



CYCLONE POLICY

Rationale

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment for all those who may be at risk in the event of a cyclone.

Aims

To ensure procedures are followed in the event of a cyclone

Implementation

GENERAL CYCLONE INFORMATION Tropical Cyclone Advice

Cyclone advice is broadcast on all radio stations by the Bureau of Meteorology well in advance of the possible arrival. ABC Darwin is the Lead Station. Early notices are referred to as Cyclone Watches and as the chances of it hitting increase it will be upgraded to a Cyclone Warning. A tropical cyclone watch is issued for coastal communities when the onset of gales is expected within 48 hours, but not within 24 hours. Watches are issued every 6 hours.

A tropical cyclone warning is issued for coastal communities when the onset of gales is expected within 24 hours, or are already occurring. Warnings are issued every 3 hours, becoming hourly when a cyclone is close to the coast

If and when conditions deteriorate after the 'Cyclone Warning' school closures will be announced on radio and TV. If no further deterioration occurs, no school closure will occur.

Sacred Heart Catholic School will follow the advice of the Catholic Education Office. We will not decide to close the school ourselves. In the event of Darwin being placed on a Cyclone Warning overnight, follow the advice on the radio. The cyclone information update number is 1300 359 211.

Parents are free to collect their children (if they are concerned) before an official cyclone school closure has been announced. Normal procedure for signing children out through the Front Office must be followed.

If parents are unable to collect children themselves, they should advise who will do so.

Student Safety is Paramount

Children must not leave the classroom unless accompanied by an adult.

Children must be collected from school by parent/caregiver or authorised adult. Collection must be documented.

Students still remaining an hour after official notification will be gathered into a central point where senior staff will supervise them and begin to phone parents.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE SCHOOL HAVE CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Evaluation: Policy to be reviewed in 2022