



Weather Policy

At Sheidow Park School we wish to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and staff both onsite and at offsite locations. Our aim is to highlight the need to check weather forecasts as part of Risk Assessment when planning activities, events or excursions, and to authorise staff to make decisions to ensure health and safety on the day, if and when weather conditions change. Our Weather Policy provides guidelines and processes to accommodate extreme weather conditions and mitigate their impact on health and safety.

Definitions

Extreme weather includes weather conditions of:

- Extreme heat, refers to temperatures of 36°C or above.
- Heavy, consistent rain.
- Extreme storm high winds, lightning, hail, dust, or asthma-causing thunderstorms.
- Extreme fire danger (usually a combination of heat, prolonged dry conditions and wind).

Staff responsibilities

All staff should be aware of impending weather conditions throughout scheduled breaks in the school day and the impact on all outdoor activities within the school grounds. An extreme weather timetable or supervision arrangements will be called by the Principal or staff member on duty on the oval. The Principal or his/her delegate may determine, on days of extreme weather to:

- Shorten play periods (recess/lunch breaks)
- Keep students in classrooms or inside buildings during play periods.
- Modify room change arrangements, if this involves exposure to extreme conditions.
- Call an extreme weather timetable for the entire day, in the event of, but not limited to, heavy rain, heat above 36°C in the shade, high winds or thunderstorms, according the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) report.
- Cancel events or activities outdoors where students are deemed to be at risk.

The Physical Education teacher is authorised to make a decision on the viability of an activity, or the need to modify arrangements in the event of extreme weather.

Sheidow Park School does not close because of hot weather, unless exceptional circumstances, such as a local power outage makes it unsafe for students to remain at school. Rooms are air-conditioned and safe places for children and staff.

Reviewed August 2023





Hot Weather

On days when there is hot weather and the temperature rises to 36°C or above (on the BOM website, <http://www.bom.gov.au/places/sa/sheidow-park/>), this will mean:

- Students may be required to remain in their class for play periods, except when permitted to use corridors or open spaces within buildings.
- Teachers team up in pairs to provide breaks for each other.
- Maintenance and gardening staff will not be required to undertake outside manual work if the temperature is 36°C or above
- Any classes or activities planned to run outside may be modified to take place inside.
- Windows will be closed and air conditioners on.

Sun Protection

No Hat/No Play

- A no hat/no play policy has been approved by the Governing Council.
- Students are expected to wear a hat during play periods and outside PE lessons in Term 1, 3, 4.
- Students who do not have hats are asked to play in the courtyard area protected from the sun.

Wet Weather

Light drizzle – on days when light rain falls throughout the play period, students will be encouraged and expected to stay under cover at one of the many outside sheltered areas available. The oval and other unprotected areas may be out of bounds.

If the oval duty teacher believes that it is unsafe to remain outside, eg excessive wind or lightning, they will inform the office that 3 short bursts of the bell should be rung to signal those students return to class.

Heavy rain – on days when heavy rain falls throughout the play period, 3 short bursts of the bell will sound indicating to all classes that changes to play period will occur. This will mean:

- Students will remain in their class for the play period, except when permitted to use corridors or open spaces within buildings.
- Teachers team up in pairs to provide breaks for each other.

If the rain clears during play period, an announcement may be made to revert to the normal timetable and students can be free to play outside.

Reviewed August 2023





If the grounds are deemed to be in an unsafe or waterlogged condition, the Principal or delegate will make an announcement via Sentral of any areas that are deemed to be out of bounds.

Other Conditions

The response to storm events is the same as for Wet Weather as defined above. Leadership or delegate will determine when, or if to activate the wet/extreme weather bell based on the timing and severity of the event. Thunderstorms, with associated hail, heavy rain or lightning are significant risks and students should not be outside during such events. Windows and doors should be closed and care must be exercised when opening external doors.

Sheidow Park School is not in a designated bushfire-prone zone and will not be closed on days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger.

This policy and procedures should be read in conjunction with the Sun Smart policy.

Reviewed August 2023

