



Wilberforce Public School

Excellence in Education since 1880

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Principal: Graham Wilkins

Wilberforce Public Bush Fire Plan

(Current November, 2018. Reviewed as needed)

Background:

Wilberforce Public School **is not** listed on the NSW Schools in "School Bush Fire Prone Areas" or "The Bush Fire Register". However due to its locality a complete Bushfire plan has been prepared.

The bush fire danger season generally runs from 1st October until 31 March annually.

The information below has been written with the cooperation with Department of Education WHS branch and is aimed at providing the community with a summary of the procedures during, or prior to, a bushfire which impacts the school.

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.
- Departure and Evacuation procedures during a school day.

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

Accurate information is critical when an assessment of a bushfire. Parents are always advised to check bushfire warnings, SES bulletins and road closure information. Parents 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 if you live in a bushfire prone section of the school's catchment and are directly affected by a bushfire threat.

Announcements of the school's capacity to run classes normally or with reduced staff will be made available on the school website <https://wilberforc-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/> the Skoolbag App and on our Facebook page. Information will be posted for up-to-date information and notifications on school opening during a bushfire event. Parents may ring the school, noting that the information from the school will duplicate those details.

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

Schools are not any more informed about bushfires than the community in general.

The school will be guided by advice from Council, the Rural Fire Service, RTA and Department of Education. When possible that advice will be communicated as early as possible each morning. If a bushfire in the local area escalates outside school hour's updates will be placed on the school website, App and the school's Facebook page. The Principal will be the only person to authorise information about conditions where applicable.

Statements for the School website Facebook and App will posted with a time and date and be as follows:

1. The school is operational
2. The school is operational but with minor disruption – limited bus services
3. The school is operational but with minimal staff supervision – no bus services
4. The school is non-operational (closed)

This information is meant as a guide only. Parents and Carers should make their own decision about sending their child to school during a bushfire.

Evacuation procedures during a school day

As much of our school's catchment area is in bushfire prone areas some of our families may be affected by fires. If buses change due to bushfires students will be held at school until a parent or carer can pick the student up.

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

Parents are to be advised that they should proceed to the front office FIRST before going to the classrooms. Teachers will redirect to the office to correctly and legally sign out your child/ren.

In the unlikely event a bushfire directly threatens the school, procedures are in place for students to take shelter in the school hall or to evacuate by bus to Windsor Public School.

Ratified by P&C 3/12/18