

# Extreme Weather Policy



*Building brighter futures together*

Beenyup Primary defines extreme weather conditions in two categories: excessive and prolonged heat as well as inclement, wet and/or stormy weather. In the event of extreme weather conditions, the Executive team (or their delegates) will determine and communicate any modifications to timetabled student activities as well as break time procedures.

This policy is guided by The WA Dept. of Education's *The Student Health Care in Public Policy*.

## Rationale

Beenyup Primary strives to ensure that staff and students participate in the educational program in the safest environment possible, minimising the risk of harm. The health, safety and wellbeing of staff, students and visitors will be paramount during extreme weather conditions including heat, cold, winds and storms.

During very hot and extreme heat conditions, students, staff and the school community are at greater risk of health problems. These can be specific heat-related illnesses or a worsening of existing medical conditions. Health risks are greater when high temperatures combine with increased humidity.

## Purpose

- To provide staff with clear direction regarding student supervision during break times of extreme weather.
- To ensure that, despite extreme weather supervision, all staff can access food and drink and have access to a break.
- To ensure that all staff contribute to student supervision during extreme weather.
- To ensure outdoor and/or physical activities are conducted under safe conditions.
- To ensure that all staff are able to recognise heat related illness.

## Procedure

- Extreme weather will be determined by the Executive team and communicated to staff through a PA announcement 5 minutes before the commencement of break times (if advance notice cannot be provided).
- Once extreme weather is called students will need to stay in classrooms. Time should still be allocated specifically to eating.
- If extreme weather is called once a break has commenced, students and staff will return to class.
- The break time is to be supervised by the teachers within the block and assisted by Education Assistants allocated to specific students at break times.
- Teachers are encouraged to share the supervision load, allowing each teacher to take a break.
- Specialist staff will be allocated to release or support classroom teachers in the second part of the break. Admin staff will offer support as required.
- This is not learning time and students should be allowed to socialise in an appropriate manner and/or play quiet indoor games.
- All staff are to facilitate and encourage students to drink plenty of water and stay out of the sun in hot weather.

- All staff are responsible for monitoring students for signs of distress relating to the weather conditions and follow school medical procedures.

At times the Exec team may also modify the availability of particular spaces, such as the oval, basketball court and library to reduce exposure to the weather.

Further decisions may be made by the Exec team in relation to the need to modify the school timetable in relation to Physical Education lessons, sporting events and excursions/incursions. Staff will be notified of these changes as early as possible.

#### **Policy Review and Approval**

<b>Implemented</b>	February 2024
<b>Approval</b>	Principal
<b>Review</b>	February 2025

