

Parent/Carer FAQ's

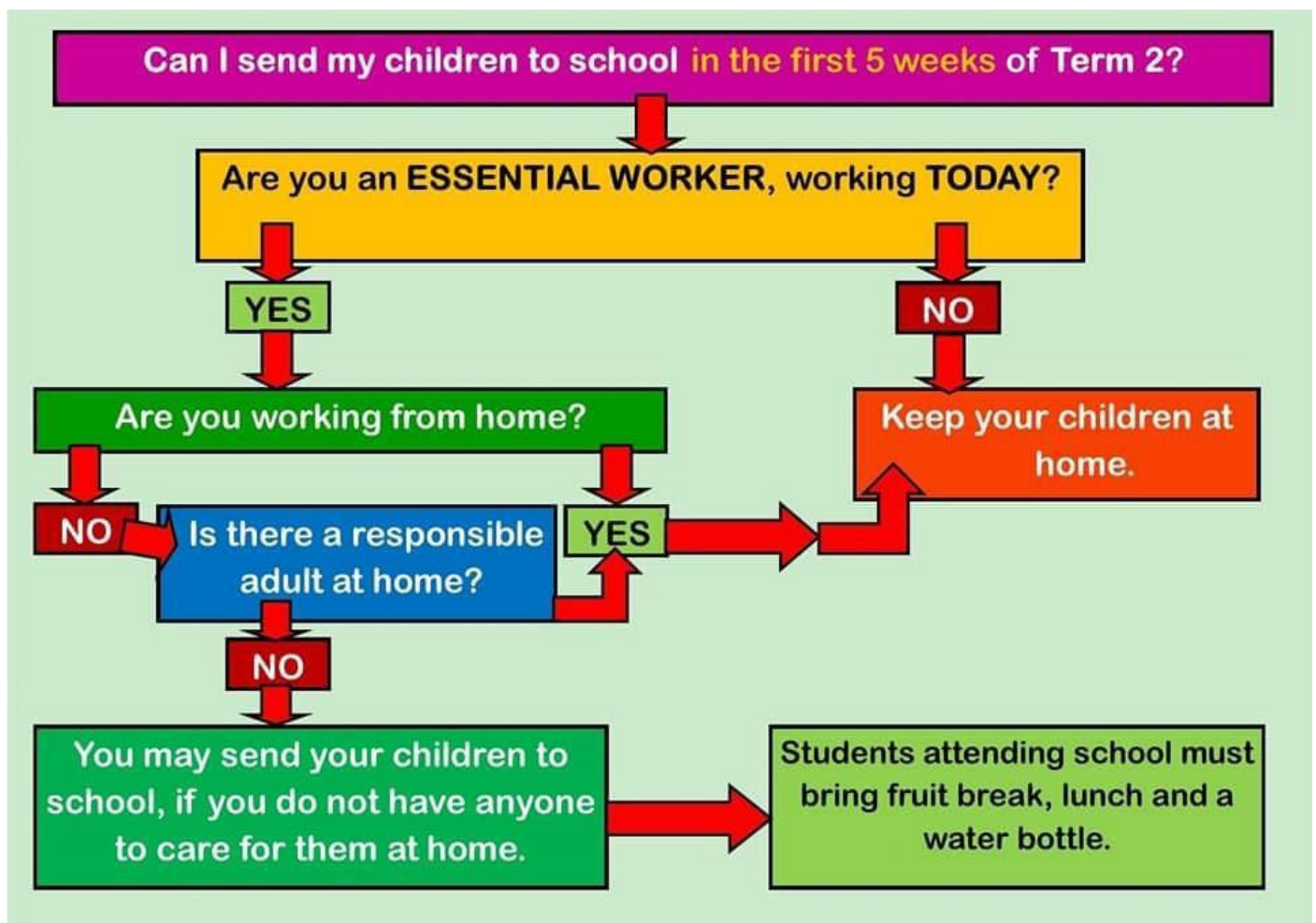


WESS Term 2 Week 1-5

Should my child come to school?

According to Queensland's Department of Education guidelines, students eligible to attend school for the first 5 weeks of Term 2 are:

- Children of essential workers, on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made (*essential worker means any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time*)
- Vulnerable children, including children identified by schools or who:
 - are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order
 - are subject to a youth justice order.
- Children in designated Indigenous communities



How will the school know if my child is attending WESS or not during this period?

Each morning parent/carers will receive a daily email from your classroom teacher asking you to nominate if your child is learning from home or attending WESS in person. This is part of our department's strict accountability process.

The process will be as follows:

- Between 8:30 and 9:00am, parent/carers will receive an email from your child's classroom teacher with a return slip.
- Parent/carers must reply to the email and include the return slip, **even if your child is physically attending school.**
- The reply email must be returned to your classroom teacher by **9.15am**
- If a reply email is not received by 9.15am, teachers will need to follow department follow-up procedures and make contact with the parent/carer. This takes them away from supervising students online (at home and at school).

Please support us and together we can be confident we know students are where they should be and ensuring students are where their parents think they are.

NB - Until further notice, parents/carers will not have to report absences through the usual channels, the above will replace this process.

Does my child need to come every day?

No—students can only physically attend school if all other reasonable care options have been exhausted and no other supervision can be arranged.

On the days that students can be supervised at home, students **should not attend school** and instead access WESS@Home.

Students physically attending school will work through the WESS@Home online learning resource, the same as students accessing learning at home.

Will my child's learning be disrupted if they only attend school on some days?

