



ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2023 - 2024 BUSHFIRE SEASON

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to advise you of arrangements for our school for the current bushfire season.

Our school is in a bushfire prone area and is listed as Category 2 on the NSW Department of Education's bushfire risk register.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education has determined that on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area (Central Ranges area 10), our school will temporarily cease operations for the following day.

In addition, schools may be made non-operational due to changing higher risk conditions and advice from Emergency Services and the State Emergency Operations Centre.

We recommend that you download the [Parent App](#) and select to monitor advice from our school which will push notifications to you advising that the school is non-operational. We also recommend that you stay up to date with bushfire and grassfire activity by using the [Hazards Near Me](#) app (set a watch zone for your school area), and by monitoring local media. You can also review fire activity and alert levels on the [RFS](#) website.

The Fire Danger Rating does not mean there will be a bushfire, but rather weather conditions that could pose a high risk for a bushfire event. The measure is proactive to ensure staff, students and the community remain safe.

To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

- The school will liaise with Emergency Service Agencies during the time of the year when the risk of bush fire is highest.
- The LHS Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/lithgowh>) will be updated with advice and notification of any possible school closure. Please listen to the local radio station for bush fire or weather warnings.

A copy of information for parents provided by the Department about these arrangements is below. Our school will inform our school community after 4pm if there is a change to the operational status of the school for the following day. To assist the school in contacting all families please ensure that you have provided us with up-to-date contact details.

- Further information on up to date communication of school operations, can also be found through:
 - NSW Department of Education's School Safety website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety>
 - NSW School Updates app: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app>, and
 - Social media.

We recommend that all of our families follow the advice of the NSW Rural Fire Service and ensure that your family knows what to do if there is a fire.

It can take as little as five minutes to make your plan. Discuss it with your family so you know what you will do in the event of a fire. <https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>

Please contact the school on telephone 6352 1422 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Foty Loupos', written in a cursive style.

Foty Loupos
PRINCIPAL

30th August 2023

Bushfire danger period information for parents and carers

Factsheet

This factsheet provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bushfire danger period.

The NSW Department of Education has engaged external experts to conduct assessments of all NSW government schools, to identify schools at greater risk of impact from bushfires.

To support the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff, the department, in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), will direct the school to temporarily cease operations on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating has been declared for your school's NSW fire area. Alternative learning arrangements will be put in place for these days.

Schools may be directed by the department to become non-operational at any time based on advice from emergency services and the State Emergency Operations Centre.



What is a Fire Danger Rating?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a fire start. The ratings are determined by a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought.

For further information on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System, visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/fire-danger-ratings-are-changing-soon

Fire Danger Rating sign





When will I know if my child's school has been made non-operational?

At approximately 4:00pm each day the Fire Danger Rating is issued for the following day. This means that schools, including onsite preschools, will be notified after school hours that it will be non-operational the following day. Your school will notify you as soon as possible by the preferred method of communication.

Parents and carers are requested to:

- provide up-to-date home and after-hours contact details to your school
- stay up-to-date with news and local media through the bushfire danger period.



NSW School Updates app

Get the free NSW School Updates app to receive operational status updates for NSW public schools education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app



What education arrangements will be in place if the school is non-operational?

When non-operational, your school will advise of alternative learning arrangements, including any relocation or learning from home plans.



Learn more

Be prepared and ensure you have a bushfire survival plan in place. The NSW RFS has resources for all residents to plan and prepare for the bushfire season.

Consider whether your home is safe from bushfires and grassfires, and be prepared to relocate to a safer place well in advance. Find more information and resources from the NSW RFS rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

We appreciate your cooperation during the bushfire season. For further information about Fire Danger Ratings and the bushfire danger period, please refer to [NSW Rural Fire Service rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au/rural-fire-service)

The department's School Safety website education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety provides up to date information during bushfires and grassfire emergencies.

Please contact your school with any additional questions.