



St Mary's Primary School Bairnsdale

Inclement and Extreme Weather Policy

Introduction

St. Mary's School cares for the physical welfare of all school community members including students, parents, staff members & visitors. In times of inclement or extreme weather such as heat, cold, wind storms and/or extreme rain events, consideration will be given to the protection of all community members and the maintenance of a productive learning environment.

Definition

Inclement weather is defined as 'abnormal conditions', whether they be hail, snow, cold, storm, wind or high temperatures that may affect normal activities of the school.

Purpose

From time to time, inclement or extreme weather may pose a threat to the physical well-being of members of the school community and interrupt learning programs. This Inclement & Extreme Weather policy provides guidelines to be followed in the event of these conditions.

Responsibilities

Members of St. Mary's Leadership Team are responsible for the well-being of all within the school community. The Leadership Team are responsible for the overall implementation of this policy. All staff members are responsible for the well-being of students & visitors under their care. They are responsible for following all reasonable instructions provided by the Leadership Team in the event of an inclement or extreme weather event.

Excursions, Camps, Sporting Events & Off-site activities

Where an off-site activity has been planned and there is a forecast of inclement or extreme weather, the Leadership Team in consultation with attending staff will make a decision as to whether the activity will proceed.

In the event that weather conditions deteriorate whilst staff & students are participating in an off-site activity, the attending staff members in consultation with members of the Leadership Team will decide if the activity is to proceed. If the safety of students, staff, parents or others in attendance is placed at risk, an immediate decision will be made to terminate the activity & return to school. Where an extreme weather event is forecast, the Leadership Team will postpone all Excursions, Camps, Sporting Events & Off-site activities until it is safe to

proceed. All members of the school community affected by postponing the event will be informed of this occurrence up to three days prior, if possible, to the event or by notification via PAM

Inclement and Extreme Weather Guidelines:

Extreme Heat

If weather temperatures are forecast to be over 36 degrees the school's Leadership Team will:

- Make an announcement via the PA system advising teaching staff & students that the Inclement & Extreme Weather Policy is to be implemented until further advised;
- Students & staff are to remain inside until further notice;
- Classes will run as normal with teachers varying learning activities accordingly;
- Physical education classes will be conducted indoors;
- During recess and lunch breaks, staff will be assigned supervisory duties & students are to participate in 'passive' play activities;
- School sports activities that involve participation for prolonged periods outdoors such as sporting & swimming carnivals, picnics & outdoors excursions will be postponed;
- A decision to postpone these events will be made by the Leadership Team in consultation with relevant teaching staff 24 hours prior to the event and parents informed via PAM

Extreme Elements

In the event of extreme wind, cold, hail or rain, the school will:

- Announce that the school's Inclement & Extreme Weather Procedure is to be implemented;
- Students & staff are to remain inside until further notice;
- Classes will run as normal;
- Physical education classes will be conducted indoors;
- During break periods staff will be assigned supervisory duties & students are to participate in 'passive' play activities.

Policy reviewed: July 2023

Policy review date: July 2025