

Emergencies and Natural Disasters

Diocese of Sale schools are well prepared to deal with emergency situations.

Each school has an emergency management plan that identifies procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. If an emergency should occur, the school emergency management team is quickly established to support and meet the needs of students and families.

If there is an emergency situation during the school day, the safety and wellbeing of students will be the highest priority.

To assist schools to prepare for and manage emergencies, we ask you to:

- ensure your child's emergency contact details held by the school are up to date
- ensure school staff are alerted to any special medical or dietary requirements of your child
- connect through our [Communication Apps](#)
- notify the school principal of any emergency situation involving your child.

Bushfires- Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating Days

A Catastrophic FRD, is the highest level of rating in Victoria. It signifies the worst conditions for grass fires and bushfires. Catastrophic FRD ratings are only called for days of extraordinary and extremely dangerous conditions.

Columba has been identified as being at high fire risk for grassfire, and will close on days determined Catastrophic by the Emergency Management Commissioner.

Where possible, three (3) days notice of a planned closure will be provided. However, experience indicates that a Catastrophic fire danger rating day may be forecast at short notice. Parents and guardians should expect that in some instances less than three days notice may be provided. Once the final decision to close is confirmed at 1pm the day prior, this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help families plan for how their children will be cared for when their school is closed.

When we are closed in response to bushfire risk, no one, including staff, contractors and other users, will be permitted on site. Families will be notified via the SZapp communication app and via social media if it is necessary to close the school on a Catastrophic Fire Rating Day.

