



# ST GEORGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers

## **COVID-19 Financial Hardship**

In Ephesians chapter 1 Paul writes, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"*.

In these current times it can be difficult to remember that in Jesus we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. When things are being taken away from us; our physical freedoms, the opportunity to socialize, our employment, Paul reminds us what we as Christians have been given - every spiritual blessing from God. He goes on in Chapter One to indicate that these blessings are a relationship with Jesus and being conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

In the midst of this global pandemic when the world sees and hears anxiety, uncertainty, and fear it is a great reminder that our God is a God of comfort, security and certainty. As a school, we are writing to remind you of our ongoing commitment and support to you in seeing your children educated in a Christian school.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting economic impact, the Principal and the Board have considered both the School's response in terms of educational outcomes, as well as the impact on our finances. The Board remains committed to a genuinely Christian education for our students. We are encouraged that our staff have been working tirelessly to see this achieved with our students in this new and sometimes challenging online/remote/distance learning environment.

The feedback from parents and students has been very encouraging and helpful to staff as we keep refining delivery of quality learning to homes. Please continue to use the channels of communication established by your child's head of Department so that we continue to receive this important feedback. Staff members, on behalf of their Head of Department, are also aiming to phone parents to gain feedback from each family.

The economic impact of this pandemic is starting to be felt across many employment sectors and the Board is committed to seek to assist our current families who are suffering economic hardship. This week the Board agreed to significantly increase, effective immediately, financial assistance to our families who suffer significant loss of employment or income if, and when, that results. We recognise that for some of our families this assistance

may be required immediately but may emerge over time; in some cases, well into 2021. Should the need arise, don't hesitate to apply for assistance.

Assistance and support may be given in a number of ways, such as fee relief, establishing payment schedules and/or deferring payments. Using a simplified application process overseen by the Business Manager, the type and amount of support will be allocated according to need and at the discretion of the Principal.

You can access this form on our website as well as on the Parent Portal. Otherwise please email our Business Manager at [businessmanagerpa@sgcs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:businessmanagerpa@sgcs.nsw.edu.au) who will send you the Financial Hardship Form to apply for assistance.

If your family financial situation has changed significantly as a result of the current economic downturn, we are very keen to help you retain your child at SGCS.

We understand that schools in NSW will continue to operate as they are currently throughout Term 2. As further information is provided by the government, we will advise you.

Please know we are praying for our school students, parents and staff, aware of the many challenges this season has imposed yet confident of the security, peace and provision offered in Jesus.

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." Philippians 4:8*

Yours sincerely



**James Honor**

**Principal**



**Paddy Benn**

**Chairman, SGCS Board**