Flood Bus Guidelines

In Brief: James Nash SHS will run schooling programs on every regular school day. The only exception is if we are advised by Central Office that the school is to be closed. This has only happened once in the last ten years. School Buses will NOT run earlier than their normal time.

Parents/Guardians have the choice to: 1. not send their children on the bus at all, or 2. call the school directly and take their student/s out of school early.

The complexity of issues that have to be simultaneously coordinated on the day of a potential flood has made us opt for the only practical solution - Buses will run at the normal time only.

Any decision to operate at times different to those advertised will be under direction/consultation from the local school Governance.

If our bus companies know in advance that they will not be able to drive down a particular road due to washouts or a flooded road or bridge then the buses will not run along the affected roads. The students and the school will be advised of this at the bus stop and students will be left in the care of the school. All other accessible/trafficable roads on the normal route will be serviced were possible.

In previous years bus companies have coordinated with the schools to operate services outside their allotted times but this is no longer practical due to:

All students have to obtain permission directly from their Parent/Guardian to leave school early.
Some students miss the notice that the bus is leaving early and are accidently left behind at school.
If buses leave early then there is no second bus at the normal time so students are left stranded at the school.
Gympie has many independent Bus Operators. They can and do make their own decisions to run earlier, so students connecting with these other operators could potentially be left stranded on the side of the road at the interchange.
Some students get home early only to find themselves locked out while parents are at work.
The School Grounds are considered a “safe zone” and is the best place for student/s to stay until they can be collected by Parents.

Polleys do operate public passenger services in some areas that can be accessed by students from the schools using their school bus passes. This is OK, but if the bus is at capacity they will have to remain at the school as they cannot carry standees for more than 20 kilometres.

James Nash will use its Website and SMS Messaging as our source of current information in the event of disruptions to school or school activities.