

Friday 18 February



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Omicron will most certainly feature in some way in our daily lives throughout 2022. As we prepare for the arrival of Omicron in our community, we will start sharing with you the things you need to be planning for and aware of should this eventuate in our school setting.

St Albans Catholic's flexible response to Covid-19 will depend on the various scenarios that could play out within our school community. With the support of the staff, we will look to implement strategies that work best for our school context, with the health and safety of our students at the forefront of our planning. **At all times we will be following the requirements set out from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.**

Currently we have 74 families many with siblings across both junior and senior classrooms. Therefore, decisions will be made on a whole school basis rather than isolated to each class (E.g. if a case is reported in one class then the entire school may need to move phases, not just the class).

The overarching consideration will be given to the safety of students and staff, and whether the school will be able to function on limited staff, in extreme cases. The movement between the phases needs to be fluid considering the volatile conditions we are currently facing due to Covid-19.

In its simplest form, there are four possible outcomes that we will consider for St Albans Catholic to move between phases. Business as usual is **Phase 1**. Staff, in consultation with the Board, will shift to **Phase 2** due to high absences of both students and staff). The Board, in consultation with staff, will make the decision to switch over to (**Phase 3**) should it no longer be possible to run school-based learning programmes. Finally, the Ministry of Education (**Phase 4**) will instruct schools to shut down in the event of a regional/local or national pandemic event.

- Phase 1: School is open for all students
- Phase 2: Hybrid Model of Learning (School and Home Learning)
- Phase 3: School is open for Home Learning only (Similar to lockdown)
- Phase 4: School is shut. No learning programmes available (unlikely scenario)

We will also share a step-by-step process of how we will inform you of a positive case within our school community and the steps we will all be required to take to manage the situation.

Again, we know many of you will be anxious at this time, we will continue to ensure that school is the safest possible place for your children to be outside of your family environments.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

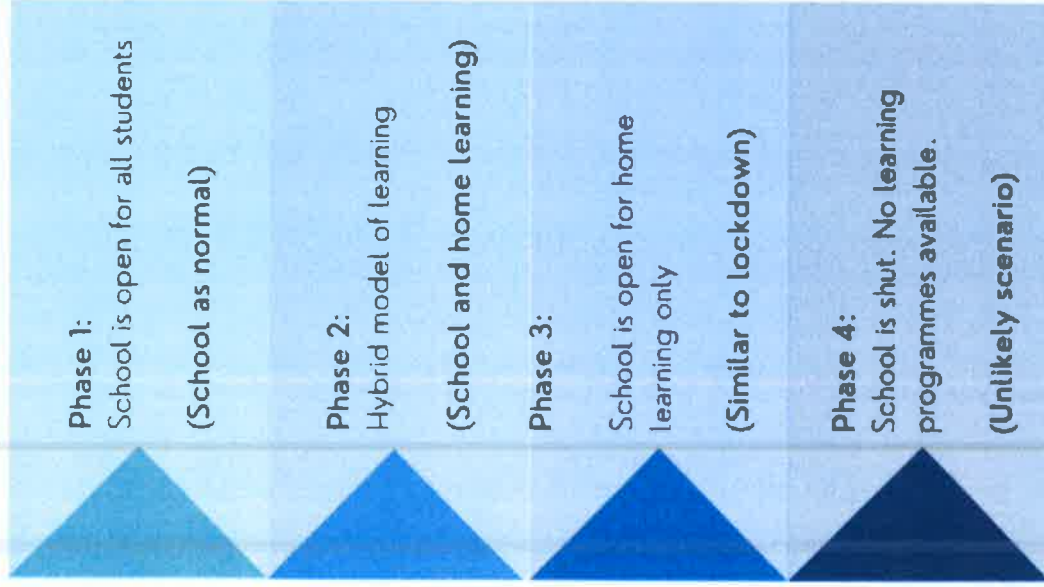
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Moriarty".

Tamara Moriarty  
Deputy Board Chairperson



## ST ALBANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL School Continuity Plan

St Albans Catholic School's flexible response to Covid-19 will depend on the various scenarios that could play out within our school community. With the support of the staff, we will look to implement strategies that work best for our school context, with the health and safety of our students at the forefront of our planning. At all times we will be following the requirements set out by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. Please see below a step-by-step process of how we will inform you of a positive case within our school community and the steps we will all be required to take to manage the situation (Keep this somewhere where it can be easily located).



### Positive and/or Close Case Outside Of School



### Positive and/or Close Case While At School

