

FAQ FROM PARENT Q&A HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2021

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VISITORS ON SITE

Q. Are parents and carers allowed on site?

A. Parents and carers must not enter school grounds except in the case of an emergency, to provide necessary support for a child and young person (which must be negotiated with the principal in advance). In these circumstances, parents and carers should minimise the amount of time spent on campus as much as possible. Parent/teacher interviews will be held online or over the phone.

Q. Are other visitors, such as therapists allowed on site?

A. Visitors are allowed on campus for essential purposes only. Education support office staff should only attend schools for essential services or supports for students and schools. NDIS providers/therapists can attend school campuses. Preservice teachers can undertake placements and clinics. AST, HSC, and IB supervisors can also attend during these exams.

Tradespeople will be restricted from school grounds during school hours where possible. This does not include emergency maintenance and repairs or pre-approved works that are required to continue throughout the day. The use of external trades are subject to the approval of Infrastructure Capital Works (ICW) via the relevant ICW Network Officer.

ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS and SIBLINGS MEETING POINT

Q. How will segregation in public areas be managed? For example, how will you maintain the segregation at the different entry points at drop-off and pick-up?

A. The school has put a lot of thought into designating different entry and exit points for different cohorts within the school. The school has also put up temporary bunting within the school to ensure different cohorts are kept as separate as possible. We have identified different play areas, and different bathrooms for cohorts to use to ensure segregation amongst students.

Q. Can parents enter the school to collect their children at the sibling meeting point?

A. As per the advice from ACT Health, parents and carers are not allowed to enter the school grounds, unless for emergency situations. Parents and carers are able to wait at the main entrance of the school or the rear gate to meet their children.

Q. I have multiple children in the school that fall under different cohorts. Where do they meet and what gate do they exit the school from to walk home?

A. Students can meet at the designated sibling meeting point - Please refer to [this map](#) and exit out of the main front gate located near the admin building or the rear gate near the gym.

Q. I will be on the oval waiting to collect my child in K-2. Can my older sibling (year 3 and above) also meet me on the oval?

A. We have a designated sibling meeting point on the central courtyard, please advise your children's homeroom teacher and ensure your children know to meet each other there. If this arrangement will not work for your family, please contact your children's teacher to arrange an alternate option.

Q. Can my children exit out of the back gate?

A. If they are siblings that have met at the sibling meeting place, they can either exit the school through the main front gate or the rear gate.

Q. Will there be people monitoring the cross walks at the front of the school in the car park to allow children to safely walk away from the school and meet parents at the footpath given that there will be loads of parents congregating near gates?

A. Yes. The crossings in the carpark will be supervised by a teacher on duty as usual, and the Wimmera Street crossing will be manned by the crossing supervisor.

Q. The designated exit point for students in Kinder-Year 2 is the junior school oval. What is the plan in the event of severe weather or rain? If they are kept in their classrooms, how long will they be kept inside?

A. In the event of heavy rain predicted for the remainder of the afternoon, we have the ability to send an instant SMS message to families advising of an alternate pick-up arrangement for that day. We will also inform parents of this change via email and our school Facebook page.

Q. My older child who also attends Harrison School has authorisation to collect my preschool child from the school. Does the older sibling meet the preschooler at the sibling meeting point, or does the older sibling collect the preschooler from the preschool exit point?

A. The older sibling can exit through their designated gate (or the main gate) and then walk around to the preschool designated pick-up point and collect the preschool student to go home.

Q. Can a sibling from the senior school drop a preschooler at their designated area?

A. Yes, an older sibling can drop off a preschool student at the designated Preschool entry point.

Q. Can year 3/4 kids who ride a bike to school enter via the back gate, walk their bike to the designated 3/4 bike cage, and then continue to their assembly area or classroom?

A. Year 3/4 students will need to enter the school via the main gate near the main administration building and then walk their bikes to the designated year 3/4 bike rack.

Q. What is the process for students who arrive late to school?

A. If your child/ren arrives late to school, the normal process for late arrivals will still need to be followed. A student is classified as late any time from **9:10am**



- **Preschool – Year 6 students:** Parents/carers will drop students off as normal. The student will need to wait outside the main admin building/entrance to the school, and someone from the administration team will let the child into the school and sign them in as late. If a parent or carer is present, it will be an explained late arrival.
- **Year 7-10 students:** Students arriving late in Year 7-10 will enter the school via the senior front office. Someone from the administration team will let the student into the senior front office (as the doors will always remain locked) and sign them in late to school.

