

# Adverse Weather Conditions Procedures and SunSmart Policy

## Adverse Weather Conditions Procedures

On all days of adverse weather conditions the following procedures will be actioned at break times.

Adverse weather conditions include -

- **Wet weather**
- **Extreme weather** – dust storm, electrical storm, strong winds etc
- **Hot weather** - if estimated maximum temperature (from 8.00 a.m. weather forecast) is 36°C or greater a daily notice will advise the probability of hot weather procedures. The actual temperature will be confirmed at 10:45am and 12:50pm if above 36°C the adverse weather bell will be rung immediately after the play bells.

Students will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stay in classrooms and their class teacher supervises and/or works with a buddy teacher to ensure appropriate duty of care</li> <li>• access the canteen with permission from supervising teacher</li> </ul>
Existing yard duty roster is cancelled Teachers will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• offer classroom activities – working with a buddy teacher to ensure duty of care</li> </ul>
Specialist teachers will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• release classroom teachers where required, monitor corridors or undertake other duties as directed</li> </ul>
Leadership team will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure staff are informed through the Daily Notices when Hot Weather Procedures are to be implemented.</li> <li>• sound the Adverse Weather Siren (<b>two long sirens</b>) at the beginning or during the break for Wet or Extreme weather conditions.</li> <li>• work with classroom teachers as buddies if required</li> <li>• ensure this procedure is on the website/App</li> <li>• monitor canteen, toilets and outdoor movement</li> </ul>

**Note:** Should the weather improve from the adverse conditions, the leadership team will inform teachers or, in the case of wet weather or storms, sound a single siren which will indicate that outdoor play is now reinstated. There will be a minimum of 10 minutes between sirens.

## SunSmart Policy

This policy applies to all school events on and off-site.

### Rationale

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

### Objectives

This SunSmart policy has been developed to:

- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
- ensure all students and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities during terms 1, 3 and 4, and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times. Staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

### 1. Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

### 2. Sunscreen

- Students must provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and/or the school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.
- Sunscreen is applied at least twenty minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors for an extended period.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).
- With parental consent, students with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements.

### 3. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside during terms 1, 3 and 4 (or from 1 August through to 30 April) and when the UV radiation level is 3 and above at other times. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

### 4. Shade

- A shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- The school council makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the school grounds, particularly in areas where students congregate e.g. canteen, outdoor lesson areas and popular play areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- Sports days and other outdoor events to be held during term 2 or earlier in the day where practical. A combination of skin protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting activities and swimming carnivals).
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

### Staff WHS and role modelling

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV radiation level is 3 and above staff will:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures e.g. sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade, when participating in and attending outdoor school activities.

### Curriculum

- Programs on skin cancer prevention and vitamin D are included in the curriculum for all year levels.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community.

**Policy review 2024**

**Update 2027**