



Rationale

In the event of a pandemic or other emergency, it may be necessary for Goollelal Primary School to temporarily close. Alternatively, a portion of the school community, such as a single class, may be required to quarantine rather than attend school.

This document outlines how Goollelal staff will support students' education when school attendance is temporarily not possible.

Our Commitment

- The safety of our students and staff is paramount. All decisions around quarantine and school closures will be based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer with the goal of ensuring the safety of all community members.
- We recognise that school and class closures place tremendous pressure on families. The psychological wellbeing of families is a key consideration when determining the type and amount of distance learning that can take place.
- The school will support children to learn from home, but on the clear understanding that parents should not be expected to provide the same learning opportunities as a team of professional educators working from a dedicated facility.

Unexpected closure

It is likely that there will be little or no advance warning of a school or class closure. In this event, we will:

- Contact all parents via email and text message to advise of the closure.
- Immediately convene a WebEx meeting of staff to begin implementing this Remote Learning Continuation plan.
- Prioritise the health and wellbeing of students, staff and community members.
- Direct parents to the self-directed learning resources at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/primarypack>



Medium-term closure (up to two weeks)

- If a medium-term closure becomes necessary, teachers will prepare distance learning resources that will be distributed to each student involved.
- Resources will be distributed using the *Showbie* app (www.showbie.com) and will become available from the second day of class / school closure.
- Distance learning resources will:
 - focus primarily on literacy and numeracy;
 - reinforce content already taught (i.e. revision, not new teaching);
 - not require marking by a teacher; and
 - take less than two hours per day to complete.
- Students should be able to complete activities independently without parent assistance. Many activities will be printable and will not require computer access.
- Resources will be supplemented with a daily *Showbie* video and also a discussion where students can interact with their teachers and peers. These sessions will last for a total of no more than thirty minutes per day.
- There will be no adverse consequences if distance learning activities are not completed. Parents are in the best position to judge their family's needs and capabilities during such a highly challenging time.
- Printed resources may be available from the school if parents do not have computer access and health advice permits the school to provide these.

Long-term closure

- If a long-term closure occurs, teachers will begin introducing new content. New concepts will be introduced at a far slower rate, however, than in the regular school environment.
- New concepts will be introduced to students at the daily *Showbie* video and meeting. Meetings will be recorded for students who are unable to participate at that time.



- While literacy and numeracy will remain the main focus, teachers will also provide activities to support the physical and mental health of students. These will include art activities, mindfulness practices and fitness tasks.

Individual Students Required to Quarantine

- Where some, but not all, members of a class are required to quarantine, face-to-face teaching will continue.
- Teachers are not expected to facilitate remote learning and face-to-face learning at the same time.
- Students who are learning from home will be provided with a range of activities that can be completed independently.
- Specifically, parents will be directed to resources developed by the NSW Education Department: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/primarypack>

Staff expectations

- Staff who are unwell should focus on their own recovery. There is no expectation that unwell staff will be involved in remote learning.
- It is possible that staff will also be working from home with a family. Students should therefore not assume that teachers will always be available to help with queries. During a school closure, families can expect teachers to respond to email queries by the end of the next business day.
- Teachers will also be available to respond to student queries during the daily Showbie meeting.
- School staff will continue to plan collaboratively and attend virtual staff meetings during any period of school closure.



APPENDIX A: STAFFING SCENARIOS

		Class Status		
		Full attendance	Partial class quarantine	Full class in quarantine
Classroom Teacher Status	Not in quarantine	Face-to-face teaching for all students	Face-to-face teaching continues Quarantining students should be directed to NSW online resources or printed packs	Daily Showbie video at start of day (10 minutes pre-recorded) Middle of day – 20 minute live question and answer session for children (video or text).
	In quarantine but healthy (asymptomatic close contact)	Classroom teacher takes COVID leave and prepares daily workpad. Relief teacher takes class based on daily workpad prepared by classroom teacher.	Classroom teacher takes COVID leave. Relief teacher instructs class face-to-face based on daily workpad prepared by classroom teacher. Quarantining students directed to NSW online resources or printed packs.	Prepare two hours of independent activities, focused on consolidation of literacy and numeracy concepts. Utilise existing online resources wherever possible.
	Unwell or unable to work (symptomatic or carer)	Classroom Teacher takes COVID leave. Relief teacher takes class face-to-face based on daily workpad (if available) or emergency relief pack.	Classroom Teacher takes COVID leave. Alternative Goollelal teacher (specialist teacher or school leader) takes class face-to-face. Teaching based on daily workpad (if available) or emergency relief pack. Quarantining students directed to NSW online resources or printed packs.	Classroom teacher takes COVID leave. Alternative Goollelal teacher (specialist teacher or school leader) facilitates the steps above using NSW / Connected Learning Hub resources.