If your child is arriving late to school, we strongly encourage parents/carers to call the school and give verbal permission over the phone to approve the late arrival. This will prevent you from receiving an absence SMS. Alternatively, once you receive the absence SMS, you may respond to this directly to approve the late arrival absence in our administration system.

COHORTING

Q. How many students are in a cohort? And why is the school separating the students into different cohorts?

- A. Our cohorting has been broken up into the following groups to reduce mingling:
- Preschool
 - Kindergarten
 - Year 1/2
 - Year 3/4
 - Year 5/6
 - Year 7/8
 - Year 9/10

Schools will limit unnecessary physical interaction between students on school grounds and the mixing of student cohorts (those not routinely learning together) where possible. This may include staggering breaks and dedicated entry and exit points for different year groups based on school-specific requirements. Student cohorts will have identified shared areas and use of shared spaces will be staggered. Limiting interaction between students does not apply to siblings. Where possible, mixing of staff cohorts will be minimised by assigning or staggering the use of common areas, such as staff rooms and facilities.

Q. Why are some year levels returning to school earlier than other year levels?

- A. ACT Health is minimising movement across the ACT at any one time therefore there is a staggered return to onsite learning to limit movement across the school this also includes staff. Safety comes first and this is the advice from ACT Health.

Q. Will teachers be moving across the school throughout the day?

- A. Following advice from ACT Health- programs have been changed to keep staff in one cohort per day. They will not be moving across cohorts e.g., will stay in the 1/2 cohort for the day and then teach in a different cohort on another day.

Relief teachers–will also only be teaching one cohort per day not different cohorts over the same day, limiting movement across the school.

Q. Will multiple cohorts be using the library, gym, and hall?

- A. Timetables are in place for use of these spaces
- Library – 1 cohort per day

- Hall – 1 cohort per day
- Cleaning protocols are in place across the campus

Q. Will break times be separated amongst cohorts (in time as well as space)?

A. Break times will be staggered across Kindergarten to Year 10 at Harrison School to limit mingling between cohorts. The changes to years 3 to 6 break times are detailed below: Kindergarten to year 2, and years 7-10 break times remain unchanged.

| | RECESS | LUNCH |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| P- 2 | 10:50-11:20 | 13:10-13:50 |
| 3-6 | 9:55 – 10:20 | 12:15-12:55 |
| 7-10 | 10:50-11:20 | 13:10-13:50 |

- All students will need to bring a drink bottle to school as the bubblers are not in use in accordance with ACT Health Guidelines.
- Adjustments have been made to the designated areas of the playground for year groups across Harrison School. These designated areas will be implemented upon return to school, and students will be supported to understand and adhere to these new areas.
- Information is available on the school website: [Return to On-Campus Learning Information](#)

Q. Some of the play areas for certain year groups have little/no shade, can this be reassessed?

A. There is shade available in every play area for the designated cohorts. In the warmer weather, we do encourage students to wear their hats, bring their water bottles to school and play in shaded areas. If the need arises (due to inclement weather) we will enact the school's alternate indoor play break plan.

Q. My child has friends in other cohorts. Is there anything being put in place to allow her to play with her friends?

A. Unfortunately, at this time ACT Health Guidelines do not allow for cohorts to cross.

VENTILATION

Q. Are co2 levels measured periodically throughout the day?

A. Yes, we do have co2 monitors in the senior end of the school only. All buildings in the junior area of the school have passive air flow – purging of the system has been doubled through the ventilation system. All windows and dampers have been checked and will be opened daily.

The school's indoor air quality plan can be found [here](#).

All schools will have been assessed with plans in place to increase fresh air circulation. Ventilation systems will be adjusted to increase the fresh (external) air being supplied to classrooms that are connected to HVAC systems. Classrooms that are not connected to large HVAC systems typically have external ventilation and split system AC units so the fresh air source can be readily controlled. Use of outdoor areas for learning will be maximised.

Q. Have the preschool and kindergarten demountable passed the ventilation requirements or will those classes be moved?

A. All areas of the school have been assessed and pass the ventilation requirements.

FIRST AID

Q. Will the first aid room have limits as to how many people are allowed in it at once? Will there be a separate first aid room for those with non-covid symptoms?

A. Yes, we have limits in the first aid room, and we have a plan in place should it be required for students who present to first aid unwell or present with COVID-like symptoms. Cleaning arrangements are in place and will occur on a regular basis or as needed. Students who present to sick bay feeling unwell, parents will be called, and the student will be sent home. An alternate space will be provided for those that present with non-covid symptoms

We have also provided an area in the Senior end of the school for students who are unwell or present with COVID-like symptoms

Q. What about children that come to school unwell or sick, will they be sent home? Will a temperature check be done? Particularly for the younger kids (under 12) who can't be vaccinated yet.

