

## POLICY – Extreme Weather

### Rationale/Purpose

To ensure the safety and comfort of children playing and participating in school activities during extreme weather conditions.

### Guidelines:

- To provide for the safe participation in both indoor and outdoor activities in extreme hot and cold weather;
- To ensure children are appropriately informed about the dangers of sunburn and exposure to extreme heat and cold;
- To provide accurate information and care in the likelihood of sunstroke or sun exposure/ sunburn; and
- To identify consistent school strategies to manage extreme weather conditions including high winds.

### Implementation:

#### *HOT WEATHER*

- a) When the temperature forecast is above 30°C, physical activities shall be modified. Such modifications may involve constant rest and drink breaks and/or performing physical activities before 10.50am.
- b) Children will have access to water at regular intervals throughout the day when the temperature is in excess of 30° C. Individually labeled drink bottles will be allowed in classrooms during terms one and four.
- c) When the outside temperature is 35°C or above. Physical activity shall be limited.
  - i. Physical education classes shall provide modified physical activity and concentrate on simple low-key skill based activities with constant rest and drink breaks.
  - ii. Playtime and lunchtime activities shall be restricted to shaded areas and ball games or rigorous activities to not to be played during breaks.
- d) When the outside temperature is above 40°C, in consultation with the Principal, all classroom physical activities should be cancelled.
  - i. Physical education classes will consist of very limited, low-key activities.
  - ii. The lunch break will consist of having the children outside for the first 15 minutes of lunchtime in shaded areas with no rigorous activities or games to be played, and inside for the second half of lunchtime with supervision in line with the yard duty timetable.

#### *COLD WEATHER*

- (a) In the event of extremely cold weather the Principal or their delegate may provide alternatives to being outside for the entire break. These alternatives may include:
  - i. Opening areas of the school indoors for children such as the library, common areas or gym;
  - ii. Involving students spending half of their break outside and the other half inside; or
  - iii. Keeping the children indoors throughout the break with supervision as per the yard duty timetable.
- (b) In the event of continuous extreme weather, the upper school sport program may be cancelled after consultation with the teachers concerned and the Principal.

### *WET WEATHER*

- (a) In the event of wet weather the Principal or their delegate may provide alternatives to being outside for the entire break. These alternatives may include:
- i. Opening areas of the school indoors for children such as the library, common areas or gym;
  - ii. Involving students spending half of their break outside and the other half inside; or
  - iii. Keeping the children indoors throughout the break with supervision as per the yard duty timetable.

### *HIGH WINDS*

- (a) During days of extremely high winds, as the property has a number of tall trees; the children may be restricted in where they play, or kept indoors at the discretion of the Principal or their delegate with supervision as per the yard duty timetable.
- (b) All trees shall be inspected annually by a suitably qualified person with limbs or trees thought to pose a risk removed as a priority.

*\*All decisions will be made on a daily basis at the discretion of the Principal or their delegate.*

**Ratified by School Council:** September 2012

**To be Reviewed:** September 2015