



Extreme Weather

POLICY

Rationale

Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against extreme weather during recess and lunchtime when students would normally be outside.

Aim

- To ensure the well-being of students and staff during times of inclement weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

Implementation

- An extreme weather timetable will be activated by the Principal or Teacher in Charge when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff.
- Extreme weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning or any other condition that is considered by the Principal or Teacher in Charge to be unsuitable.
- Students will be supervised in their classrooms while eating snack (11.00 am - 11.05 am) and lunch (1.30 pm - 1.40 pm). The staffroom will be attended during lunch eating time for students with food to be heated or special food requirements.
- Where extreme weather is obvious prior to students being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, an announcement will be made by the Principal/Assistant Principal/Teacher in Charge advising class teachers to follow the extreme weather procedure until further notice.
- In extreme weather, one classroom teacher will supervise two classrooms for half the recess or lunch break, then swap over with the other classroom teacher. The 'buddied' classrooms will be decided at the commencement of each school year. **The normal Yard Duty timetable will not operate.**
- Teachers and staff, other than classroom teachers, will share supervision of the corridor, walkways and other areas. They may need to heat up lunches in the staffroom, relieve classroom teachers as necessary, monitor the first aid room, roam and check that all rooms are being supervised.
- All students will be confined to classrooms unless permission has been granted by a teacher to leave temporarily (e.g. to attend the toilet).
- Students will be expected to walk indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities.
- In the case of extreme weather during a recess or lunch break, the Principal/Teacher in Charge will assess the situation and make the decision to call the students inside, or alternatively, to seek adequate shelter, in which case the Yard Duty teachers will continue to supervise outside.
- In the event of students being required to come inside the school buildings, Yard Duty teachers will supervise buildings until the classroom teachers have made their way back to the classrooms.
- All staff and students are required to wear hats during Terms 1 and 4 in accordance with the school's Sun Smart Policy.

- Scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of extreme weather.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or as deemed necessary.