A. First aid protocols have been put in place. Students who present to sick bay feeling unwell will have their parents called for collection, and the student will be sent home. 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 whilst waiting to be collected.

Q. What happens if my child has a known medical condition, or allergy that causes them to display covid-like symptoms? Will they be sent home from school? E.g., a sniffily nose due to hay fever, or a cough due to asthma. Will there be additional protocols in place to acknowledge these students?

A. If students have a known medical condition where they display similar symptoms to COVID-19, we are asking for a written letter from your GP which clearly outlines the symptoms your child displays due to their known medical condition. The first aid officer will still follow first aid procedures and call parents if required.

Regarding children with **hay fever/allergies** parents need a doctor's letter sooner rather than later. This may take a few days. This letter is a requirement should their child show COVID like symptoms which is due to hay fever/ allergies.

Q. Is an asthma plan (that the school already has on file) acceptable documentation? Or does the school also require another letter from the doctor outlining that my child displays covid-like symptoms due to their asthma condition?

A. Yes, we will need a current letter stating the symptoms that regularly appear that are similar to covid-like symptoms.

MASK AND MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

Q. Are re-usable masks from home OK or would you prefer students to use the single use surgical masks supplied by the school?

A. Students are encouraged to bring and wear their own masks from home. A clean mask needs to be worn daily. The school will provide students with a disposable mask if required. Lidded bins will also be placed around the school for safe disposal of masks.

Q. Is there any change after 1 November as ACT might withdraw mandatory mask requirements?

A. The school will follow the direction of ACT Health regarding masks being mandated. If mask requirements are relaxed within the ACT, we will certainly amend the school requirements for staff and students.

Q. What year levels are required to wear masks?

A. Staff and visitors at all schools, and students in years 7-12 must wear a face mask on campus, unless exempt, when eating or drinking, when communicating with a person who is hard of hearing, when exercising vigorously, or in an emergency. Masks may also be removed when performing tasks where wearing a mask may present a health and safety risk, however, must be put back on when the tasks are completed. Students in years 3 to 6 are encouraged to wear a mask at school if they are comfortable doing so (at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers). Children in preschool to year 2 should not wear masks as they are likely to be worn incorrectly and may present a choking hazard. Masks may not be suitable for students with disabilities. Schools will make allowances for those students to not wear masks if required.

Q. What happens if my child has a mask exemption?

A. If your child has a medical condition or another reason which prevents them from wearing a mask, we are asking for a written letter from your GP to support this. We understand there are some cases where the health advice given clearly states that not wearing a mask is the safest option.

HYGIENE

Q. The cleanliness of the toilets has been an ongoing concern for many parents and students. Has this been specifically addressed going forward?

A. The school is working to improve the cleanliness of the toilets. We are looking at using odor eating and fresheners in the toilets. This is currently being trialed in some bathrooms within the school. Our school cleaners are also doubling the amount of time toilets are cleaned within a day. Students will be directed to specific bathrooms depending on their cohort level.

Q. How will students be reminded about hygiene and handwashing in particular Preschool students?

A. Teachers will be providing students with reminders and encouragement to engage in effective hand washing. Posters are displayed across the site to remind students of the need for this regular practice and with visual prompts to support them to engage in effective handwashing. Teachers will also discuss these posters with students online prior to students returning. Classrooms have been provided with hand sanitiser and surface alcohol wipes for students to access throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will be available in every classroom, meeting room and staff room to supplement regular handwashing with warm water and soap. Hand sanitiser will also be available at the main front office and the senior front office.

Cleaning plans for each school ensure regular cleaning of high touch surfaces (such as handrails and desks), frequently used objects (such as desk top computers), shared areas, toilets and play equipment.

POSITIVE COVID CASE

Q. How would you define close/casual contact in school environment?

A. ACT Health will determine who is identified as a close or casual contact. This is not the decision of the school. ACT Health will work alongside the school to collect any relevant information they need when determining who has been on-site on what dates.



Q. What happens if there is a positive covid case on school site? Will families and students have to complete another 14-day quarantine, even if they are double vaccinated?

A. We have implemented cohorting within our school to ensure that if there is another positive covid case on site, only the effected cohort will have to quarantine, rather than the whole school. Separating our students into different cohorts means we can easily track where the positive person has been throughout the day.

