

	<h1 style="color: #4F81BD;">Whitsunday Christian College</h1>	Last Updated: April 2020
	<h2 style="color: black;">Cyclones & Extreme Weather</h2>	Version: 4

1. What happens if a Cyclone Watch is announced or a severe weather announcement is made for Whitsunday? (A Cyclone watch is issued 36 hours prior to the Cyclone making landfall)

- If during school hours: College stays open.
- If not school hours: College opens as usual.

2. What happens if a Cyclone Warning is announced for Whitsunday? (A Cyclone Warning is issued 24 hours prior to the Cyclone making landfall)

- If during school hours: College stays open until normal closing times
- If not school hours: A decision regarding the College remaining open will be made by the Principal and CEO (or their delegate) after consultation with the Whitsunday Disaster Coordination Centre. www.disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

3. How does the Principal monitor the situation?

Wider Community: Listen to the latest messages broadcast regularly from the Bureau of Meteorology/Local Radio/Television/RACQ/Police Twitter/Whitsunday Regional Council Disaster Management Dashboard.

Whitsunday Christian College: Combination of email, text messaging as well as updates on the College website and Facebook page will be used to keep families up-to-date during these types of events.

4. What happens for students who travel on buses and ferries when transport companies need to pick up early because of severe weather event (e.g. flooding)?

Steps that happen:

- Hamilton and Hayman Island children who travel on ferries will be sent promptly on the advice of the bus and ferry companies.
- College owned bus runs (Bowen and Proserpine) will leave promptly and we will notify parents that the bus has departed early.
- Other Whitsunday Transit runs:
 - On the advice of the bus company that buses will leave early.
 - Senior Phase (Years 11 – 12) students will be sent promptly and any siblings they have at school will accompany them home.
 - Parents of Primary School and Middle Phase (Prep – Year 10) children will be contacted by the College to gain permission to send their children home early on the Whitsunday Transit bus.
 - We will maximise the use of students' personal phones on these occasions so that parents are informed as quickly as possible to ensure students can travel as bus company may only give brief notice. If we cannot contact parents, Primary School and Middle Phase children (who do not have a Senior Phase sibling) will remain at school for collection by families.

5. What happens to students not travelling by public transport or college bus?

Administration will contact parents via SMS to pick children up immediately and sign out at the office.

6. When will the College reopen after a closure?

Upon advisement from the Principal that the College is safe for recommencement (please refer to point 3 - How does the Principal monitor the situation?).