

# RETURNING TO ON-CAMPUS LEARNING: WELLBEING CONSIDERATIONS

As students return to school gradually, schools will be able to draw upon their existing approaches to whole-school wellbeing. Relationships are central to belonging and connectedness in the school environment - a sustained focus here will always support student wellbeing. Schools may find some of the following considerations useful in their planning as students transition to on-campus learning.

## PRE-STUDENT RETURN

- Staff preparation is key for the first day of student return. Opportunities for school staff to meet in advance to discuss their thoughts and provide input into the planning for student return will be beneficial.
- A coordinated, consistent, age and Stage-appropriate approach from staff is needed when discussing COVID-19.
- Provide support for and guidance to staff as part of a whole-school approach to the return to on-campus learning. This guidance may include agreeing on consistent messages and responses to students and families, remind and acknowledge that staff will be modelling behaviours and reactions to students.

- Staff may need support to recognise signs and symptoms of students experiencing grief, loss, and trauma.
- Remind staff of the internal policies and procedures for triaging students with wellbeing concerns.
- Recognise that some students may have fallen behind with their learning. Whilst some will seek support, others will not and might be concerned about their progress. Unsupported worry may affect longer-term wellbeing.
- Plan to support students returning and displaying additional anxiety which may affect both wellbeing and academic achievement. Liaise with school executive, school counsellor/psychologist, wellbeing leaders and reputable resources including AISNSW in respect to a whole-school approach when supporting these students.

- Consider students who are known to be at risk and who may need additional support returning to school.
- Encourage parents and carers to reach out to school staff in relation to any grief and loss they have experienced.
- Wellbeing can be supported through a faith or values-lens, where applicable.
- Refer to the [NSW Health](#) website and AISNSW COVID Portal for Principals (login required) for updates and changes to COVID-safe requirements, that may change over time.

