



EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Introduction

Extreme weather refers to climatic conditions that may pose health and safety risks to students and staff. This policy establishes a clear and consistent procedure for managing extreme weather conditions during playtimes and organised outdoor events.

Rationale

The school has a duty of care to ensure that all staff, students, and volunteers are protected from extreme weather conditions. This applies to all physical activities, whether on school grounds or during excursions, to minimise the risk of harm due to high temperatures, rain, storms, hail, or strong winds. A commonsense approach should be used, prioritising the comfort and wellbeing of all individuals involved. Modifications or limitations to activities, including school breaks, physical education (PE) lessons, after-school sports, and excursions, may be necessary.

Procedures

Hot Weather Policy

For further details, refer to the [Hot Weather Policy](#).

General Guidelines

When the estimated maximum temperature is forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to be **36 degrees Celsius or higher**:

- Excursions or outdoor incursions will be cancelled or modified in consultation with leadership.
- Year-level gatherings (or larger events) will be cancelled or modified.
- All indoor classes will proceed as normal.
- All lessons from recess onwards must be conducted indoors.
- Air conditioners with manual controls should be set to **21 degrees Celsius**.
- Students should be reminded to **increase water intake**.
- Lunchboxes should be kept indoors where possible.
- Student movement around the school during lesson times should be minimised.

Recess and Lunchtime Procedures

- **Recess:** Students may go outside but should remain in shaded areas. Teachers may opt to open classrooms if they are not on yard duty. The Library and Barrie Holmes Stadium will be open for low-intensity activities. The canteen and café will operate as normal. The oval will be closed.
- **Lunchtime:**
 - If the temperature reaches **36 degrees Celsius or higher**, students will remain indoors in air-conditioned classrooms.
 - Yard duties are cancelled.
 - The Library and Barrie Holmes Stadium will be **closed**, except for students with particular needs (as negotiated with library staff).
 - **Supervision Arrangements:**
 - **Junior School (JS):** Year levels will coordinate supervision.
 - **Middle & Senior School (MS/SS):** Leadership will designate classrooms for each year level. Teachers will pair up to ensure adequate supervision, allowing for staff breaks.
 - Leadership will supervise canteen, café, and outdoor areas to ensure students return to classrooms promptly after purchasing.

After-School Sports

- All after-school sports will be postponed or cancelled if the BOM website forecasts a temperature of **36 degrees Celsius or higher** at 3.00pm the previous day.

Unexpected Weather Changes

- If unexpected extreme weather occurs during the school day, an announcement will be made via the PA system and communicated to staff via an 'All Staff' email.

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Wet Weather Procedures

Excursions, Camps, and Sporting Events

- Excursions (including sporting and outdoor education excursions) may be cancelled or postponed in the event of extreme weather, considering factors such as **transportation, venue (indoor or outdoor), and physical activity requirements**.
- If weather conditions deteriorate during an off-site activity, **attending staff will consult leadership** to determine whether to proceed or modify plans.
- If an event is to be cancelled or modified, staff and families will be notified as early as possible.

Emergency Communication Plan

- Leadership is responsible for monitoring weather conditions and making timely decisions.
- Any changes to procedures due to extreme weather will be communicated via the **PA system and an 'All Staff' email**.
- Staff should ensure that students understand the emergency procedures.

First Aid & Safety Measures

- Staff should be vigilant for signs of **heat-related illnesses** such as dehydration, heatstroke, or heat exhaustion and respond accordingly.
- First aid stations should be equipped to handle **weather-related incidents**.
- Students should be encouraged to wear **appropriate sun protection** (hats, sunscreen) and **rain protection** (raincoats, covered shoes) when applicable.

Review Process

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the leadership team and updated as necessary to reflect any new safety guidelines or extreme weather considerations.

This document ensures that all staff, students, and volunteers are kept safe during extreme weather events while maintaining a structured approach to handling changing conditions. Any concerns or suggestions for improvement should be directed to the leadership team.

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