

HELENA VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL BUSH FIRE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

An Independent Public School



Helena Valley
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helena Valley Primary School, due to its location in the foothills of Perth, is on the Department of Education's Bushfire Zone Register. As such we have developed elaborate and thorough plans in consultation with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), when faced with this situation. The following information is a guide to parents as to the levels of warning and actions they can take to support their child, if a bushfire should occur.

Safer location areas in the school have been chosen due to the suitability of the room to be fire safe, the location, access to water and toilets.

We recently changed the policy so family groups will be together, according to faction groups, to enable parents to collect children faster.

To ensure the safety of all students, staff and visitors we ask parents:

- Do not call the school during this time, as staff will need to communicate with emergency services
- Do not attempt to reach the school to collect children when advised that this is no longer feasible
- Where possible avoid Social Media updates, and check through DFES website or 720 AM radio, authorised information
- Remember that children cannot be collected by other parents not listed as an emergency pick up and must be signed out

I thank you, in advance, for following our policy and hope that we never need to enact it.

Tamala Wilkinson
Principal

*At **ADVICE** the school is aware that there is the potential for the school to be threatened by a fire.*

*At this point there has been **NO** advice to move to a safer off site location, **HOWEVER** at **THIS POINT** parents will be advised, by SMS, of a limited window of time to pick up their child/ren if required.*

Children will be moved to the onsite safer location (Library and Rooms 7/8) where parents can sign their child/ren out.

- *Students in Statham and Drummond Faction will be in Room 7/8, parents are asked to come into the school from the Maguire Road entrance near room 8.*
- *Students in Forrest and O'Connor will be in the Library, parents are asked to come into the school from Helena Valley*

Children will remain at these locations until the Watch and Act stage or a decision is made to ensure safety.

When we move into Watch and Act, parents will be advised they are not to contact or come to the school as emergency vehicles and personal require full access to the school and surrounding locations.

*At **WATCH AND ACT** the fire conditions have changed and there is a possible threat to lives and the school.*

A decision will be made by the Principal to relocate students, staff and visitors to an offsite safer location.

A text will be sent to advise parents either:

It is not safe or appropriate to come to the school, or Students have been relocated and can be collected from that place.

If on School grounds –

- *It is no longer safe to come to the school and no contact is to be made with the school. Further information to come.*

If a decision is made to relocate to an offsite safer location:

- *Parents will be notified, by SMS, that a decision to move off site has been made and parents should meet their child/ren at, location to be specified.*

Although we have nominated Clayton View and Greenmount Primary Schools as our Off Site Safer Location, on the day this may not be possible and parents will be given the location in the SMS.

School students, staff and visitors will be evacuated by bus to this location.

*An **EMERGENCY WARNING** is the highest level of warning and tells of immediate danger.*

At this point the school will activate the bushfire plan and will relocate to the safer location - either on or off site.

***PRE-EMPTIVE SCHOOL CLOSURE** can only take place when advice from DFES is received that a catastrophic FDR has been forecast for a given day, the Deputy Director General, will then direct schools to close for that period of time.*

The school in this instance will advise parents via email, SMS or letter where possible.