



EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Vision

St Martin's Catholic Primary School is a school community that recognises the uniqueness of every person, nurturing faith and wellbeing, and pursuing excellence in education.

Rationale

Due to extreme weather conditions experienced during the year, outdoor activities, such as Physical Education (PE) lessons, daily fitness, excursions or other outdoor lessons, will be held indoors or re-scheduled to a time when the weather is more suitable.

Aims

The aims of the St Martin's Catholic Primary School's Extreme Weather Policy are to promote among students and staff:

- awareness of the impact of environmental conditions in schools during wet weather and hot weather days
- provide guidelines for appropriate arrangements to be made for students during extreme weather conditions at play time.

Implementation

The Extreme Weather Policy applies to all students and staff at St Martin's Catholic Primary School, inclusive of the Out Of School Hours Care Program.

This policy is for implementation throughout the year, with particular emphasis on wet weather and hot weather conditions.

If the temperature is 36°C or more, or when the weather is wet, the following procedures apply:

Recess and Lunch

- Students will remain in classrooms during play time.
- At the beginning of both recess and lunch, the school office staff will make an announcement over the PA system as to the status of extreme weather (i.e. if the **current** temperature is 36°C or above (**established by dialing 1196 or checking the Bureau website**), or if the weather is wet).
- There is **no outside play** during this time. If students are given permission by their teacher to move from their classroom to another area, they are to stay under shelter and walk safely between areas – **no running**.

Classroom Management

- On very hot days, students should be reminded and encouraged by teachers to increase their fluid intake throughout the day.
- All food and drink should be kept in the classrooms during hot weather.
- When 'Be Active Sports' or PE lessons are scheduled, outside activities will be substituted with indoor activities. Changes in the weather during the day may result in variations to this procedure.

Yard Duties and Release Time for Staff

- Before and after school duties remain as per the regular yard duty roster.
- All classroom teachers will be provided with a buddy so that each teacher can be released for 10 minutes at recess time and 20 minutes at lunch time.
- Specialist teachers and leadership staff will be used as buddy support for classes that are not in close proximity to another class, as well as to supervise the courtyard while students access the canteen.
- Staff members that are required to cover a full duty at recess will not be rostered on for lunch and vice versa.
- The Library will not be open.

Heat Wave

Where the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a heat wave (the Bureau's definition of a heat wave is 5 or more consecutive days of temperatures over 35°C, or 3 or more consecutive days of temperatures over 40°C), then school leadership will activate the following procedure for dealing with the heat wave.

- In the case of a heat wave, as defined by the Bureau of Meteorology, parents/caregivers will be advised via electronic communication that due to the continuous extremely hot weather, they can choose to pick their children up from school at 1.00pm and take them home. Parents/caregivers will be advised that this is a choice for them and they can therefore also choose to leave their children at school until normal finishing time, as the school will remain open and classes will continue to function in the afternoons.
- When this heat wave policy is activated, it will remain in place until the heat wave ceases.

Thunderstorms/Floods

Where the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts thunderstorms or flooding, then school leadership will activate the following procedure for dealing with the excessive conditions.

- Parents/caregivers will be advised via electronic communication that due to the continuous extremely wet conditions, they can choose to pick their children up from school in the afternoon and take them home. Parents/caregivers will be advised that this is a choice for them and they can therefore also choose to leave their children at school until normal finishing time, as the school will remain open and classes will continue to function in the afternoons.
- If a particular area in the school is subjected to flooding and/or is dangerous to access, it will be zoned off and alternative arrangements will be put into place. Notification of this will be via signage and personnel.

Extreme Weather

Every learning space is air-conditioned and therefore no early dismissal occurs on days of extreme heat. When the temperature for a particular day is above 36°C, students remain in their classrooms and are supervised by their teacher.

Outdoor After School Sports training is cancelled when the weather is inclement (rain or thunderstorms) and when the temperature is above 32°C. After School Sports training in the Community Centre is cancelled when the temperature is above 36°C.

When inclement weather occurs during school hours, students remain in their classroom during break times.

Implemented:	2018
Ratified by School Board:	May 2018
Reviewed:	2018
Next Review:	2021