

Croydon Hills Primary School

Extreme Weather Policy



Rationale:

Extreme weather can present as a hazard. Croydon Hills 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.

Aims:

- 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.

Implementation:

- 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 | Restrict |
|--|--|---|
| Outdoor activity during periods of Ultraviolet (UV) radiation. | Extreme UV 11+ <i>Source: SunSmart</i> | UV 3+ <i>Refer to SunSmart Policy</i> |
| Outdoor activity during periods of extreme heat; on hot, dry days. | > 36°C ambient temperature and humidity exceeding 30%. <i>Source: Sports Medicine Australia</i> | 31-35°C ambient temperature and humidity exceeding 50%. <i>Source: Sports Medicine Australia</i> |
| Outdoor activity during periods of extreme heat; on hot, humid days. | > 30°C Wet Globe Bulb Temperature. <i>Source: Sports Medicine Australia</i> <i>Measure: BOM Coldstream</i> | 26-29°C Wet Globe Bulb Temperature. <i>Source: Sports Medicine Australia</i> <i>Measure: BOM Coldstream</i> |
| Outdoor activity during thunder / lightning. | If 'Flash to Bang < 30 seconds'. <i>Source: Sports Medicine Australia</i> | 30 minutes before or after thunder / lightning. <i>Measure: BOM Radar</i> |

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|---|--|--|
| Outdoor activity during rain / hail. | Sustained 'Moderate' predicted rainfall prior to and for the duration of the activity. <i>Measure: BOM Radar</i> | Sustained 'Light' predicted rainfall prior to and for the duration of the activity. <i>Measure: BOM Radar</i> |
| Outdoor activity during extreme wind. | If wind is > 40km per hour. <i>Source: Sports Medicine Australia Measure: BOM Radar</i> | If strong winds pose an unforeseen risk. <i>Measure: Staff judgement</i> |
| Outdoor activity in extreme fog, smog and pollen. | If Asthma index is 'Extreme' or 'Very High' and/or EPA Air Quality is 'Hazardous' or 'Very Poor' <i>Source: National Asthma Council Australia Measure: DET Warnings, BOM, EPA</i> | If Asthma index is 'High' and/or EPA Air Quality is 'Poor' <i>Source: National Asthma Council Australia Measure: DET Warnings, BOM, EPA</i> |

- 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- Risk Management Policy
- SunSmart 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/>
- Learning Level Extreme Weather Timetable(s) (Duty of Care)

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