



## Bushfire Policy

Chewton Primary School is listed on the DET bushfire at risk register. (BARR)

### **Purpose:**

- To ensure the safety of children and staff in a bushfire emergency

### **Aims:**

- To provide updated information to parents.
- To ensure necessary checks and procedures are followed
- To ensure all staff are clear of their responsibility in the case of a bushfire emergency

### **Implementation:**

- Chewton Primary School **will be closed** on days that are determined by fire authorities to be **Code Red**.
- The school **will relocate to Castlemaine North Primary School** on days that are listed as **Extreme fire risk**
- Students **will be evacuated** from the school grounds to Victory Park Castlemaine should the principal make the decision that a fire is posing a risk to student and staff safety
- If circumstances do not permit evacuation from the school grounds will shelter in the safest school location being the multipurpose room
- Where possible we will provide parents with up to three days' notice of a planned closure following the issue of a Code Red or Extreme warning by the CFA
- Families will be contacted directly by Flexibus, SMS or a personal call phone call with a letter send home with advice on planned closure. The principal will confirm the decision to close by 2pm the day before the planned closure.
- Once confirmed the decision to close will not change, regardless of changes in the weather forecast.
- No members of the school community will be on site on days when the school is closed
- Out of school care will be cancelled
- School camps will be cancelled if the area where the camp is taking place is at risk
- There may also be changes to school bus routes
- On these days, families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan. **On such day's children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.**

### **During the bushfire season:**

- Our school will have a current Emergency Management plan that reflects our schools bushfire status that is updated annually in October of each year and again as changes are made
- The DET bushfire checklist will be completed with all activities on the checklist fully implemented at the beginning of each fire season and reviewed again in the first week of the school year
- Staff, School Council representative and Chewton Fire Captain will be instructed on how to use the school sprinkler system

- The Chewton Fire Captain will make a physical visit to the school in October of each year.
- The school will make use of the Landscaping for bushfire prone areas guidelines when considering new works. ( DET)
- The school will maintain notices of bushfire evacuation procedures and contact numbers and locate them in appropriate locations around the school
- The school will ensure that the Castlemaine Bus Lines are informed of any changes to our plan
- Bushfire information will be included in our parent information booklet and as part of the staff induction process
- Parents will receive formal information as to what to do on a days of closure or evacuation via our schools newsletter in both October and February of each year
- This policy to be read in conjunction with our schools procedures on evacuation and closures, schools Emergency Management Plan and Departmental check lists on bushfire preparedness

**Evaluation:** This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle review. This policy was ratified by staff followed by school council on 21 /9/2017

Updates made on 10/9/2018 to remove the wording severe