



## EXTREME WEATHER POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The following procedures have been established to uphold our duty of care towards our students during periods of extreme weather, including **heavy, continuous rain, storms, extreme heat, and smoke hazards**. This policy also prioritises the well-being and health of our staff by allowing reasonable breaks in supervision. Ultimately, our goal is to maintain an orderly environment characterised by respect, responsibility, and care.



***This policy takes effect in the event of extreme weather occurring before or during recess and lunchtimes.*** A member of the Leadership Team will inform all staff via the public announcement system when the policy is activated. Enforcement of the Extreme Weather Policy will be announced by 10:50 am and 1:10 pm, respectively.

### 1. Classroom Teachers

- Students are to remain in their classes during break and eating times under the supervision of Classroom Teachers. Teachers should coordinate with their year-level colleagues to pair up and ensure they receive sufficient breaks from classroom supervision. For example, two classes may merge into one room, requiring only one teacher for supervision while allowing the other teacher a break. Classroom Teachers may also work with their Education Assistant to make mutual arrangements. At times, the Leadership Team will use their discretion and, if the weather conditions are suitable to have students supervised to eat outside for a short period of time, close certain play areas, etc.
- Teachers may adjust their classrooms by closing internal blinds, utilising fans and air conditioning appropriately to maintain a comfortable temperature and permitting students to have drink bottles in the classrooms.

### 2. Specialist Teachers

- Once Specialist Teachers have had an opportunity to take a break, they will rotate through the rooms during extreme weather conditions to provide classroom teachers with a 10-minute respite from supervision.

### 3. Leadership Team

- The Leadership Team will circulate throughout the school to ensure all Teachers and Education Assistants have the opportunity for approximately a 10-minute break from supervision.
- The Leadership Team will review and adjust school operations by: reviewing timetabled activities and duty rosters before the start of the school day, modifying any activities that could increase the risk of heat-related illnesses for staff and students; reconsidering events lacking adequate shade for staff and students; keeping all students indoors during break and meal times; limiting outdoor play; reviewing and adjusting duty rosters to minimise staff exposure to heat; postponing any planned vigorous activities; modifying physical education lessons and moving them indoors; postponing athletics and swimming carnivals; and, in consultation with staff who work outdoors, reallocating duties.

**4. Playground Equipment Areas**

- Playground areas will be closed on extreme weather days.

**5. Sport-**

- In the event of extreme rain, storms, or temperatures **exceeding 35 degrees**, Sport will be cancelled either early in the morning or the day before.

**6. Changes to Severe Weather**

- If the extreme weather improves during recess or lunchtimes, classroom teachers may opt to take their classes outside to supervise play. Classroom Teachers need to oversee their students and remain aware of the risks associated with the prevailing conditions and environment. A common-sense approach is preferred.
- In the event of light rain falling during regular recess and lunchtimes, the supervising Duty Teacher will blow a whistle and direct students to the verandas. Supervising Duty Teachers on the oval are instructed to guide students in a calm and orderly manner. The Leadership Team will assist the supervising teachers and relocate to the verandas as well.
- Playground supervision staff are expected to exercise common sense when sudden weather changes occur, and the policy has not been enforced. In such cases, a member of the Leadership Team will activate the siren, signalling for all students and staff to report to their classrooms. The Leadership Team will then assess the situation and determine when it is appropriate for children to resume outdoor play.

**7. Sports Equipment**

- No sports equipment is allowed to be used on wet surfaces that may be slippery and pose a risk of injury to children.

**8. Communication**

- If the weather does not clear up, Leadership Team members will signal to staff what to do.

**Please note:** Children in Western Australian primary schools are required to remain inside their classrooms during break and mealtimes during extreme weather conditions for their safety and well-being. Extreme weather, such as excessive heat, storms, or hazardous air quality due to smoke, can pose risks to students' health and safety if they are exposed to outdoor elements. By remaining indoors during these conditions, students can avoid potential heat-related illnesses, injuries from falling debris during storms, or respiratory issues caused by poor air quality.

The Department of Education in Western Australia issues directives and guidelines to schools regarding extreme weather conditions to ensure the safety of students and staff. These directives outline specific measures to be taken during various extreme weather events, including protocols for recess and lunch breaks.

The Leadership Team refer to the Extreme Heat and Heatwave Action Plan (internal document), as well as the Bureau of Meteorology, to monitor weather conditions in the suburb of Wembley Downs.