

HOT WEATHER POLICY

(Review 2021)

Rationale

Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against hot weather, inside and outside classrooms.

Aims

To ensure the wellbeing of students and staff during times of hot weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

Currently these practices occur as a matter of good sense by our teachers.

Junior School

- All teachers encourage children to bring water into the classroom for hydration throughout the day – all year round. In summer they encourage children to freeze the water bottle overnight.
- Junior School students must wear Cancer Council approved school hats (slouch or bucket) in Terms 1 and 4 when outside, while Term 3 is teacher discretion.
- Junior School excursions have a provision that states the excursion won't go ahead if the temperature is over a certain temperature. These are decided on each specific excursion according to age of children, how much walking is involved, destination, time of day of excursion.
- Children are kept under shade during lunch time if the temperature is 38°C or above.

Middle School/Senior School

- All teachers encourage students to bring water bottles into class.
- Middle and Senior School students must wear Cancer Council approved school hats (slouch or bucket) in Terms 1 and 4 when outside, while Term 3 is teacher discretion.
- Hats are required for PE.
- Excursion information sheets recommend hats outdoors.
- Students are encouraged and requested to wear hats and sunscreen on Sports Day.
- Students are encouraged to stay under shade during lunch time if the temperature is 38°C.

Extreme Hot Weather

1. In the case of prolonged spells the Principal will consult with the Chair of the Governing Council and send a letter to the parents stating that children can be collected from the Junior School during the afternoon if parents are able to do so. Programmed lessons will run until the end of the school day if parents do not pick them up and teachers will seek the coolest temporary locations. Parents need to follow normal early collection processes and check their students out through the Student Services Office.
2. Parents may pick up their children anytime if they believe the child is suffering from the heat.

3. Classrooms and common areas will be opened at recess and lunch to provide respite from extreme heat.
4. Outdoor activities such as Agriculture, PE and Nature Play will be rescheduled.
5. Staff will continue to exercise a duty of care and direct students to hydrate, stay cool and wear appropriate clothing.
6. Sports Day is not held if the forecast on the ABC news the evening before is over 36°C.
7. Parents are requested to check temperatures on the Bureau website. Requests and information regarding early departure needs to be in diaries to the Class/Home Group teachers rather than phone calls and emails to ensure accurate and timely communication.