



Principal's Update

30 November 2020

Our mission - building a caring and safe learning environment where great teaching supports and inspires all students to grow, develop and succeed.

Emergency Planning and Bushfire Readiness

As we enter the bushfire season and the weather warms up, it is important to plan for bushfire emergencies and to have a response plan in place. Hawkesbury High School is in a bushfire prone area and is identified as **Category 2** on the Department's bushfire register.

This rating and advice is based on information obtained through a bushfire assessment of our school. Bushfire ratings are proactive measures to ensure that students, staff and the community remain safe in weather conditions that could pose a high risk for a bushfire.

As a **Category 2** school, Hawkesbury High School will **NOT** temporarily cease operations on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating is issued for our area. This is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bushfire season, if at all. While it may be difficult to understand why our neighbouring primary school, Freemans Reach Public, is a Category 1 school, this is because of the current bushfire assessment and the location of each school in relation to the neighbouring bushland.

It is important that you are aware of the school's emergency planning and response planning in the event of bushfires which may impact on the school. The graph below outlines the arrangements and response steps that have been put in place.

More information on how the school is getting ready for the bushfire season can be found on the Department's website by following this link: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/news/latest-news/schools-get-ready-for-bushfire-season>

1

- Official notification received of nearby bushfire.
- **Decision to take action** and activate Bushfire Emergency Response Guide & Procedures.

2

- **School to follow Emergency Management Plan in conjunction with the Bushfire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.**

3

- **Follow advice** from RFS and/or Emergency Services, and activate Shelter in place or await transport to **EITHER** Turnbull Oval - Beaumont Ave, Nth Richmond **OR** The Breakaway Oval - Freemans Reach Rd, Freemans Reach.

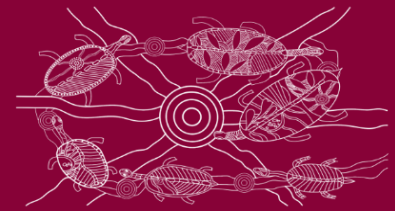
4

- Alert parents via Facebook, SkoolBag and SENTRAL Messaging to notify of evacuation / shelter in place and pick up point. **School to monitor situation.**
- Parents / Carers collect & sign out children.



Hawkesbury High School

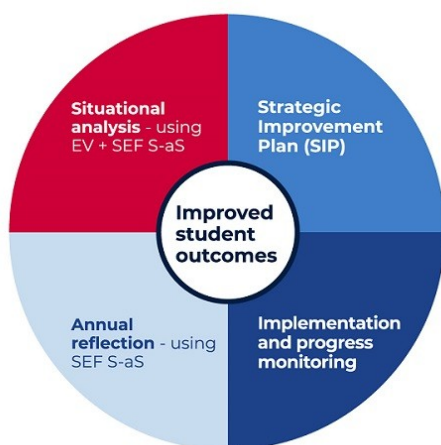
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Awards Ceremony 2020

This year's Awards Ceremony will look different to last year's when student achievements were recognised in front of peers, staff, parents and family members. Due to AAHPPC and NSW Health Advice, the school hall is unable to accommodate more than 100 people at any one time. As there are approximately 100 students being recognised for their achievements in 2020, parents, carers and visitors will not be permitted to attend the official Awards Ceremony originally scheduled in the school hall on Monday, 7 December.

We understand that families and carers are an integral part of all student successes at school, and that celebrating those successes is important to all. To ensure that students, staff, parents and carers are safe, and are still given the opportunity to celebrate student achievements, the school will stage an Awards Ceremony on 7 December, **in front of their peers and a limited number of staff only**. However, all proceedings will be recorded and the video recording of the ceremony will be made available to parents via a web link later that week.



School Improvement Plan 2021 - 2024

It is a requirement that all NSW government schools develop and publish a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP).

A Strategic Improvement Plan is a working document that details the steps our school will take to improve learning outcomes and the achievement and growth of all students. As the plan is formed, we are reflecting on where we are in key areas, and how we will continue improving learning, teaching and leading.

The school's improvement plan is underpinned by the School Excellence Framework and the external validation process (August 2021) and it's informed by clear improvement targets related to improvements in literacy and numeracy, wellbeing, attendance, and performance in the HSC.

The improvement plan also clearly reflects the department's strategic plan and Premier's priorities, demonstrates our school's commitment to excellence and equity as part of NSW public education, is clearly linked to the school budget, reflecting the resources that will be used to achieve the planned improvements and is underpinned by high impact teacher professional learning to build the capabilities of teachers and school leaders.

Early in 2021 the school community will have an opportunity to contribute to the formation of the Strategic Improvement Plan. Depending on NSW Health Guidelines, this will be either face to face, or via Zoom or another virtual platform. In any case, the community will have an opportunity to contribute to this very important document that will guide and drive the continuous improvement at our school in the context of three strategic directions:

1. Student Growth and Attainment
2. Student Wellbeing
3. Professional Practice

COVID-19 Update

Current advice on COVID-19 is available on the school's website and on the Department's website on <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>. NSW Health have processes in place to identify any close contacts with confirmed cases. NSW Health and the Department of Education are in constant and close communication, as is the school. In the meantime, I ask everyone to monitor their own health, seek medical advice if they feel unwell and maintain good hygiene practices – as we would in any case. If you or your child develop flu-like symptoms you should seek medical advice, get tested for COVID-19, and keep your child at home until they have recovered. If any case of COVID-19 is confirmed in your family, please advise the school promptly.

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