

Catastrophic Fire Days Policy

Underlying Principles

Immanuel Gawler intends to be mindful and proactive in preparing and responding appropriately in the event of days of 'catastrophic risk.' Immanuel Gawler does not desire any staff, student or school community members to be placed at risk.

Immanuel Gawler is in a low risk area therefore the school will remain open on Catastrophic Code Red Days (where the fire danger index reaches or exceeds 100).

Catastrophic Fire Warning Days:

- It is not very likely that the school itself will be in a catastrophic fire zone but not impossible.
- It is quite likely that at some time members of our school community (staff, student or parent body) may live in or travel through an area that is declared to be of catastrophic fire risk.

Policy

1. Parents/caregivers will determine whether children attend on these days as it may be inadvisable to travel on regional roads affected by the risk of fire.
2. Staff will determine whether they attend on these days if they travel on regional roads affected by the risk of fire. In the instance of staff not coming to school because of a catastrophic fire warning we will get a TRT for the class if possible or otherwise accommodate the students. Staff will be paid for these days and there will be no deduction of leave entitlements.
3. Children not collected at the end of the day due to catastrophic fire warnings/events will be cared for by nominated staff members until such time as it is deemed safe for them to be collected (whatever time that is). This may mean using OHSC until 6pm and then a nominated staff members caring for the student(s) until collected.
4. On days when a catastrophic fire event occurs, the school will ensure all students are accounted for at all time.
5. Excursions (outside of the local area) will be cancelled if there is extra risk involved and always on days of catastrophic wire warning.
6. School staff will undertake regular fire extinguisher/awareness training and ensure all firefighting equipment is within required specifications.



Bases of Discretion

- The Principal will 'confer and seek advice from emergency services'.
- Staff will follow the instructions of the Principal or the designated Fire Warden.
- Advice and information on the Fire Danger Index is available from various media outlets – the school will refer to the CFS app and website.
- While parents have the absolute right to collect their children from school at any time, encouragement is to be given to families not to take unnecessary risks to collect their children from school on these days.