ACT Health will determine close and causal contacts and will also determine and advise of the quarantine arrangements required.

Q. Will there be a remote learning options for students who need to isolate if waiting for a test result or having to quarantine due to having been at an exposure site?

A. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher to arrange for alternate learning options.

Q. What about vaccination for students under 12 years of age?

A. This is the decision of ACT Health. Please keep up to date with their latest advice around vaccines for children under 12 years of age.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING ON-SITE

Q. What is the arrangement for students whose parents do not want to send their kids to school?

A. Due to the wide variety of reasons that students may be kept home please contact your child's homeroom teacher to discuss your individual options.

No student will lose their enrolment place at Harrison School if they continue to learn from home.

Q. How will it work for kids in year 5/6, with year 5 still home learning and year 6 back at school?

A. For Week 4 only, students in year 6 who are returning on-site will continue the remote learning structure while at school. This is to ensure that students who are in year 5 and still learning from home are learning the same content as the Year 6 students. A reminder that students in years 3-6 will need to come to school with their chromebooks fully charged. Their charger is to remain at home so it can be recharged before the next school day.

Q. Will students of essential workers still be able to come to school in Week 4?

A. On-site supervision will continue to only be available for children in years 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 whose parents are required to work and cannot provide care for their children at the same time, and for vulnerable children and young people.

Q. How many absences are allowed before parents are considered unlawful?

A. Wellbeing checks will be done by homeroom teachers for students and parents who cannot be contacted. We are aware that all family's circumstances are different and will continue to work with students and parents.

BIKE RACKS

Q. For families who ride or scooter to school, will parents be allowed to enter the bike rack to assist children in locking bikes?

A. Parents and carers will not be allowed to enter school grounds; staff will be at gates supporting students who have bikes or scooters. We have identified the following area as a storage location for bikes and scooters if your child/ren ride to school:

- **Preschool:** bikes and scooters will be securely stored in the shed within the preschool area

- **Kindergarten:** bikes and scooters will be securely stored in storerooms/wet areas within the kindergarten buildings
- **Year 1/2:** bikes and scooters will be securely stored in storerooms/wet areas within the Year 1/2 buildings
- **Year 3/4:** Students in year 3/4 will securely store their bikes and scooters in the bike rack located near the gym, on the central courtyard area.
- **Year 5/6:** Students in year 5/6 will temporarily securely store their bikes and scooters in the horticulture area next to the ERIC/technology building
- **Year 7-10:** Students in year 7-10 will securely store their bikes and scooters in the bike rack located behind the mulligans building, near the Year 9/10 entrance to the school.

Q. What time will bike racks be opened at the end of the day?

- A. Bike racks will be open 10 -15 minutes before the end of the day for students to collect their bikes. Students will collect their bikes before exiting out their designated gate.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Q. How can people who do not use Facebook access school updates?

- A. All information is emailed to families, uploaded on to the [School Website](#) and sent out through the school newsletter. If you are not receiving email correspondence from the school, please check your Junk or Spam boxes as for some reason some email addresses or your personal filtering level blocks emails from the school messaging email address.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

Q. Will the School Canteens be open?

- A. The canteen will be operational during the return to school in a click and collect manner.
- Pre-ordering will be required through Flexischools **only**.
 - There will be no over the counter sales.
 - **No cash will be accepted.**
 - The canteen will not be open at recess P-10.
 - Students placing canteen orders in Kindergarten to Year 6 will have their orders delivered to their classrooms in a contactless manner.
 - Students in years 7 and 8 can access the Senior canteen and collect their orders after the first 10 minutes of lunchtime (1.20pm).
 - Students in years 9 and 10 can access the Senior canteen and collect their orders in the first 10 minutes of lunchtime (1.10pm).
 - We encourage families to discuss the importance of not sharing food

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Q. What about children who attend OSHClub?

- A. OSHClub has student cohorting in place. They also have a staff member at the front of the school who will phone or contact the staff caring for students and will either send or bring the child to you or collect them in the mornings. The school is working closely with OSHClub and this process appears to be working well. Please let us know if you have any feedback.



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CARPARK

Q. What is going to be done about the congestion in the main front car park to allow for ease of pick up?

A. We are aware that our school carpark becomes congested at drop off and pick up times. We understand the frustration around trying to park and drop off students. We strongly encourage families to park a short distance away then walk to the school to drop off or pick up your child/ren. Families can use the Nullarbor Avenue carpark, or the Franklin shops.