



Tuesday, 7 December 2021

AIR PURIFIERS IN EVERY SYDNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) Executive Director, Tony Farley, has confirmed 4,000 air purification units with HEPA filters will be rolled out across all 150 SCS schools to boost students' health and wellbeing.

Mr Farley said parents can breathe easy knowing Sydney Catholic Schools' COVID-19 Safe Return to School Strategy includes the installation of these units, as students, teachers and staff readjust to face-to-face learning after lockdown.

"During this period of uncertainty, we want to do everything we can to ensure that our classrooms remain healthy learning environments for all our students, teachers and staff," Mr Farley said.

The rollout of portable air purification across all 150 SCS primary and secondary schools across the Archdiocese of Sydney commenced on 1 November.

The air purification units exceed the HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter standard and can achieve a 99.99% reduction of airborne viral loads down to 0.007 microns, which is smaller than the size of COVID-19 and bacteria.

Sydney Catholic Schools has also procured 200 air quality sensors to be used within classrooms, providing real-time monitoring of:

- TVOC (total volatile organic compounds);
- PM2.5 (particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter);
- CO2 (carbon dioxide);
- temperature; and
- humidity.

"In our discussions with parents and staff ahead of the return to school, ventilation was one of the main areas of concern that arose," Mr Farley said.



“While we are prioritising our use of outdoor learning spaces and ensuring classrooms have appropriate cross ventilation – by opening doors and windows to meet standards for fresh air and indoor carbon dioxide levels – air purifiers have also been shown to be effective in improving indoor air quality.

“Additionally, improved indoor air quality improves concentration and boosts productivity.

“So I am very pleased Sydney Catholic Schools is doing its part to protect the health and wellbeing of our school communities, and at the same time helping to improve the learning outcomes of our students post lockdown.”

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