



Bellinghen Public School

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Bellinghen Public School Bushfire Plan – Parent/Carers

Background:

Bushfires around Bellinghen are unpredictable and there is no particular pattern related to onset, duration nor time of the year. The elements of the plan address safety in the following contexts:

- Advice to parents and students prior to the start of the school day.
- Advice to parents and students about the ongoing status of school.
- Evacuation procedures during a school day.

Advice to parents and students prior to the start of a school day

1. Accurate information is critical when an assessment of bushfire impact has been made. Parents are always advised to check RFS warnings, SES bulletins and road closure information. They are often best placed to make an assessment of their particular location. **Your child's/children's safety is most paramount and if in doubt, keep your child/ren home.**
2. Announcements of the school's capacity to run classes normally or with reduced staff will be made available on **Skoolbag and Facebook**. We suggest you download our Skoolbag App for up to date information and notifications on flood information.
3. The following websites are helpful when making decisions: Fires near me; Bellinghen Council; Bellinghen SES and bridge height information.

Advice to parents and students about the ongoing status of the school

1. The school will be guided by advice from DoE, Council, RFS, SES and RTA. When possible that advice will be communicated as early as possible each morning.
2. Updates will be placed on the Skoolbag and school Facebook page

Evacuation procedures during a school day

If buses advise an early departure then the following procedures will be put in place:

1. Parents notified by SMS via SENTRAL contact list with messages as per below.
2. When advised by bus companies of early pick up, bus students will assemble in the hall under direct supervision of staff for roll check. All other students will remain in combined classes for supervision.
3. Parents making alternate pick up arrangements will notify office staff.
4. Parents are to be advised that they should proceed to the front office NOT classrooms. Teachers will redirect to the office to correctly and legally sign out your child/ren.
5. Please **do not** park in bus bays or on the SES grounds or driveways in William street.

If at any time your emergency information should change, it is vital the school office be notified.

Text message for NON-OPERATIONAL:

Bellinghen Public School is (NON-OPERATIONAL (insert day and date) due to bushfires.

Text Message for EVACUATION:

Bellinghen Public School is EVACUATING due to bushfires. Please ensure an adult is at home to supervise your child.

Text Message for bus parents on Evacuation:

Your child's bus (*bus number/name*) is on route for pick up due to Bushfire Evacuation at Bellinghen Public School. Please ensure your child can be collected from their regular bus stop by an adult.

Vanessa Cavanagh
Principal

Fiona Vardabasso
WHS Committee