



GBW:vt

Thursday, 22 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

For a number of years, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people through a draft new curriculum for Religious Education, *Living Life to the Full*. After significant interest and feedback including from the Church, community and experts in Religious Education, Scripture and Theology, Bishop Vincent Long has requested a pause in the engagement and implementation of the draft new Religious Education curriculum 'Living Life to the Full'.

This will provide an opportunity to consider the feedback we have received. I want to reassure you that Year 11 and Year 12 students will not be disadvantaged by this decision. Our Mission team will be supporting schools in the days ahead with more information as well as advice for teachers and students. I want to take this opportunity to thank them, and all our dedicated staff for their commitment to sharing our Catholic Tradition with children and young people in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. As Bishop Vincent says, "forming the young in the way of Jesus is at the heart of our endeavour."

Thank you also to our students' families for your partnership in this important work. I understand that this news comes at a time when all of us are fully focused on meeting students during this period of remote learning as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Please be assured that this is being carefully considered in our support of schools. We will also keep you updated as we continue to support students to grow in their faith and learning.

Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Whitby', written over a white background.

Gregory B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL
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