

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY (updated May 2026)

RATIONALE

These guidelines have been developed to ensure that duty of care of our students is maintained during extreme hot or wet weather periods. It complies with the Department of Education's 'Student Health in Public Schools Policy and Procedure' documents (2023).

NOTE: There will be a PA announcement prior to break times to advise staff and students of the extreme weather procedures to follow. This may include the closing of some areas due to safety concerns (eg: oval and courts)

WET WEATHER PROCEDURES

- **Severe** wet weather **PRIOR** to recess/lunch break (including thunder and lightning storms)
 - 'Wet Weather' will be called by Admin via a PA announcement prior to the break.
 - Students are to remain in their classrooms with their class teachers during this time. Eating in class is permitted, however please ensure mess is minimised and rubbish is disposed of appropriately.
 - Students should be given access to toilet use.
 - Specialist teachers should assist in each block by giving class teachers a short break (Music – Verandah; Phys Ed/LOTE – Courtyard; Art/Science – Senior Block).
- **Severe** wet weather **DURING** recess/lunch break (including thunder and lightning storms)
 - Admin will sound the siren, upon which students and staff will return to their classrooms.
- Light rain **DURING** recess/lunch break
 - Students may seek shelter underneath the verandas, in the Bindi Bindi or near the library. Once the rain stops, students may return to play.

HOT WEATHER PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be enforced in the event of either:

- 1) heatwave conditions being forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology; or
 - 2) excessively hot weather (ie: over 35°)
1. Lunch boxes to be brought into classrooms/wet areas for storage in tubs.
 2. The Library (Year 3-6) and Bindi Bindi (Year 1 & 2) will be opened at break times. ECE classes to remain in classrooms.
 3. The Courts and Oval will be closed for play at break times.
 4. Checking of early childhood play equipment to monitor heat levels of metal structures.
 5. Students will be encouraged to drink water regularly throughout the day.
 6. PE lessons will be taught in an indoor space (Bindi Bindi). Regular rest and drink breaks will be incorporated into the lessons.
 7. School-based sport and movement lessons will be cancelled for the day.
 8. Teachers will adjust classroom lessons, providing more brain breaks and drink breaks as required and taking a common-sense approach to the needs of students.
 9. It is highly recommended that parents provide their child with extra water and icepacks in lunch boxes.
 10. The school will consider postponing/cancelling carnivals, excursions, incursions camps etc.
 11. Staff trained in First Aid will be vigilant in observing signs of heat-related illness and will respond accordingly.

Schools do not close at a certain temperature threshold during days of extreme heat. A decision to close any school is made by the Deputy Director General Schools in consultation with the Director of Education.

VERY HIGH UV PROCEDURES

In the event of very high or extreme UV (8+) the following will be put in place:

- Students will be encouraged to apply sunscreen.
- Students will be encouraged to play in the shade.
- For younger students, staff will model and explicitly teach how to apply sunscreen effectively.

Hats are required to be worn by all students when playing in the sun during recess and lunch breaks, PE lessons and for all Sport/Movement lessons and outdoor events. If a student does not have a hat, they will be restricted to play in sheltered areas.

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