



DISRUPTION TO COLLEGE BUS SERVICES DUE TO FLOOD, FIRE OR OTHER IDENTIFIED RISK

- IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In recent years, there have been occasions when the College bus service and the Government bus service have been disrupted due to either bushfire danger or flood danger.

There have been instances when the entire College has been closed down due to flood danger.

Following is information about the process of communication in the event of disruption to bus service or school closure due to natural disaster or other identified risk. The safety of human life takes priority at all times, when determining transport arrangements for school students.

CODE RED DAYS – A Code Red day is the highest Fire Danger Rating in Victoria. Code Red Days are declared by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).

Schools in fire prone areas or at risk areas, may receive forty eight hours (48) notice (or less) of an impending Code Red Day. On Code Red days, some schools will be required to close, St Mary's has not been identified as being in a high risk area, however, our buses will NOT be allowed to travel through high risk areas, which effectively means that some buses may need to be cancelled at relatively short notice.

In the event of a Code Red Day disrupting the bus service offered by St Mary of the Angels, the following will occur:

- a. An SMS message will be sent home to those families affected by the closure or disruption to a particular bus run; this will occur preferably with 24 hours notice to families.
- b. The Catholic Education Office (CEO) will be informed of the closure of/disruption to particular bus runs.
- c. A PA announcement will be made to students the day prior to the closure of/disruption to a particular bus run.
- d. Information about the closure of/disruption to a particular bus run will be placed on the College's web site, www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au.
- e. Information will also be placed on the official College Face Book page as it becomes available.

STUDENTS AFFECTED WHILST AT SCHOOL

In the event that a bus service will be affected by a 'rapid onset emergency' (i.e. happens during the school day whilst the children are at school), the Principal (or representative) will liaise with the CEO and appropriate local authorities (SES, CFA, Moira Shire, Police) to ascertain which bus runs will be closed. "All services on affected bus routes and those that may potentially be affected will be cancelled in full. Buses with students on board may not leave the school without the approval of the Principal or his or her delegate. All students on affected services will be held at the school until the all clear is given." (DEECD, Feb.2014 'School Bus Program Emergency Management, Operational Guidelines)

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