



Inclement Weather Policy and Procedures

DFE Policy Title	<i>15/04560 Inclement Weather and Sun Protection</i>
Leader Responsible	Principal
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Context

Birdwood High School aims to provide a safe environment for students, staff, families, and visitors. At times, weather conditions can place people on our school grounds in unsafe situations. The Inclement Weather policy provides procedures, which will maximise the safety of every person on our site.

Definition

At Birdwood High School, inclement weather includes:

- extreme temperatures
- heavy rain or hail
- strong winds
- severe dust or electrical storm

The leadership team will monitor daily weather forecasts (Bureau of Meteorology) and identify any potential inclement weather risks.

Protocols

Students are provided with an alternative to being in the yard at recess and lunch times. Two siren blasts will sound to indicate Inclement Weather. It is the responsibility of the students to seek shelter and follow the inclement weather policy.

Hot weather protocols will be enacted if the weather forecast for Birdwood reaches 36 degrees or greater. The Bureau of Meteorology for Birdwood will be used to determine weather conditions. Birdwood High School will not close because of hot weather as all classrooms and general-purpose learning areas across the school are air-conditioned.

Leaders will make the decision on inclement weather alternatives for the day. On these occasions supervised indoor areas will be available to all students. Senior students will be able to access the ILC and middle school students can access the exhibition for extra sheltered areas. The oval and the area behind C block will be out of bounds.

If the weather clears with 15 minutes or more left of recess or lunch, then a leader will ring a one-bell siren, signalling a return to normal recess and lunch time conditions. Normal yard duties will resume.

Yard Duty changes

The Oval and middle yard duties will be assigned to assist with supervision in exhibition centre, the C block lawns and Amphitheatre yard duty will be assigned to assist with supervision in ILC and the courts yard duty will assist with supervision in the gym. All other yard duties remain the same.



Extraction from DfE Sun Smart Policy Guidelines

- The sun protection policy is in place during terms 1, 3 and 4, and when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above at other times
- The policy is implemented for all events and programs including excursions, camps, sporting events etc. This includes wearing of a rash tops or t-shirt over bathers for outdoor swimming activities
- Appropriate skin protective clothing and hat is included in the school uniform/dress code
- Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities may be adjusted accordingly
- A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor events (camps, excursions, sporting activities, swimming carnivals)
- Students are actively encouraged to use available shaded areas and keep hydrated throughout the day
- Sunscreen is available in various locations around the school
- Programs on sun protection, skin cancer prevention is included in the curriculum where appropriate
- The school reviews its sun protection policy regularly (at least every three years) to ensure that the information remains current and relevant

Physical Education Lessons

In line with DfE Sun Smart policy, physical education (PE) lessons will be modified to accommodate weather. PE teachers will have priority for using the gym on these days to enable the learning program to continue in a suitably modified fashion. Frequent water breaks will be provided. There will be no outside lessons when the temperature on any given day reaches 36 degrees or more.

School Sport and Excursions

In significant heat or wet weather conditions, the appropriateness of any planned excursions or sporting events will be reviewed.

Sporting matches and practices will be cancelled on days when the temperature is expected to reach 36 degrees or more. Exceptions to this rule are possible, eg an air-conditioned stadium or for sports that start and finish early in the day. Having made a risk assessment, the Principal or delegate may approve a match or practice.

Coaches/coordinators are responsible for communicating this decision to players and parents.

Other Weather Conditions

The school may elect to implement restrictions where local conditions are severe and pose an increased risk for student participation. These conditions could include excessive wind, hail or electrical storm. A decision will be made by leadership, in collaboration with key staff, to discern the impact of potential weather conditions on the safety of students.

At all times, the expertise of the Bureau of Meteorology will be acknowledged and utilised to ensure the safest decision can be made to maximize student and staff safety.