



Inclement Weather Policy

Ratified: 12th December 2017

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.

Aim

To ensure staff and students are sheltered and safe from inclement weather conditions.

Definition

Inclement weather in this policy refers to rain, hail, lightning, extreme cold, heat and wind.

Implementation:

- As part of the usual yard duty timetable process, an inclement weather timetable will be activated when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff. The timetable will stipulate where students and teachers are to shelter from the inclement weather.
- An announcement will be made by the Principal / Assistant Principal advising teachers to follow the inclement weather time-table until further notice. The inclement weather timetable can be activated from 8:45am. In the case of inclement weather during a recess or lunch break, whilst the students are outside, a yard duty teacher will inform the Principal of the possible need to activate the inclement weather timetable.
- The Principal will assess the situation and make the decision to call the students inside or alternatively, to seek adequate shelter, in which case the yard duty teachers will continue to supervise outside.
- When activated, students will be expected to walk indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities.
- When inclement weather presents itself from 3:20pm the Principal will make an announcement to invite parents who are waiting for their children into the school hallways and classrooms. If the inclement weather continues after 3:30pm the parents, students a staff will be welcome to stay indoors until it is safe to leave.
- Parents picking up children from school during recess and lunchtime inclement weather timetables will be required visit the office. Office staff will call the teacher and have the children come to the office with their bags to be signed out.
- Scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of inclement weather.
- As a general guide, heat will be considered extreme at or above 35 degrees. In addition to activating the inclement weather timetable, students will be encouraged drink water. Acknowledging that not all classrooms are air-conditioned, a common area will be made available for teachers to bring their students.
- When the heat rises above 30 degrees but not high enough to activate the Inclement Weather Timetable, a common area (i.e. the current Performing Arts Room) will be made available for respite.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.