

Return to school Level 3 plus

Information current as at 7 October 2021

Developed in partnership with NSW Health



What you need to know about our return to school in Term 4

We're excited about our return to face-to-face learning and welcoming students and staff back onsite where we know the best learning happens.

We are taking a layered-approach to ensuring our school is safe for our staff and students.

Our guidance was developed with NSW Health and is evidence-based to give us multiple layers of protection.

Examples include the staggered student return to school, ongoing cleaning of the school throughout the day, student reminders to use hand sanitizer and their own water bottles for drinking, no additional people allowed on the school site and parents social distancing at gates during student pick up.

COVID-safe operations for schools

Department preschools,
Kindergarten & Year 1

18
October

All other years

25
October



Key dates for our staged return

It's important that we stick to the staged return to give us time to be ready to welcome back students onsite. Students will return to face-to-face learning in the following order

- from 18 October – department preschools, Kindergarten, Year 1
- from 25 October – all remaining year groups (Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)



Primary school students return

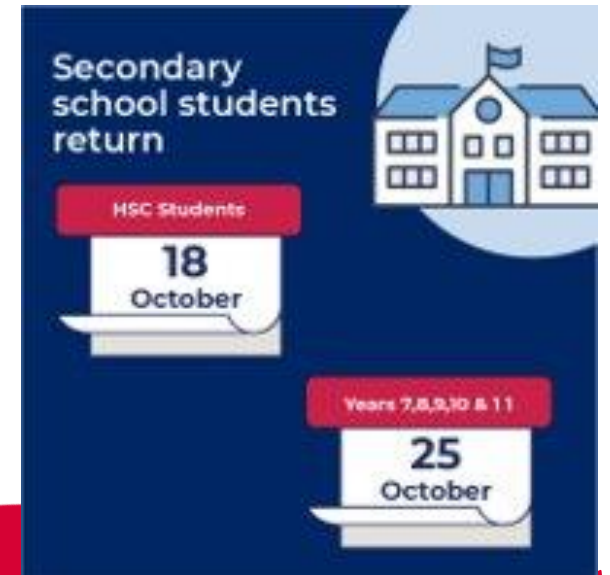
Department preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1

18 October

Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

25 October

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white school building icon in a light blue circle on the right. Two white calendar-style date cards are shown: one for 18 October and another for 25 October. Red banners above the dates specify the student groups: 'Department preschools, Kindergarten & Year 1' for the 18th and 'Years 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6' for the 25th.



Secondary school students return

HSC Students

18 October

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

25 October

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white school building icon in a light blue circle on the right. Two white calendar-style date cards are shown: one for 18 October and another for 25 October. Red banners above the dates specify the student groups: 'HSC Students' for the 18th and 'Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11' for the 25th.

Vaccinations

All staff required on site supporting the return to school will be fully vaccinated from 18 October.

Then from 8 November all staff, contractors, volunteers and students on student placement on a school site will need to be fully vaccinated, including Outside of School Hours Care staff.



Keeping student groups together



As we return to school students will be kept in their cohorts (grade /stage groups) to minimise opportunities for transmission of COVID-19 and to enable effective contact tracing and containment.

This means minimising interaction between students on school grounds and keeping cohorts separate where possible.

Student cohorts at Kariong PS will be in separate areas of the playground during break times.

Mask wearing for students and staff



Masks

Masks will be required for all staff and all students

in Year 7 and above while they are indoors and outdoors on school sites unless eating or exercising.

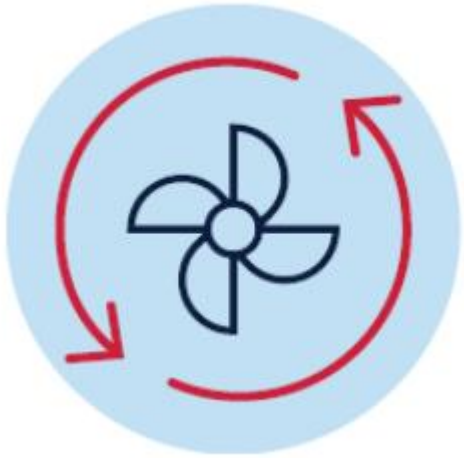
Masks are strongly recommended for primary students both indoors and outdoors unless eating or exercising.

Students should bring their own masks where possible, but schools will have back-up supplies just in case. Masks are also required for all travel on public transport for children 13 years and older.

Masks are required to be worn on school site by staff indoors and outdoors and strongly recommended for students indoors and outdoors unless exercising or eating.

If you would like your child to wear a mask at school, these are available for supply in each classroom.

Ventilation



Having open or well-ventilated spaces reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19 because infectious particles are more quickly diffused in the open air.

Ventilation of indoor settings including classrooms will be improved through windows and doors remaining open during their use. Teachers may also use outdoor spaces for some of their teaching and learning activities.

School activities

During Term 4 many school-based activities will remain on hold until NSW Health advise otherwise.

This includes large celebrations like, assemblies, presentation days and graduations, arts, excursions and sports events. If NSW Health advice changes, then we will let you know about changes as soon as possible.

Our Wellbeing Program that was scheduled to be held in Term 3 is on hold until next year. If parents require a refund, please talk to our office staff.



Orientation and transition to school

Onsite orientations and transition programs are not currently allowed in person on school sites until we are advised differently by NSW Health.

We'll share more information in the coming weeks about our school's virtual orientation and transition program.

Our Kindergarten parents for 2022 have been contacted and we will be further updated regarding future transition arrangements and orientation to school in line with Health and Department guidelines.

Local high schools will be in touch of how they will proceed with the Years 6 - 7 Orientation once all students are back at school.



Outside of school hours care

Outside of school hours care and vacation care settings on school sites will follow the same COVID-safe guidelines as public schools including the requirement to be fully vaccinated from 8 November.

If you have any questions, please contact our Out of School Care Staff.



Further information and questions

All students are expected to be back at school for their staggered return dates. After this date we will only be supporting learning from home where it is required by NSW Health to do so.

Parents and students will be notified if a decision is made to close the school due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. During this time, we will continue to provide learning from home activities, and we will let you know when we can return to face-to-face learning. If this circumstance was to occur at Kariong PS parents would be alerted via the school's electronic board and through Facebook, text message and email.

Find updated information on the department's Advice for Families page to support students who are anxious about the return to school – or contact us directly at the school.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership with the school during the learning from home phase and the return to face-to-face learning.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding students returning to school, please contact Mrs Skinner, Mrs Broadhurst or Mrs Rayner who will be very happy to assist you with your enquiry.

OR

Join us on Friday October 15 at 2pm via zoom.

Link: Toni Skinner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Return to School Communication Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/66907461919?pwd=Wk8weG94Mnl4RFZYblIXUnlMeEFmZz09>

