

Adverse Weather Policy

BRUNSWICK EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale

Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against adverse weather conditions.

Aims

- To ensure staff and students are not exposed to conditions that may cause health related issues associated with adverse weather whilst minimising the impact on student learning.
- To ensure the wellbeing of students and staff during times of adverse weather conditions by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.
- To ensure Brunswick East Primary School has measures in place to prepare for and manage the risks associated with adverse heat, cold, wind, hail and other dangerous weather conditions.

Definition

Adverse weather is a period of unusual and uncomfortable weather that can negatively affect health. It is generally defined as rain, lightning, extreme heat, wind, hail or any other condition that is considered by the Principal, Assistant Principal or the teacher in charge to be unsuitable.

Prevention

To minimise the risks associated with adverse weather Brunswick East Primary School will implement the following strategies:

- ensure the school's emergency management plan risk assessment considers adverse weather
- ensure adequate shade on school grounds from man-made structures (tents and sails) and/or trees
- educate and encourage students and school staff to stay hydrated and encourage all staff and students to carry water bottles
- have water fountains located around the school premises
- review first aid kits and consider the inclusion of additional ice packs
- The Principal, Assistant Principal or nominated staff member may decide on days of adverse weather to:
 - shorten the duration of outside play or cancel all outside play and activities.
 - call an adverse weather timetable for the entire school day. This may impact upon sport, physical education, gardening or other learning.
- An adverse weather timetable is prepared and teachers will organise appropriate indoor activities (games, movies etc.) for students during usual outdoor playtimes. Staff will negotiate a half hour break within their teams. Specialist staff are allocated to a Learning Community.
- Students and staff must follow the Sun Smart guidelines this includes; wearing a legionnaires hat or broad brimmed hat, having access to sunscreen, wearing closed toed shoes, covering shoulders and not wearing very short dresses and shorts.

This decision will be based on current weather conditions, information from the Bureau of Meteorology and advice from the Department of Education. The decision will be set and monitored and if weather conditions change, the decision will be updated and staff informed.

References and Resources

DET First Aid Policy Advisory Guide

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/firstaid.aspx>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, or after any significant incident.

Updated by 6 th February 2020	1 Version
Principal signature Janet Di Pilla	Scheduled review date February 2023