



BUSHFIRE POLICY



Purpose:

- To ensure the safety of children and staff in a bushfire emergency
- To ensure Winters Flat Primary School complies with requirements of the BARR as the school is listed on the DEECD bushfire at risk register. (BARR)

Aims:

- To provide updated information to parents.
- To ensure necessary checks and procedures are followed
- To ensure all staff are clear of their responsibility in the case of a bushfire emergency

Implementation:

- Our school will have a current Emergency Management Plan that reflects our school's bushfire status.
- Gutters will be cleaned at the beginning of each fire season.
- The school will regularly manage materials that may easily be ignited around buildings and facilities.
- Our school will comply with local bushfire regulations for building, facilities and grounds.
- Flammable materials will be stored appropriately in a clearly labelled building.
- Fire drills will be conducted in accordance with our annual schedule (at least once per term)
- The school will make use of the DET Landscaping for Bushfire Prone Areas guidelines when considering new works.
- The school will maintain notices of bushfire evacuation procedures and contact numbers and locate them in appropriate locations around the school.
- Bushfire information will be included in our parent information booklet and as part of the staff induction process.
- Parents will receive formal information as to "What to do on a Code Red Day" via our school's newsletter in both October and February of each year.
- Winters Flat PS will liaise with the CFA every two years with regard to bushfire preparedness.
- Parents are also advised to make sure the school has their current contact details including mobile phone number.
- Off-site activities: The safety of students and staff is paramount and off-site activities may be cancelled, postponed or relocated if faced with the threat of bushfire. Off-site activities include any activity undertaken by staff and children away from their normal school activity. This could include:
 - Camps
 - Field trips
 - Sporting activities
 - Training or conferences for staff

Winters Flat Primary School is on the DET's Bushfire at Risk Register

Therefore

ON CODE RED DAYS:

- Winters Primary School will be closed on days that are determined by fire authorities to be Code Red.
- Where possible we will provide parents with up to three days' notice of a planned closure following the issue of a Code Red warning by the CFA.
- Families will be contacted directly by both phone and a letter sent home with your child with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.
- Once this preliminary information is sent home parents should start planning for alternative care arrangements for their child in the event that the school is closed.
- Once confirmed the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.
- No staff will be on site on days when the school is closed
- All after school activities will be cancelled e.g. Chess, Martial Arts
- School camps will be cancelled if the area where the camp is taking place is at risk.
- There may also be changes to school bus routes. This information will be available on the DET website and, where possible, provided by the school.
- On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan. On such days children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council

March 2015