by choice, recognising their own individual skills and the individual circumstances of their family. As such, do not try and be a Home-Schooling teacher.

Although there is always some value in extra practice, please do not think that going and paying subscriptions to lots of online sites that provide extra reading, maths and writing activities is going to replace their curriculum. They simply cannot. Sometimes less is more.

- 2. The new normal is what you make it. Whatever that is will be ok.**

Every family will have a story. It may be that someone in the house is ill. It maybe that you are forced to isolate in different rooms. It maybe that you are looking after other vulnerable family members or friends. I would like you to do this first! You know what is right for your family.

- 3. No student will fall behind.**

We do not have students doing Year 11 or 12 and as such ATAR. As a result, the urgency to complete syllabus items is not as pressing as it would be in this situation. Even ATAR students have been given syllabus concessions previously, where key elements are being removed from courses as it is recognised students cannot do as much under these circumstances.

Concessions will be made when looking at assessing students and making judgements about their progress. We would not be comparing students against what we normally compared students as this is unfair and unrealistic. We will make this happen when we return to the "new normal" schooling.

- 4. Be aware of online content and time.**

The danger of many of these pay for subscription, online, teach your child a whole year in two weeks programs is that your child is online more.

During this time when they are already “locked up” in the home and not seeing their friends, be aware of the amount of time they are spending online. Take the time to discuss this with your children and “be aware of” rather than “put restrictions on” the amount of online time.

Create online free times during the day where you will do other activities. During these times, turn off the News, the online world and social media and engage in other things.

5. Look after yourself. If you do not look after yourself then you are not in any position to look after your children.

This is traumatic and overwhelming for you, and everyone else in this situation. No matter what you see on social media or what you hear from what others are allegedly doing, this is not normal, and nobody has it under control. Take time to look after you and have time for yourself. Your children will also appreciate some time for themselves... whether that be talking with their friends on the phone or social media, watching a movie, playing electronic games etc...

If you are struggling, then there is a good chance your kids are struggling too. So, take a break and do something you both (or all) enjoy doing at home.

By taking a realistic approach to what is expected as well as what is possible, we will get through this together and your children, you and our community will be stronger for it.

The Plan

Getting Connected

Our first priority is to make sure there are clear and open communications between the school, parents and students. This communication is centred on two major forms:

1. SMS

Please ensure your contact details are up to date. This will enable us to contact you directly to advise you if the school is required to close for any reason. This will be the first communication you receive and will advise you of the requirements in terms of isolation, testing etc... Both Parents/Guardians listed on our contacts will be advised.

2. Connect

Connect is our major learning management system in the school. Instructions on how to access Connect are available on our Website and were outlined in the last newsletter sent home.

It is essential that you have access to Connect, so we have a way to send you documents when required.

Health and Wellbeing

If and when we are required to close the school and isolate, we will ensure that someone from the school makes contact with you to ensure you are connected. Subject to health of staff, we will continue to check in on a regular basis with your children, via Connect. If your child’s teacher is ill, another member of staff will make contact on their behalf.

At this time, we will make available to parents information around staying healthy; physically, mentally and emotionally. These will be directed through Connect and will give you some clear tips on dealing with the situation which are age specific to your children.

Engagement

Once we have established that your children, our staff and you are well, we will begin to engage your children in activities to keep them engaged with their learning. This will not be in the form of “lessons”, but will be some short tasks for them to do to ensure they remain engaged with school.

I would envisage that unless there is a much longer lockdown than one to two weeks, there would no need to go beyond this point. If however, we ended up with a situation such as that experienced in the Eastern States, and the school is closed for weeks or even months, then we would go to the final steps of our plan.

Home Learning Packages

Home learning packages will only be provided if the school is closed for a period of more than 10 days. In this instance, parents will be sent instructions on how to access "work from home" packs for their children. These packs will not require extensive access to Information Technology or online services. They will ensure students can continue to engage with their learning, ensuring the essential skills, knowledge and understandings are addressed as much as possible.

I hope we never need to close the school. I hope that nobody in our community contracts the virus and that things can continue as normally as possible. If this is not the case however and there is a need to close the school, you can rest assured there is a clear plan for us to manage such situations.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Brookes".

Mark Brookes
Principal
7 February 2022