Augusta Park Primary School

Extreme Weather Policy

Context
There is a need for common practices that support OHS Guidelines on days of extreme heat. Children and staff have the right to be as comfortable as possible in the school on these days. On days of extreme heat, a number of activities and sports are affected that need early decisions and consequent changes to supervision. Despite being air-conditioned, classrooms also become uncomfortable and need a time without children present.

Definition
An ‘extreme weather policy’ day is defined as the following benchmark:
Forecast day’s maximum of $38^\circ C$ or greater as broadcast on GTS BKN or Southern Cross 10 Nightly News, or on a day when the temperature on the Internet is measured at $38^\circ C$ or above.

Procedures

First (Morning) Lunch
Children go into the yard for normal morning playtime, but are encouraged to remain in the shaded areas that exist in the school. Low-key activities will be encouraged in preference to highly active games such as chasey. Classroom teachers and staff on duty will reinforce the importance of wearing hats during play time. Air-conditioned spaces including the Resource Centre and Counsellor’s Room will be open.

Second (Afternoon) Lunch
Students remain in air-conditioned spaces. Teachers can organise an afternoon play time of 10 minutes for their class at a time that suits them. Play is only permitted in the shade.

Lunches
All students should store their lunches in the class refrigerators. It is medically unsafe to store lunches un-refrigerated when the temperature is above $30^\circ C$.

Homework
Students will not be set any written homework on days of extreme weather.

PE Lessons
In line with our Sunsafe Policy, PE lessons will be modified to accommodate extreme weather. Morning PE lessons will be undertaken in shaded areas only. Frequent drinks breaks will be provided. Afternoon outdoor PE lessons will be replaced by indoor activities.

School Sports and Practices
Sporting matches and practices will be cancelled when the temperature is forecast for $38^\circ C$ or above. Exceptions to this rule are possible (e.g. sports in an air-conditioned stadium or that start and finish early in the day. Exemptions may be approved by the Principal, but coaches are responsible for communicating this to student participants and their parents.

Sun-Smart Practices
Staff will promote sun-smart practices at school:
• The school’s uniform includes broad-brimmed hats or legionnaires caps and these must be worn by all students whilst outdoors. This school supports an approach of ‘No hat – play in a shaded area’. Hats are available for purchase at the Front Office.
• Staff will provide frequent drink breaks and access to water bottles in class. This does not apply to soft drinks.
• Students are encouraged to use shaded areas and modify their play activities.
• Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen, preferably before school begins. Each class will have a supply of sunscreen for emergency use.

Wet Weather
On days when there is rain during lunch breaks or lesson time, students will remain supervised indoors.