

Inclement Weather Policy



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Related Department for Education policies, procedures, guidelines, standards, frameworks	Department for Education Inclement Weather guidelines
Related Riverbanks College B-12 policies, procedures, standards	Sun Smart policy Positive Behaviour policy
Responsibility	School Leadership and Governing Council

Context

Riverbanks College B-12 aims to provide a safe environment for students, staff, families, and visitors. At times, weather conditions can place people on our school grounds in unsafe situations. The Inclement Weather policy provides procedures, which will maximise the safety of every person on our site.

Definitions

Inclement weather includes:

- extreme temperatures
- heavy rain or hail
- strong winds
- severe dust or electrical storm.

The leadership team will monitor daily weather forecasts (Bureau of Meteorology) and identify any potential inclement weather risks.

Hot Weather Protocols

Hot weather protocols will be enacted if the weather forecast for Angle Vale reaches 36 degrees or greater. The Bureau of Meteorology for Angle Vale will be used to determine weather conditions. We do not close because of hot weather as all classrooms and general-purpose learning areas across the school are air-conditioned.

Recess and Lunch Breaks

Inclement siren will ring (3 short blasts), and B-6 students will remain inside their classrooms during recess and lunch, supervised by teachers who will share supervision duties between adjoining classes.

Specialist teachers will report to the leadership team and will provide release for any teachers with no adjoining class or who are required to be on yard duty outside during the day.

Year 7 to 8 students will be permitted outside and encouraged to use indoor and shaded areas around the school. The ovals and courts will be out of bounds during hot weather periods and hats must be worn in line with our Sun Smart policy.

Physical Education Lessons

In line with our Sun Smart policy, physical education (PE) lessons will be modified to accommodate weather. PE teachers will have priority for using the gym on these days to enable the learning program to continue in a suitably modified fashion. Frequent water breaks will be provided. There will be no outside lessons when the temperature on any given day reaches 36 degrees or more.

School Sport and Excursions

Sporting matches and practices will be cancelled on days when the temperature is expected to reach 36 degrees or more. Exceptions to this rule are possible, eg an air-conditioned stadium or for sports that start and finish early in the day. Having made a risk assessment, the Principal or delegate may approve a match or practice. Coaches/coordinators are responsible for communicating this decision to players and parents. In significant heat, the appropriateness of any planned excursions will be reviewed.

Wet Weather Protocols

If the yard duty manager observes that it is raining before a break time, the bell will be rung to signal wet weather and R-6 students will remain inside their classrooms. If rain begins during a play period, the yard duty manager will request for the rain bell to be rung and students will return to their classes.

When wet weather protocols are enacted children will play indoors. Students will be supervised in classrooms by class teachers, who will share supervision duties between adjoining classes.

Specialist teachers will report to the leadership team and will provide release for any teachers with no adjoining class or who are required to be on yard duty outside during the day.

If the weather clears with 15 minutes or more left of recess or lunch then the yard duty manager will ring a one-bell siren, signalling a return to play time. Normal yard duties will resume.

If raining year 7 to 8 students will be permitted outside and encouraged to use indoor and sheltered areas around the school. The ovals and courts will be out of bounds during wet weather periods. Staff will follow yard duty protocols outlined in our yard duty procedures.

School Sport and Excursions

In significant wet weather conditions, the appropriateness of any planned excursions or sporting events will be reviewed.

Other Weather Conditions

The school may elect to implement restrictions where local conditions are severe and pose an increased risk for student participation. These conditions could include excessive wind, hail or electrical storm.

A decision will be made by leadership, in collaboration with key staff, to discern the impact of potential weather conditions on the safety of students.

At all times, the expertise of the Bureau of Meteorology will be acknowledged and utilised to ensure the safest decision can be made to maximize student and staff safety.