



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Rationale

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

Aims

- 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 environmental circumstances and extreme weather conditions.

Implementation

- As part of the usual yard duty time-table process, an inclement weather time-table will be activated by the Principal or Deputy Principal when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff.
- Inclement weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning, or any other condition that is considered to be unsuitable or unsafe.
- Where inclement weather is obvious prior to children being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, an announcement will be made by the Principal/Deputy Principal advising class teachers to follow the inclement weather time-table until further notice.
- In such cases, teachers will supervise a number of grades (as previously agreed to by the teachers concerned), for half the recess or lunch break, then swap over.
- Teachers, other than classroom teachers, will similarly share supervision. (as pre-determined).
- All children will be confined to classrooms and adjoining learning spaces unless permission has been granted by a teacher to leave temporarily, e.g. toilet break.
- Children will be expected to walk indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities.
- In the case of inclement weather during a recess break, a yard duty teacher will inform the Principal/Deputy Principal of the possible need to activate the inclement weather time-table.
- The Principal/Deputy Principal will assess the situation and make the decision to call the children inside, or alternatively, to seek adequate shelter, in which case the yard duty teachers will continue to supervise outside.
- In the event of children being required to come inside the school buildings, yard duty teachers will supervise the corridor briefly while designated teachers make their way to the classrooms, or other areas, that they are required to supervise.
- All staff and students are required to wear hats during Terms 1 and 4 consistent with the school's Sunsmart policy.

- Scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of inclement weather.
- Emergency Teachers are fully informed about processes and operations with regard to inclement weather.
- A “Hot Day Program” will be called should the temperature reach 32 degrees Celsius or when there are extreme hot winds in the area which make it unsafe for staff and students to be outside,
- This policy works in close partnership with the MACS Emergency and Critical Incident Management Policy.

POLICY REVIEW

Policy reviewed	February 2025
Approved by	Principal Mark Basile
Next scheduled review date	February 2028