Policy Statement

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Aim

Rationale
From time to time, forecasters warn of very hot days with temperatures sometimes exceeding 36 degrees centigrade. Forecasters may also warn of gale force winds, heavy rain and chilling temperatures.

Implementation
With modern classrooms and air conditioning in most rooms it is not necessary to close the school in extreme hot weather. Likewise modern classrooms and effective heating systems do not make it necessary for students to not come to school. Alternatively there are a range of flexible approaches to normal school practices that can assist in hot weather, which include:

- Varying normal teaching programs through the use of shady and cool outdoor facilities.
- Avoid outdoor activities between 10 am and 2 pm which is identified as the hottest part of the day.
- Provide opportunities for students to drink regularly, and encourage them to do so.
- Postpone/cancel sporting or physical education activities that might stress students or expose them unnecessarily to the hot sun.
- Enforcing “No hat, No play” Policy.
- Postponing/cancel camps and excursions when extreme hot weather is forecast and essentially so on “Total Fire Ban Days”.
- Provide opportunities for students to remain indoors during break times and discourage active outdoor play.

Likewise in chilling temperatures, heavy rain and gale force winds a range of flexible approaches can assist in safeguarding students from these rugged conditions by:

- Varying normal teaching programs to avoid being outdoors.
- Make use of indoor facilities for sport and physical education activities.
- Make arrangements for students to remain indoors during playtimes.
- Postpone/cancel sporting or physical education activities that might stress students or expose them unnecessarily to the cold, rain and rugged winds.
- Postponing/cancel camps and excursions when extreme cold and rugged weather is forecast.
- Remain indoors during playtime when the ground remains extremely wet underfoot.
Definitions
No Hat No Play – Term 1 and 4 of the school year or when the UV reading is high and consistently remains that way.

References
Cancer Council of South Australia

Review Date and Specifications
To be reviewed: August 2014