



# Wilberforce Public School

*Excellence in Education since 1880*

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**Principal:** Graham Wilkins

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## Wilberforce Public School Flood Plan

(Current November, 2018. Reviewed as needed)

### **Background:**

Floods in the Hawkesbury are usually predictable and there is usually notice before a major flood. It is important to note that only the lower sections of Wilberforce Public School grounds are located in the PMF zone which is less frequent than the 1-100 year flood zone<sup>1</sup>, making a flood which reaches school grounds extremely unlikely. 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 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** if you live in a flood prone section of the catchment.

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 flood 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 river levels than the community in general.

The school will be guided by advice from Council, SES and RMS and Department of Education. When possible that advice will be communicated as early as possible each morning. If a flood escalates outside school hours 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 be 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

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

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

Generally, certain areas around Wilberforce flood more rapidly than other areas. If buses change due to floods 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Hawkesbury Council flood extent map north

[http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/image/0019/31816/flood-extent-map-north-websm.jpg](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/image/0019/31816/flood-extent-map-north-websm.jpg)

Ratified by P&C 3/12/18