EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

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Extreme Weather Policy

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Rational

The extreme weather policy exists to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff when the school is affected by extreme weather conditions including both high and low temperatures, high wind speeds, electrical storms etc.

Aims

The St John the Apostle Extreme Weather Policy has been formulated to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.
- Maximize student learning during time of extreme heat and cold.
- Provide guidelines which assist consistent implementation of decision making in response to days of extreme weather.

Implementation

Extreme Weather Classifications

On days designated by the School Leadership Team as being “Days of Extreme Weather”, the school will invoke the Extreme Weather Policy. This decision is at the discretion of the School Leadership Team. However the following resources and considerations are used as guideline to assist making their discussion.

Bureau of Meteorology Website

Extreme High Temperature

Extreme Low Temperature
Due to wind chill factors, no designated temperature is used as a guide. This decision is based on judgment of the Leadership Team.

Extreme Wind Speed
Average Wind speeds exceeding 45 knots (83 km/h) as recorded by the Laverton Station of the Bureau of Meteorology. This information is obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology Website as above.

Extreme Electrical Storms

Rain

Consecutive Days of Extreme Hot or Cold or Rainfall
On the occurrence of multiple days of extreme rainfall, heat or cold the school will where possible modify the school playtimes to allow students access to outdoor play areas. This will allow students to play before the temperatures are too extreme during heat waves or when rainfall clears outside of regular playtimes.

Notification of Extreme Weather
Teachers will be informed that extreme weather duty will take place by a variety of methods:
a) A notice on the staffroom interactive whiteboard before school starts.
b) An announcement over the speaker system at least five minutes before a break.
In the event of the students being on the playground during rain etc. a bell will sound indicating to the children to calmly walk to their line up areas under the verandahs. Teachers will immediately join their class at this line up area and supervise their entry to the classroom. Once settled, supervision arrangements will be communicated by the School Leadership Team.

Extreme Weather Dismissal Procedures

In the case of there being extreme rain, wind or heat at the time of the end of day dismissal bell, an extreme weather dismissal procedure will be implemented. The decision to implement this procedure will be communicated to teachers as soon as possible before the final bell.

Students Being Collected by Parents or Carers
Students being collected by parents or carers will remain inside the building and sit calmly waiting for their parent or carer to come to an external door of their learning centre. During this time they will ensure that they have appropriate protective clothing on. (Hat in during extreme hot, Coat during extreme cold or rain.) The supervising teachers will invite students to exit the building only when they have seen the parent or carer.

Students Being Collected by Siblings
Siblings who walk or ride home will gather together within the internal shared breakout area. They will ensure that they have appropriate protective clothing on. (Hat in during extreme hot, Coat during extreme cold or rain.) Once the main traffic of exiting students has gone these students will be escorted through an external door and calmly exit the school site.
(Please Note: During times of extreme wind and electrical storm these students may be detained until conditions are safe for them to proceed home.)

Students Walking/Riding or Scooting Home Alone
Students who have no siblings and travel home alone are encouraged on all days to walk as part of an informal walking group. This improves student safety whilst in transit. This is particularly encouraged on days of extreme weather. These students will be given the opportunity to meet with their informal walking
group within the internal building. They will then be dismissed after the main traffic has dispersed.

(Please Note: During times of extreme wind and electrical storm these students may be detained until conditions are safe for them to proceed home.)

Student in After School Care
Students enrolled in After School Care will invited to calmly meet their supervision leaders in the school community space. This will take place after the main school traffic has dispersed.

Evaluation

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with the School Improvement Plan or as required.