

CODE RED SCHOOL AND BUS ROUTE CLOSURES POLICY

Dear Parents/Carers, Bus Operator and Bus Driver,

I am writing to inform you of the recent changes to the Department of Education and Training's CODE RED DAY Policy and Procedures.

Please be advised that, in future, any School and School Bus Routes that are within, or pass-through, weather districts where the fire danger is determined to be CODE RED WILL BE CLOSED and CANCELLED.

Based on the experience of the 2019 CODE RED DAY in Mallee and Northern Country weather districts, the Department has decided that ALL Schools WILL BE CLOSED and School Bus Routes CANCELLED on future CODE RED determined days in impacted weather districts. The Department's reason for making this policy change is to protect and preserve the lives of students, staff and education communities by taking the most prudent approach to the risk posed by the most catastrophic bushfire conditions.

CODE RED DAYS are determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner for affected weather districts by at least 1pm the day prior. Our School will give you as much notice as possible and will notify you of any determination of the Commissioner on the day prior to a CODE RED DAY.

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, Website and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the Teaching Staff about our Emergency Management Plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in a Bushfire prone area you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about school, children's services and school bus route closures on the Department's website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on Emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Please contact the School if you have any questions or concerns regarding Code Red Day School and School Bus Route Closures.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Colbert

Principal