

Fire Response Procedures

Due to the College's unique location in a richly forested area, it is important that parents be familiar with the precautions we take on days of total fire ban and in the event of a bushfire in the area.

Our main perceived threats are an emergency situation on-site (e.g. fire on the property), or, a bushfire in the area. In either case, our immediate response is to ensure student safety. If deemed necessary, students will be evacuated to the Hall and Gym.

With both the CFA and the Police close by, Mater Christi is well placed for keeping informed on any emergency situation in the Dandenongs.

On days forecast to be Catastrophic (Code Red) Fire Danger Rating, parents and students will be advised of School Closure via SMS with details confirmed on College website. Once a closure day has been declared, this will proceed regardless of any change in weather patterns. This information is also available from the Catholic Education Commission at <http://web.cecv.catholic.edu.au>. Select "Bushfire Preparedness" then "School Closure List".

Procedures for Total Fire Ban days (Extreme or Severe Fire Danger Rating as declared by the CFA)

Unless otherwise announced by the College, school will continue as normal, but with restrictions on student movement. Careful consideration will be given to excursions/off-site activities. Where we believe that there is an unacceptable risk, the activity will be cancelled.

If there is an outbreak of fire

In the event of fire in the area we will liaise with the local CFA to ensure safety for all. This contact will be ongoing during the day. If there is no immediate danger, classes will continue until normal closing time. The following transport regulations will then apply.

Students will be dismissed only if there is NO doubt about the reliability and safety of their transport arrangements and the safety of the environment at their destination. Students will only be dismissed when the situation is declared safe by the Emergency Services, or into the direct care of their parents.

Any student who is collected and signed out from the College by their parent will be recorded as such on the Emergency Evacuation Sign Out Sheets. A student will be dismissed to travel with another adult only with the express permission of her parent.

Evacuation Procedures

If fire is threatening the school, we will evacuate to an appropriate safe location. This will be in accordance with directions provided by Emergency Services. The school will remain in communication with the Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV). Parents can contact the CECV on 03 9267 0228 or visit their web-site for the latest information.

Please contact the College if you wish to view the full Emergency Management Plan.