

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline how extreme weather can present as a hazard. Kerrimuir Primary School acknowledges that it has a duty of care and responsibility to provide safe, secure, supportive and engaging learning environments for our students, staff and community members.

Extreme weather includes unexpected, unusual, unpredictable, severe or unseasonal weather; weather at the extremes of the historical distribution. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Extreme ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Extreme heat.
- Extreme humidity.
- Extreme rain and/or hail.
- Extreme thunder and/or lightning.
- Extreme wind.
- Extreme fog, smog, pollen or air pollution.

Scope

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions. It is applicable to all students and staff.

To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, staff and visitors, including those who may suffer from pre-existing conditions.

- To provide clear guidelines, expectations and processes for extreme weather conditions.
- To establish a shared staff responsibility of extreme weather awareness and response.

Policy

- In the event of extreme weather, School Leadership will:
 - Share Extreme Weather alerts with all staff and, where relevant, the school community.
 - Consider the severity of impending weather conditions and determine the appropriate school response and action by:



- Drawing upon the Department of Education and Bureau of Meteorology Weather Warnings.
 - Referring to radar images, ambient temperature, thermal comfort/Wet Globe Bulb Temperature (WGBT), pollen and ultraviolet (UV) indexes to inform decision making.
 - Work with staff to make appropriate decisions in regards to the type of, and location of activities, on days of extreme weather or impending extreme weather.
- Act according to the following thresholds and indexes whereby prevent is defined as ‘do not undertake’ and ‘restrict’ is defined as ‘put in place reasonable controls’:

Circumstance	Prevent- do not undertake	Restrict- put in place reasonable controls
Outdoor activity during periods of UV (Ultraviolet radiation)	Extreme UV 11+	UV 3+
Outdoor activity during periods of extreme heat: on hot, dry days.	Ambient temperature exceeding 36, and humidity exceeding 30%	Ambient temperature 31-35, and humidity exceeding 50%
Outdoor activity during periods of extreme heat: on hot, humid days.	30+Wet Globe Bulb Temperature**	26-29 Wet Globe Bulb Temperature**
Outdoor activity during thunder lightening.	If ‘Flash to Bang < 30 seconds’.	30 minutes before or after thunder / lightning.
Outdoor activity during rain/hail	Sustained ‘Moderate’ predicted rainfall prior to and for the duration of the activity.	Sustained ‘Moderate’ predicted rainfall prior to and for the duration of the activity.
Outdoor activity during extreme winds	If wind is > 40km per hour.	If strong winds pose an unforeseen risk.
Outdoor activity during fog, smoke and pollen.	If Asthma index is ‘Extreme’ or ‘Very High’ and/or EPA Air Quality is ‘Hazardous’ or ‘Very Poor’	If Asthma index is ‘High’ and/or EPA Air Quality is ‘Poor’

- In the event of extreme weather, all staff will:
 - Implement their duty of care of students at the school.

- Make themselves aware of, and inform themselves of current impending weather conditions and associated school response and action to the extreme weather event.
- Not work in, or expose students to, areas of risk or exposure to extreme weather.
- In the absence of school leadership, make appropriate decisions and act according to the thresholds and indexes listed in this policy.
- Provide due care to students drawing upon an alternate Duty Timetable; Learning Level Extreme Weather Timetable(s).

In the event of an extreme weather event that significantly affects school programs the school will communicate the implementation of the Extreme Weather Policy with the school community.

**Bulb Temperature (WGBT), pollen and ultraviolet (UV) indexes to inform decision making. • Work with staff to make appropriate decisions in regards to the type of, and location of activities, on days of extreme weather or impending extreme weather. o Act according to the following thresholds and indexes whereby prevent is defined as 'do not undertake' and 'restrict' is defined as 'put in place reasonable controls':

Further information and Resources

- Risk Management Policy
- SunSmart Policy- [Sun and UV Protection Policy](#)
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy
- School Arborist Report
- SunSmart Website: <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/>
- Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/>
- Australian Asthma Handbook: <http://www.astmahandbook.org.au/>
- [Duty of care](#)

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated in February 2022 and is scheduled for review on February 2025.