



EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Rationale:

Extreme weather can present as a hazard to students' and staff members' health and wellbeing. Extreme weather is considered to be weather conditions too cold, wet, hot, windy or unsafe.

Purpose:

1. To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, staff and visitors including those who may suffer from pre-existing conditions.
2. To provide guidelines and processes to accommodate extreme weather conditions.

Implementation:

1. All staff are to be aware of current impending weather conditions throughout scheduled breaks in a typical school day and on all outdoors activities within and outside of the school grounds.

2. An extreme weather timetable will be called by the Principal, Assistant Principal or nominated staff member.

3. The Principal, Assistant Principal or nominated staff member may decide on days of impending extreme weather to:

- shorten the recess or lunch breaks of outside play
- call an extreme weather timetable for the entire school day

This decision will be based on current weather conditions and information from the Department of Meteorology. The decision will be set and monitored and if weather conditions change, the decision will be updated and staff informed.

4. Extreme weather timetables will be called in the event of, but not limited to, rain, storms, high winds and heat (above 35 degrees) according to local Bureau of Meteorology report. (BOM)

5. When planning outdoor activities, staff will make allowances for extreme weather conditions based on predicted weather conditions.

6. An extreme weather timetable will be prepared and teachers will organise appropriate indoor activities (games, movies etc.) for students in their class. Duty staff will then supervise.

7. All teaching and non-teaching staff are aware of and implement their duty of care during extreme weather timetables.

8. Students and staff must follow the Sun Smart guidelines of wearing an approved hat when outdoors - September 1 to April 30 and are encouraged to supply and apply their own sunscreen. No singlets are to be worn on free dress days, excursions or camp.

9. On days of impending extreme hot weather, students are advised to use the shaded areas of the playground and to drink water on a regular basis.

10. Staff taking Physical Education and Sport classes are to make appropriate decisions in regards to the type of and location of activities on days of extreme weather or impending extreme weather.

11. Staff who work outside (gardeners, PE teachers, yard duty teacher etc.) should ensure they follow Sun Smart guidelines, including appropriate school Sunsmart hats, sunscreen use (SPF 30+) and have adequate hydration.

12. The School Council should ensure there are sufficient shelters and trees to adequately shade the school grounds, particularly in the following spaces:

- where students congregate for lunch
 - outdoor lesson areas
 - popular play areas
 - assembly areas
 - sporting grounds/pools.
- Staff to advise and encourage students to use these areas

13. When the UV Index is 3 and above, families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities should also be encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures.

Evaluation	<i>To be reviewed as part of the Education Sub Committee 3 year minor policy review cycle</i>
Date Ratified	May 2016
Next review date	May 2019
Related Policies	Sunsmart Policy Uniform Policy
Related Documents	Bureau of Meteorology-weather warnings http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/
Resources	http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools Sunsmart widget on website