No. All WESS students will follow the same WESS@Home learning program whether they are learning from home or learning at school.

How will WESS keep me updated?

School – home connections have many layers and we will continue to work on all of these layers to continue to support and connect with our WESS families:

- WESSNewsflashes – as needed
- WESS@Home newsletter – odd weeks
- Year level newsletter - even weeks.
- *Announcements* section on WESS@Home - Daily

- School Website – updated regularly
- WESS Facebook - also accessible through the school website
- Teacher-Student communications – email as required

Students Physically Attending School

What will learning look like at school?

Learning at school will be the same as the learning at home— all WESS students will be working through the WESS@Home learning materials. At school, students will be supervised by a WESS teacher or a teacher aide.

*Refer to the **WESS@Home FAQ's** on the school website for details about the WESS@Home platform.

If my child attends school, where will they wait in the mornings?

WESS will run on a Junior timetable for the first five weeks of this term for **all students**. School hours will be 8.45am - 3.00pm.

Where possible, students should not arrive at school before 8.30am and they should leave immediately after school is finished. Unless attending OHSC, no student should remain in the school grounds after 3pm.

Before school waiting areas are:

- Prep – Prep Area
- Yr 1 – 6 – Dirram Yani

Can I drop my child off at their classroom?

No. To comply with social distancing guidelines we ask that parents/carers drop off students either at the school gate or at the designated waiting area.

We also ask that the school community does not congregate in large groups. Parents/carers are asked to **leave immediately** after drop off and pick up.

Can I meet/speak with my child's teacher at drop off and pickup?

No. To ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff all communication should be done by email or phone.

Will my child be with their own teacher and in their own classroom?

Not necessarily. We must adhere to social distancing guidelines and that requires each regular-sized classroom to be limited to 12 students. Students might not be in their own classroom AND they might not be with students from their usual class. They will be supervised by a WESS teacher or teacher aide while working through WESS@Home, but it won't necessarily be their usual classroom teaching staff.

Each morning, students physically at school will be allocated to a classroom. We aim to ensure consistency for students and allocate them to the same classroom each day, but that might not be possible.

Morning—teacher aides and specialist teachers will supervise students physically at WESS

After first session—teachers will supervise students physically at WESS on a roster system to allow time to monitor WESS@Home learning (at school and home), assist parents / carers with any issues with WESS@Home learning, undertake training to improve their digital capabilities, and develop new online resources for WESS@Home.

In addition, not all classroom teachers will be on campus.

Will all teaching staff work from WESS?

No. Staff who are deemed “vulnerable” or who live with a “vulnerable” person should not be in the workplace and will therefore work from home or be taking leave during Weeks 1-5.

What will students do at lunch time?

Students will be supervised in activities allowing for social distancing. They will not be able to use any shared items (*e.g., balls and playing ball games, using the playground equipment*).

Will the Tuckshop be open?

No. The tuckshop will be closed. Students will need to bring their own lunch for the first 5 weeks of school.

What will my child need each day?

- Lunch box, with own lunch – no sharing of food allowed.
- Water bottle (water bottles can be refilled at taps, **bubblers won't be in use**)
- School hat

Please note that **all items** should be **washed each night** before returning to school the next day.

Students physically attending WESS will be given **a device for students to access WESS@Home online resource while at school.**

Students will use their own stationery equipment each day. There will be no sharing.

What if my child is late to school—where do they go, do they get a late slip?

If your child is late please ensure that they present to the office for a late slip, as per the usual school process.

What if my child feels unwell at school?

If your child is unwell, you will be notified and asked to pick them up immediately.

Students Learning from Home using WESS@Home

When will I receive the WESS@Home link?

The link to WESS@Home will be emailed to parents/ carers by the class teacher each Monday morning. For more details please refer to **WESS@Home FAQs** on our WESS website and in our previous communications.

How many hours of work will my child be expected to do daily?

There is approximately **2.5 hrs of work for each day** provided on the grid.

Optional activities are also included for those who wish to complete them.

Does my child have to do all of the daily activities in one sitting?

No. The WESS@Home grids have been designed to be completed in 'manageable chunks' in order to suit each family context. We are aware that many parents/carers are working from home and therefore the grid is flexible for families to accommodate this.

It is also important that students get up and move between each activity, so we encourage students to do intermittent physical activities between tasks.

Where do I go for support if my child does not understand something?

Parents/carers are **not expected to "teach"** their children. We understand that you are not working / teaching from home; you are at home during a pandemic trying to work and trying to supervise learning. It is a distinction that we all recognise. We have developed WESS@Home with this in mind and embedded as much detail and support as possible.

Please see a very informative article below by educational guru, John Hattie. It is well worth a read!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-17/will-missing-school-due-to-covid-19-matter-for-school-students/12154266>

We have considered the varied needs of students and we have included tutorials and resources to support learning. If you require any further assistance please contact your class teacher.

Does my child need to start WESS@Home at 9am?

No. Families should develop their own routines, which suit their own context, including working around parent/carer work commitments. We will include a few samples of home routines from our WESS parents in the WESS@Home newsletter next week.

Does my child need to complete the activities on the days set?

No. Daily activities may be completed on any day but **should be completed in order** to ensure continuity of learning.

What if my child does not have access to a device at home?

With 200 students attending school, most of our current devices will be used for students of essential workers. Whilst we are attempting to acquire more devices, this will take time.

If your family do not have access to a device please contact us at ICT@westendss.eq.edu.au.

What if my child forgets their password?

Please email the class teacher.