



## Bushfire Preparedness Policy

### PURPOSE

To ensure the safety of the staff and students at Maldon Primary School in the event of a Code Red fire danger day.

### POLICY

Schools that have been identified as being at high fire risk and are on the Department of Education's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/bushfirerisk.aspx#subM> will close on days determined Code Red. **Maldon Primary School is on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and will close when a Code Red fire danger day is forecast in the North Central fire weather district.**

A Code Red day will be determined no later than 1.00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the Code Red day, we will provide parents with advice of the school closure. This advice will be in the form of a uEducateUs notification and/or a paper note sent home with students. Closure information will also be published on the Department of Education's website

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Once a Code Red day has been determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner this decision will not change regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help your family plan for how your children will be cared for when their school is closed.

It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Before school and after school care will also be cancelled on these days.
- The school bus route will be cancelled if a Code Red day is forecast in the North Central fire district. It will also be cancelled if a Code Red day is forecast in the Northern Country fire district as it travels through this district.

Off-site activities will be cancelled, postponed, or relocated if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the fire weather district in which the off-site activity is located or if the activity is faced with the threat of bushfire. Off-site activities include any activity undertaken by staff/students away from their normal school facility such as camps, excursions, sporting activities and training or conferences.

On Code Red days, families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan. On such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, the school's Emergency Management Plan is regularly updated in accordance with Department of Education and Training guidelines, ensuring that we are prepared in the event of a bushfire.

### COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2022