



EAST PRESTON ISLAMIC COLLEGE

EXTREME

WEATHER

POLICY

Rationale

Extreme weather can present as a hazard to students' and staff members' health and wellbeing. Extreme weather is considered to be weather conditions too cold, wet, hot, windy or unsafe.

Purpose

1. To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, staff and visitors including those who may suffer from pre-existing conditions.
2. To provide guidelines and processes to accommodate extreme weather conditions.

Implementation:

1. All staff to be aware of and inform themselves of current impending weather conditions throughout scheduled breaks in a typical school day, on all outdoors activities within and outside of the school grounds.
2. Staff to listen for when and where an extreme weather timetable (i.e. supervised indoor recess/lunch) will be implemented.
3. An extreme weather timetable will be called by the Principal, Vice Principal, Head of Wellbeing or any nominated person.
4. The Principal or Vice Principal may decide on days of impending extreme heat to call an extreme weather timetable for the entire school day.
 - This decision will be based on current weather conditions and information from the Department of Meteorology. The decision will be set and monitored and if weather conditions change, the decision will be updated and staff informed.
5. Extreme weather timetables will be called in the event of, but not limited to, rain, storms, high winds, flooding and heat (**above 35 degrees**) according to local Bureau of Meteorology report (BOM).
6. When planning outdoor activities, staff must make allowances for extreme weather conditions based on predicted weather conditions or time of year.
7. An extreme weather timetable means that staff and students are to remain in their classrooms. Classroom teachers are responsible for organising appropriate indoor activities (board games, DVDS etc) for the children in their grade/year during extreme weather timetable.
8. All teaching and non-teaching staff are aware of and implement their duty of care when extreme weather timetables are called. Non Home Room Teachers are to be on hand to give Home Room Teachers breaks during recess/lunch. Classroom teachers should open partitions to assist each other in supervision of two classrooms during recess/lunch.

9. Students and staff must follow the Sun Smart guidelines of wearing an approved hat when outdoors during Terms 1 & 4 in the months of October to March. At other times of the year students and staff will be reminded of the need to apply adequate sun protection when necessary.
10. Physical Education Staff to make appropriate decisions in regards to the type of and location of activities on days of extreme weather or impending extreme weather.
11. Students and Staff to have access to appropriate sunscreen (SPF 30+) and be given opportunities to apply before any outdoor activity. Students with allergies are encouraged to supply their own sunscreen.
12. On days of impending extreme hot weather, students are advised to use the shaded areas of the playground, to drink water on a regular basis and to inform staff if feeling unwell.
13. Staff who work outside (gardeners, PE teacher, yard duty teacher etc) should ensure they follow Sun Smart guidelines, including appropriate wide brimmed hats, sunscreen use (SPF 30+) and adequate hydration.
14. The school board/council should ensure there are sufficient shelters and trees to adequately shade the school grounds, particularly in the following spaces:
 - where students congregate for lunch
 - the canteen
 - outdoor lesson areas
 - popular play areas
 - assembly areas
 - sporting grounds.
 - staff to advise and encourage students to use these areas.
15. As part of OH&S risk control and role-modelling when the UV Index is 3 and above, staff are encouraged to:
 - wear sun-protective hats, clothing and sunglasses for all outdoor activities and duties
 - apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
 - seek shade whenever possible.

When the UV Index is 3 and above, families and visitors participating in and attending outdoor school activities should also be encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures.