



McDowall State School

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1st February 2022

Back to School Plan 2022 – Responding to COVID-19.

Dear parents and caregivers,

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

As announced by the Premier on Sunday 30 January 2022, the Queensland Government has released the COVID-safe back to school plan.

From Monday 7 February to Friday 4 March, key features of the plan include:

- The suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies, and large gatherings (please note that school sport will continue as usual)
- limiting visitors on site, with exceptions for parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability, students attending early childhood development programs, kindergarten, Prep or Year 1
- staggered drop off times and special drop off zones
- masks supplied and strongly encouraged for students in Years 3 to 6
- mask wearing for all high school students and all staff
- rapid antigen tests (RATs) available in school for students and staff who develop symptoms while on site
- priority access to RATs for students and staff at [Queensland Health testing clinics](#)
- a range of ventilation measures including air purifiers as required

You can access the [Back to School plan here](#), and further information and FAQs on the [Department of Education COVID-19 website](#).

Essential to the success of these measures is that **if your child is unwell or displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, they must not attend school**. I cannot emphasise this message strongly enough – it is critical to keeping our school community safe.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs)

Our school has a supply of RATs which will be provided to any staff or students who, while attending school develop COVID-19 symptoms. Please note if your child has COVID-19 symptoms while at home they must not attend school. Parents and Carers are also not to come to school to collect a RAT if your child is sick at home with COVID-19 symptoms. Your child, if they have COVID-19 symptoms, can visit your local [Queensland health testing clinic](#) and will be given priority access to a free RAT.

Limiting access for parents and visitors

At our school, limitations on parent and visitor access are now in place.

If you are a parent or carer of a Prep or Year 1 student, you may enter the school with your child. The following protocols will be in place:

- Prep and Year 1 parents are encouraged to use the Metro Street entrance to the school for drop off and pick up of Prep and Year 1 students.
- For Prep students ONLY on Monday 7th February there will be a staggered meeting time for students due to the size of spaces to support social distancing:

Class	Drop off and Meeting time	Location of meeting area
PA1	By 8:20am	PA undercover area
PA2	After 8:20 and before 8:40am	PA undercover area
PB1	By 8:20am	PA undercover area
PB2	After 8:20 and before 8:40am	PC undercover area
PC1	By 8:20am	PC undercover area
PC2	After 8:20 and before 8:40am	PC undercover area

- For Year 1 students ONLY on Monday 7th February please meet in the following areas: by 8:20am

Class	Meeting area
1J1	Sports Centre
1J2	Sports Centre
1J3	J-Block undercover area
1J4	J-Block undercover area
1J5	J-Block undercover area
1J6	Sports Centre

For other parents and visitors, please limit your access to the school as much as possible. Parents and carer from Years 2 to 6 are requested to wait outside school grounds when dropping off and collecting your child/ren.

For Monday 7 February, children from Years 2 to 6 will meet in the following locations:

Year level	Drop off and Meeting time	Location of meeting area
Year 2	By 8:20am	Animal Mural
Year 3	By 8:50am	Year 3 eating area
Year 4	By 8:50am	Emblem undercover area
Year 5	By 8:50am	School Hall
Year 6	By 8:50am	Year 6 Undercover area

A book pack drop off will still occur on Wednesday 2 February as planned. If parents are unable to drop off book packs on this date, a location will be available in the meeting areas listed above, on Monday 7 February 2022.

Parents are encouraged to use the Kiss and Ride facility for drop off and pick up.

Excursions and camps

Excursions and camps scheduled between now and 4 March are cancelled. Events during this time will be rescheduled – please see the newsletter for new dates.

This week

For the upcoming week, our school remains open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children, in the same way we were last week. If you need to send your child to school you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

School staff will supervise any students who attend school.

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government website](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/diseases/coronavirus).

Thank-you for your understanding as we continue to work together during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely,



Imogen Stager
Principal

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