

Narrabundah Early Childhood School Indoor Air Quality Plan

<p>Background:</p>	<p>As part of the return to on campus learning in Term 4 2021, ACT Health has advised that schools optimise fresh air circulation as one of the controls to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools.</p> <p>The risk of COVID-19 transmission is higher in crowded and poorly ventilated spaces where people spend long periods of time together in close proximity. Good ventilation is one part of a suite of controls to minimise transmission in schools, like vaccination, physical distancing, student cohorting, good hygiene, cleaning and mask use.</p> <p>This Plan identifies actions that have been undertaken at your school by the Education Directorate and provides additional measures for the school to undertake to optimise the fresh air ventilation in the school in Term 4.</p>
<p>Health Advice:</p>	<p>The Chief Health Officer, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, World Health Organisation and Safe Work Australia all recommend good indoor air quality to reduce the chance of COVID-19 transmission.</p>
<p>Advice:</p>	<p>The ventilation systems at Narrabundah Early Childhood School have now been assessed by the Directorate in accordance with the WHO guidance.</p> <p>Fresh air ventilation will be achieved through a mix of natural (opening windows and doors) and mechanical (cooling and ventilation systems).</p> <p>The settings for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems have been reset to achieve good fresh air supply and <u>should not be altered by the school</u>.</p> <p>Increasing the fresh air to classrooms may increase energy costs. Classrooms are also likely to experience lower room temperatures during cooler weather and higher room temperatures in warmer weather.</p> <p>Learning and teaching spaces with fresh air ventilation from either natural or mechanical systems meet the COVID-19 Health Advice. The school is to prioritise the use of these spaces for indoor teaching and learning along with outdoor spaces.</p>
<p>Daily actions to be undertaken by the school in Term 4:</p>	<p>Additional daily measures the school will undertake include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening windows and doors in teaching spaces and other shared spaces of the school to supplement fresh air. Windows above ground level are to be opened only where window restriction is in place to ensure student safety. In line with the National Construction Code, window opening is to be 125mm or less. • Improving air circulation through use of ceiling fans and split system air-conditioning units, only when windows are open. • Ensure bathroom, kitchen and any other exhaust fans are on and operating at full capacity while the school or program is operating and for some time before and after occupancy.

<p>Actions undertaken:</p>	<p>The following actions have been undertaken by the Directorate and its service providers to increase fresh air ventilation in the indoor teaching and learning spaces at the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ventilation systems will commence two hours before school starts and continue for two hours after the last expected occupancy • air handling units have been programmed to supply additional fresh air via the mechanical ventilation systems • evaporative cooling in will provide full fresh air when operating in either cooling or fan mode. When not in operation, fresh air is to be provided by opening windows • the school has been advised not to use the Music, Arts and Craft room due to the lack of ventilation in this space • contractors will continue work to audit and enhance the operation of the ventilation systems • contractors will continue window maintenance and replacement to enhance natural ventilation.
<p>Support or further advice:</p>	<p>For further advice, schools can contact their ICW Network Officer or email ACT.Education@act.gov.au</p>