



# Bellinghen Public School

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## Bellinghen Public School Flood Plan – Parent/Carers

### **Background:**

Floods in Bellinghen are unpredictable and there is no particular pattern related to onset, duration nor time of the year. The elements of this 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 flood impact has been made. Parents are always advised to check flood 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 **Facebook**.
3. The following websites are helpful when making decisions: bom.gov.au; 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 Bellinghen Council, Bellinghen SES and RMS. When possible that advice will be communicated as early as possible each morning. Our local bus companies will also provide information as they know the local roads
2. Updates will be emailed via SENTRAL and the school Facebook page

### **Evacuation procedures during a school day**

Generally, certain areas around Bellinghen flood more rapidly than other areas. 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 or library, depending on student numbers, under direct supervision of staff for roll check. All other students will remain in combined classes for supervision.
3. 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.
4. 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 flooding.

#### **Text Message for EVACUATION:**

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

#### **Text Message for bus parents on Evacuation:**

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

Vanessa Cavanagh  
Principal