



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE  
TOWNSVILLE

## SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

### INFORMATION REGARDING IMPENDING CYCLONE/SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

In the event of a cyclone or severe weather, regularly updated information will be available on the following:

- Bureau of Meteorology website (bom.gov.au)
- local radio stations (ABC in all regions) plus various local commercial stations for updates
- Townsville Disaster Information Facebook page

The cyclone watch is issued at six hourly intervals if there is a potential cyclone or gale force winds within the next 24 to 48 hours. If the cyclone watch turns into a cyclone warning it is issued at three hourly intervals for the event in the next 24 hours. When a cyclone is close to landfall the updates are hourly and the Standard Emergency Warning Signal may be activated.

Information will be broadcast on the above radio stations from 7.00am to keep schools open or if special circumstances require a particular school to close. Parents/guardians should note that if the official position for the College is to remain open, parents/guardians can and should use their own judgement as to whether it is safe to send their child/ren on the day.

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES IN THE CASE OF AN IMPENDING CYCLONE OR SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

During cyclone season it is very important for parents/guardians to be aware of College procedures in the event of closures or affected access due to floods, cyclones or severe weather.

In the days prior to the expected arrival of a cyclone, the College will send parents/guardians a letter detailing the arrangements for the event and advising them where to watch for further information: email, website, SMS and local radio stations.

Parents should note however, that where the official position is for the College to remain open, parents/guardians should make their own judgement as to whether it is safe to send their own daughters on the day.

### WHERE A CYCLONE/SEVERE WEATHER THREATENS OVERNIGHT

The decision as to whether the College will open for the day will be broadcast on local radio stations from 7.00am or earlier if possible. Parents are advised to keep listening to their local radio station until advice is communicated. In these circumstances it is advisable to keep watch on the St Patrick's College Townsville website and social media.

If the broadcast of this information on radio is delayed it may be because of difficulty reaching the radio station or the availability of information.

### WHERE A CYCLONE/SEVERE WEATHER THREATENS DURING A SCHOOL DAY

If a decision is made during school hours to close the College immediately, information will be communicated to parents/guardians wherever possible through SMS, social media, email, website and will also be broadcast on local radio stations. Students who normally travel home by bus or ferry will travel as normal BUT AT ADJUSTED TIMES unless



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alternative arrangements are advised to the College by parent/guardians. Parents who normally provide transport home for their daughters will be advised by radio stations to collect their daughter/s from the College. Immediate collection of students will assist in an efficient closure process and will give College staff the opportunity to leave the College safely.

The College will ensure that all students have a safe means of reaching home. The College Leadership Team will make arrangements for any student who does not have a safe means of reaching home or appropriate supervision to be cared for at the College.

In the event of a cyclone/severe weather event, St Patrick's College Townsville will work closely with Townsville Catholic Education and Education Queensland in determining closure and other appropriate action to be taken to ensure student, staff and school safety.

Boarding parents/guardians will be updated via email, SMS and/or social media wherever possible.

### **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO STAFF**

The College will keep all staff informed of decisions regarding possible College closure, via email and SMS.

### **BUS DRIVERS**

The College is to notify the bus drivers of any changes to scheduled routine for both the day and boarding school regardless of time of cyclone warning.