

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health, safety and well-being of students and staff during periods of hot weather.

Scope

This policy applies to all students and staff at our school, and to all school activities and events, both on and off school grounds.

Policy Statement

The school recognises that exposure to high temperatures can pose risks to the health and safety of students and staff, such as dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sunburn and skin damage. The school also acknowledges that hot weather can affect the learning and performance of students and staff, as well as the comfort and functionality of the school facilities and equipment.

The school will implement appropriate measures to minimise the effects of hot weather on students and staff and provide a safe and comfortable learning and working environment.

Procedures

The school will monitor the temperature and weather conditions on a daily basis, using reliable sources such as the Bureau of Meteorology or local media.

The school will activate the hot weather policy when the temperature is 36 degrees or above, or when the school principal or their delegate deems it necessary based on other factors such as humidity, wind, air quality, etc.

The hot weather policy consists of the following actions:

- Students and staff will be advised to drink water regularly, wear hats and sunscreen before going outside, and seek shade and avoid direct sun exposure.
- Outdoor activities will be reduced or cancelled, and indoor spaces will be used where possible.
- In consultation with the Principal, physical education classes will be modified or cancelled, and fans and air-conditioners will be used where available.
- Students will be allowed to stay indoors during recess and lunch, and physical activities will be cancelled or modified.
- The principal or their delegate can decide to suspend all outdoor activities during recess and lunch play. Student will have the same duration of break either indoors or in a shaded area/s.
- Teachers will ensure that student lunchboxes are stored indoors.
- Parents will be notified of this hot weather policy, and it will be available on our school website.
- A decision to close any school is made by the Deputy Director General Schools in consultation with the Director of Education.

The school will review and evaluate the effectiveness of the hot weather policy on a regular basis and make any necessary adjustments or improvements.

Responsibilities

The school principal or their delegate is responsible for:

- Monitoring the temperature and weather conditions and activating the hot weather policy when required.
- Communicating the hot weather policy to students and staff.
- Ensuring the availability and maintenance of adequate water, shade, fans and air-conditioners in the school premises.
- Ensuring the compliance and implementation of the hot weather policy by all students and staff.

Teachers and other staff are responsible for:

- Following the hot weather policy and ensuring the safety and well-being of students under their care.
- Modifying or cancelling outdoor activities and physical education classes as per the hot weather policy.
- Providing water, shade, fans and air-conditioners to students as per the hot weather policy.
- Encouraging and reminding students to drink water, wear hats and sunscreen, and seek shade and avoid direct sun exposure.

Students are responsible for:

- Following the hot weather policy and taking care of their own health and safety.
- Drinking water regularly, wearing hats and sunscreen, and seeking shade and avoiding direct sun exposure.
- Participating in indoor activities and physical education classes as per the hot weather policy.

Parents are responsible for:

- Supporting the hot weather policy and ensuring the health and safety of their children.
- Providing water, hats and sunscreen to their children and reminding them to use them.