



## WEATHER POLICY

### POLICY DOCUMENT

Ratified by Staff/Policy Committee: November 2022

Ratified by Governing Council: n/a

Review Date: November 2024

### INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUN PROTECTION

Outdoor learning activities, school events and lesson breaks include the risk of exposure to inclement weather or extended exposure to sun radiation. The intention of this policy and associated procedures is to maintain the health and safety of students and staff in outdoor environments.

Inclement weather may include high temperatures, ultraviolet radiation (UV), heavy rain, hail, high winds, dust or electrical storms, high humidity or snow, which may cause illness, aggravate existing medical or physical illnesses, or lead to an inability to concentrate and an increased risk of accidents.

Risk factors associated with inclement weather include the type of work or activity, the duration or the time of day it occurs, the location it occurs in or proximity to known associated hazards such as falling tree limbs or other environmental factors or the capacity of individuals to work in these conditions and access to communication.

### SUN PROTECTION

Exposure to UV radiation at harmful levels of three and above generally occurs during Terms 1, 3 & 4. Sun protection is required to reduce exposure to harmful UV radiation using the following procedures:

- Sun protective clothing included in the school/sports uniform range, rash tops/T-shirts required for outdoor swimming
- Self-provided sunscreen in use, with application at least 20 minutes before going outdoors, reapplied after 2 hours
- School sun hats to be worn in 1 August – 30 April and for outdoor activities/lesson breaks
- Development of responsible sun smart behaviours through curriculum delivery/classroom discussion
- Provision of shade structures for outdoor events/utilisation of shaded areas for outdoor activities
- Staff working outdoors for prolonged periods to be particularly mindful of managing UV exposure risks including the use of Protective Personal Equipment (PPEs) and modifying work schedules.

### HOT/HUMID WEATHER

Exposure to high temperatures, possibly with high humidity, potentially over successive days affects health and wellbeing. Procedures to minimise the impact of this weather type are as follows:

**Before school** - The hot weather procedure will be implemented on days forecast for 37°C or over. The School Office Manager will monitor the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Kent Town temperature and alert the classes/school community to possible hot weather procedures, by putting out the red flag in the morning.

**Break 1** - Below 37°C, students can play outside in the shade, under outdoor roofed areas or trees or access the Resource Centre. BOM checked: if temperature is 37°C or over, a three short blasts weather siren will sound and classes are supervised as per lunch procedure below.



**Break 2** - The updated BOM temperature will be checked and a three short blasts weather siren sounded if the temperature is 37°C or over. Classes go out for supervised toilet breaks and return to class, remaining indoors during the remainder of lunch. Teachers to arrange a break during lunchtime with adjacent staff; specialist teachers assist with supervision of students as per assigned classes.

**Drinking water** to be accessible in classrooms or regular drinks breaks taken during the day.

Staff with scheduled outdoor activities are to use PPEs (hats, long sleeves, sunglasses, and sunscreen), carry phones for communication and modify program or work schedules. Only essential outdoor activities (e.g. movement between classes or after school duties) to occur once temperature reaches 37°C. Classes scheduled/planning to work outside after recess /lunch will need to remain in air-conditioned classroom areas.

**Excursion** – Where days are forecast for 37 degrees or over:

- Outdoor excursions will be postponed;
- Indoor excursions must be discussed with a member of leadership.
- Parents will be notified in the event that an excursion or camp is cancelled.

## WET WEATHER

The unpredictable and variable nature of wet weather requires staff and students to regularly revisit the following procedures to reduce the impacts caused by this weather type, including the need to manage wet weather clothes, shoes and safe play (e.g. slippery logs).

Students are encouraged to bring appropriate shoes and wet weather clothing) for yard play or outdoor learning activities across winter.

### On days of 'light / drizzly' rain:

- Children wearing 'wet weather gear' e.g.: raincoats and hat/hood may play outside.  
*Please note:* umbrellas are not acceptable for student play for safety reasons.
- Children not wearing 'wet weather gear' must play under outdoor roofed areas.
- Duty teachers should wear suitable 'wet weather gear' and may carry umbrellas.
- The teacher on yard duty in the JP yard will make the decision if the weather becomes too wet and inform the School Office staff to signal the three short blasts weather siren. Other duty teachers may contact the office to determine if this is occurring.
- Specialist teachers assist with supervision of students as per assigned classes.

### On days of heavy rain and storms:

- A three short blasts weather siren will indicate that children will remain inside or must return from play to classroom.

### If the weather clears and rain stops:

- With more than 10 minutes of recess or lunch playtime remaining, a single siren will inform classes that they may return to outside play. Duty teachers return to yard duty.
- The red flag will be put out when the Devitt oval is out of bounds due to excessive muddy conditions.



## EXTREME WEATHER

Where extreme or unpredictable weather conditions arise, such as sudden gale force winds, electrical storm or large hail, emergency invacuation/evacuation procedures may be activated.

If lightning is observed in the area, all outdoor activities to cease and students are to remain indoors away from windows.

## EXCURSIONS AND WATER SAFETY (R-4) / AQUATICS (5-6)

Risk assessments for excursions should include the impact of possible inclement weather. Sun protection/wet weather gear requirements apply to excursions. Classes attending Water Safety lessons must follow the directions of instructors during extreme weather events if the centre activates their inclement weather procedure.

## SCHOOL SPORT AND WEATHER GUIDELINES

If the temperature is 37 degrees on the BOM, 1 hour prior to the start of training, training will be automatically cancelled. Where extreme weather or unpredictable weather conditions arise, training may also be cancelled.

## LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Each Sporting Association has its own 'Weather Policy'. Trinity Gardens School participates in the following associations and adheres to the individual By-Laws and Constitutions respectively. For all games, please refer to the association weather guidelines for each specific sport.

<b><u>Netball</u></b> Eastern Districts Netball Association Inc. <a href="http://www.ednetball.com.au/">http://www.ednetball.com.au/</a>	<b><u>Soccer</u></b> Eastern Zone Primary Schools Soccer Association Inc. <a href="http://footballs.com.au">http://footballs.com.au</a>
<b><u>Football</u></b> SANFL Schools <a href="http://sanfl.com.au/sanfl-schools/">http://sanfl.com.au/sanfl-schools/</a>	<b><u>Basketball</u></b> Norwood League After School Basketball <a href="https://www.adelaidebasketball.com.au">https://www.adelaidebasketball.com.au</a>
<b><u>Cricket</u></b> SACA Kensington Primary School Cricket <a href="http://kpsc.sa.cricket.com.au/">http://kpsc.sa.cricket.com.au/</a>	