



EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

March 2016

BACKGROUND

Teaching staff owe a duty to take reasonable care for the safety and welfare of students whilst students are involved in school activities, or are present for the purposes of a school activity. The duty is to take such measures as are reasonable in all the circumstances to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably foreseen. This requires not only protection from known hazards, but also protection from harm that could foreseeably arise and against which preventative measures can be taken.

In discharging their duty of care responsibilities, teaching staff must exercise their professional judgment to achieve a balance between ensuring that students do not face an unreasonable risk of harm and encouraging students' independence and maximising learning opportunities.

POLICY GOALS

These guidelines are provided in order to meet the following objectives in relation to extreme weather conditions particularly in the case of hot weather, but also in other circumstances such as severe storms, electrical storms or extremely wet/windy conditions.

1. To ensure duty of care for students is maintained according to Education Department Duty of Care for Students Policy – July 2013.
2. To provide guidelines for teachers so that their duty of care responsibilities are acknowledged and addressed and to ensure that the school has acted responsibly in these circumstances.
3. To establish structures and procedures to ensure student health and wellbeing under trying conditions

This policy extends to all recess breaks, lunch breaks, Physical Education lessons and other outdoor learning sessions.

HOT WEATHER PROCEDURES

If the temperature reaches 38°C, or higher, the Principal or Deputy Principal will announce over the Public Address system that extreme weather procedures apply.

1. All Physical Education sessions will be conducted in the covered assembly area. These sessions will involve activities reflective of conditions (E.g. In hot conditions low exertion type activities where minimal running is involved)
2. Lunch breaks (and recess if required) will be taken in the classroom of the duty teachers involved for that session or as specified by the Principal/Deputy Principal via the PA.
3. Students will be instructed to fill drink bottles after recess and lunch breaks and allowed to refill them during class time.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO OTHER WEATHER CONDITIONS

It is recognised that winter weather conditions (hail, lightning, rain etc.) could impact upon student health and safety.

In the case of stormy, wet or extremely windy weather the Principal or Deputy Principal will exercise their judgement as to the level of risk presented. In the event of a cancellation an announcement will be made over the Public Address system that extreme weather procedures apply. Conditions 1 and 2 apply as per Hot Weather Procedures (above).

Ref: <http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/navigation/safety-and-welfare/duty-of-care-for-students/>

To be reviewed - April 2019