



St Joseph's School ~ Renmark

Extreme Weather Policy



RATIONALE:

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

AIMS:

To ensure the wellbeing of students and staff during times of extreme weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

IMPLEMENTATION:

As part of the usual yard duty timetable process, an extreme weather notification activated by the Principal will be put in place when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff.

Extreme weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning, or any other condition that is considered by the Principal to be unsuitable.

In the case of extreme heat and if there is no power or damage to the air-conditioning of the school or in a classroom, the Extreme Weather Policy will come into effect if the temperature prior to recess or lunch is 38 degrees Celsius or above according to the Bureau of Meteorology website.

Where extreme weather is obvious prior to children being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, an announcement will be made by the Principal advising class teachers to follow the Extreme Weather Policy and for students to remain in rooms air-conditioned.

In such cases, teachers may supervise a number of classes in the breakout spaces as outlined in the Extreme Weather Supervision of Students part of this document.

Teachers, other than classroom teachers, will similarly share supervision of the classes during extreme weather conditions.

All children will be confined to classrooms/breakout spaces unless permission has been granted by the supervising 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 extreme weather during a recess or lunch break, a yard duty teacher will inform the Principal of the possible need to activate the Extreme Weather Policy.

The Principal will assess the situation and make the decision to call the students inside using the 'Two-Bell' siren and an announcement.

In the event of students being required to come inside the school buildings/breakout spaces, yard duty teachers will supervise the veranda areas briefly while designated teachers make their way to the classrooms that they are required to supervise.

All staff and students are required to wear broad-brimmed hats during the school year in accordance to the school’s Skin and Sun Protection Policy.

Scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of extreme weather.

Responsibilities in Extreme Weather for Supervision of Students

Wet, Cold or Severe Storm Weather

All staff/duty teachers are to monitor and notify the Principal or delegate (e.g. Front office staff) if the rain, cold or stormy weather is persistent, for them to determine if play outside is prohibited. It is then announced to all students, via a messenger, prior to the bell ringing for students to remain in class/breakout spaces. If it is mid playtime the bell will ring for students to return to their designated classrooms.

Hot, Windy or Unclear Weather

The Principal or delegate monitors the weather forecasts via the web (Bureau of Meteorology website). In the case of smog due to bushfires a broad regular radio and internet updates will be required. If the current temperature is over 38 degrees Celsius, the leadership team is informed and it will be announced via a messenger for students to remain inside.

Changes to Rosters

Staff will be notified through the class phone systems or by the Principal of the changes of yard duty etc due to extreme weather conditions. In such a small staff it is expected that all staff will assist with the supervision of students in the classrooms and breakout spaces.

Current Procedures

Children are supervised in three indoor areas in the school, these being the library/computer room, the activity room and the share learning space in the Josephite Building. Duties in these areas are by the teachers already allocated to duty during these periods.

Signed:	
Chairperson School Board:	<i>Todd van Dyk</i>September 2019
Principal:	<i>Don DePalma</i>September 2019
Policy Review Date:	September 2019
Next Review Date:	September 2021