

## **FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

### **1. When will in person classes resume?**

*The school will be guided by the Ministry of Education regarding school re-opening.*

### **2. How will students be taught during the school closure?**

*As a collaborative effort the school administration and teachers have commenced distance learning through online classes via ZOOM and Google Classroom. The primary and secondary students were engaged in online classes with effect from April 20 2020. Work assignments for the nursery and some of the other levels were uploaded to Google Classroom before and beginning March 25 2020. In addition written assignments in school workbooks were handed out to parents to continue educational engagement with the children at the nursery level.*

### **3. Is there a minimum standard for online teaching and guidance for submission of work, assessment, feedback?**

*At Marian Academy, distance learning is in the developmental stages as the school continuously works to adapt to the changing circumstances amidst the pandemic. Through concerted efforts of the teachers, students and school administration two online platforms (i.e. ZOOM and Google Classroom) have been utilized to continue to engage students in fulfilling the term's academic curriculum. These two platforms form the basis of the online engagements and are being used as the minimum standard based on research and accessibility. While these platforms are geared more towards theoretical teachings, the school's administration is exploring ways to engage students on the practical aspects of the curriculum. Parents, guardians and students will be updated on these in due course.*

*At the primary and secondary levels, students are guided and encouraged to submit completed work assignments online and these will subsequently be assessed by teachers. There continues to be regular online interface between the teachers and students and any assistance needed to complete assignments is offered. At the nursery levels, work assignments are printed and completed manually and the teachers are working out the most practical and effective means to have these submitted and assessed and parents/guardians will be updated accordingly in this regard.*

*Parents are asked to refrain from intervening during online sessions and should operate as though they are not around. If a parent has any comments these are best shared in private with teachers after classes conclude.*

### **4. How are students who have no computers or internet access being engaged?**

*The school's administration is trying to map and identify those students who do not have internet and or computer access and once this exercise is completed practical ways of engaging those students will be explored and a mechanism to engage them will be established as promptly as possible. It is recommended that those who do not have access to the internet should contact the school and inform the school office, as they would normally do if a child had to be absent and therefore miss classes.*

**5. Are there teachers who need to build capacity to deliver work using available online learning platforms?**

*At present most teachers have the basic skills and know-how to engage students via ZOOM and Google Classroom and have already commenced preparation and uploading of work assignments via these platforms. For those teachers who may be a bit slower in adapting to the changes, the school's administration along with the PTA will work with them to ensure they too quickly enhance their skill set to effectively enrich the learning experiences for their students.*

**6. Does the school plan to include distance learning alongside in-class engagements as the norm in the medium to long term?**

*The school's administration will carefully and thoroughly evaluate the pros and cons of online learning over the next few months and will certainly explore the possibility and feasibility of incorporating online learning tools to further enhance the delivery of education to students and the enrichment of the educational experience across the school.*

**7. Will there be a fee reduction given the closure of schools and absence of in-class interactions amidst the pandemic?**

*At this time, there is no plan to reduce fees for this term as teachers and other auxiliary staffs still have to be paid and other operational costs and financial commitments have fixed elements which need to be covered. The requests for a fee reduction have been noted and the school will review whether some relief can be offered to parents. In the event of a reduction, the amount will be treated as a credit on the next term's fee.*

*Where parents and guardians are experiencing difficulty paying fees for the term, they are encouraged to contact the school administration to work out the possibility of a mutually acceptable payment plan.*

**8. How will students be promoted to new classes at the beginning of the next academic year should schools remain closed?**

*Students from all levels across the school will continue to undergo school based assessment and evaluation on the basis of work completed as per the pre-established academic curriculum for the respective terms. Such evaluation will be conducted by the respective teachers as is the norm during the regular school year and the child's performance will in part determine their promotion to the next class.*

**Should you have any additional questions please contact the school's administration on telephone number 226-9044**