Dear Parents and Carers

You may have heard a small number of ACT public schools have received further threatening phone calls in recent days.

The schools involved were evacuated or placed in lockdown as ACT Policing attended, investigated the threats and confirmed it was safe for students and staff to return to normal classes.

Our staff and students responded exceptionally well and we commend them for their swift action to ensure everyone was safe.

We acknowledge that continuing phone calls of this nature are concerning and can be very disruptive to the day-to-day operation of the school. However, the safety and wellbeing of all of our students and staff is of utmost importance and all threats must be taken seriously.

We are also acutely aware that school evacuations during periods of extreme heat are particularly challenging for schools as they aim to keep children as comfortable as possible. We acknowledge the efforts of schools in providing access to shade, alternative facilities and drinking water.

Processes in place to manage these situations are working well. We will continue to work with affected schools closely to evaluate and seek feedback on these processes.

If you have any concerns or require further information, please contact your school. Counselling support is available for all students and staff.

Thank you for your understanding.

Diane Joseph
Director-General
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25·2·16

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