

CRIB POINT PRIMARY SCHOOL



EXTREME WEATHER

POLICY and PROCEDURES

Adapted from Red Hill Consolidated School

Purpose

Extreme weather can present as a hazard to students' and staff members' health and wellbeing. The purpose of this policy is to:

1. To provide a safe and healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, staff and visitors including those who may suffer from pre-existing conditions.
2. To provide guidelines and processes to accommodate extreme weather conditions.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff and visitors at Crib Point Primary School.

Definition

Extreme weather refers to any weather condition with the potential to cause physical or emotional harm to students and staff, including but not limited to:

- High temperature
- Heavy rain and/or hail
- Strong winds
- Smoke haze
- Thunderstorms

Policy

- All staff are to be aware of current impending weather conditions throughout scheduled breaks in a typical school day and on all outdoors activities within and outside of the school grounds.
- An extreme weather timetable will be called by the Principal, Assistant Principal or nominated staff member.
- The Principal, Assistant Principal or nominated staff member may decide on days of impending extreme weather to:
 - shorten the recess or lunch breaks of outside play
 - call an extreme weather timetable for the entire school day
- This decision will be based on current weather conditions and information from the Department of Meteorology and/or the Department of Education. The decision will be set and monitored and if weather conditions change, the decision will be updated and staff informed.
- During extreme weather timetables, the classroom teacher will organise appropriate indoor activities. Students will be supervised at all times by a duty teacher.
- When planning outdoor activities, such as sports activities, excursions and camps, staff will make allowances for extreme weather conditions based on predicted weather conditions and consider these conditions in all risk assessments.
- Trees will be inspected regularly and removed or pruned if deemed unsafe.

Days of Extreme Heat

- During Term 1 and 4, students and teachers are required to wear broad brimmed hats when outside. Students must wear a rash vest or similar during swimming lessons and must have their shoulders covered when on camps, excursions or free dress days.
- Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen.
- Students are reminded to take off jumpers, drink plenty of water, play in shaded areas and avoid excessive exercise.
- Staff who work outside (gardeners, PE teachers, yard duty teacher etc.) should ensure they follow Sun Smart guidelines, including appropriate broad brimmed hats, sunscreen use (SPF 30+) and have adequate hydration.
- On days with temperatures over 35, but less than 38 degrees, the morning recess break will be extended to 45 minutes and the lunch break will be reduced to 30 minutes, limiting the time children will be outside during the hottest time of the day.
- Physical Education classes (not including swimming) and other strenuous activities will be cancelled or modified if the temperature is above 35 degrees.
- If the temperature is above 38 degrees, an extreme weather timetable will be called and students will be kept inside.

Days of Heavy Rain and/or hail

- During days of medium to heavy or consistent rain, an extreme weather timetable will be called.

- If rain ceases, students will be allowed outside, but will be reminded to stay out of puddles and walk on concrete/asphalted surfaces.
- After heavy rains it may be necessary to close the school oval and junior grass area due to flooding.

Thunder and lightning storms

- Thunder/lightning and days with smoke haze
- If a high risk thunderstorm asthma warning is issued or on a day with thick bushfire smoke haze, susceptible students and staff will be kept indoors. Those students will not take part in strenuous activities such as Physical Education or sports.
- During Swim Week, if a thunderstorm is approaching, all students, staff and parents should get out of the school pool. The Life Saving Victoria 30/30 rule will be applied to establish how far away the storm is from the school and if it is safe to resume the swimming lesson. Where the flash to bang count is less than 30 seconds, all activities should be suspended. Activities can be resumed if this count is greater than 30 seconds. The teacher in charge is responsible for making this decision and monitoring the situation for the duration of the lesson.

Days of Strong Winds

- If gusts of wind reach above 36 knots (Strong Wind Warning) areas around the fitness track, junior playground, junior asphalt, behind/around amphitheatre area and senior oval will be made out of bounds.
- If winds or gusts reach above 48 knots (Gale Force Wind Warning) an extreme weather timetable will be called.

Other weather conditions

- There may be other weather conditions not listed in this policy that require actions to be taken to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors to the school. The principal, assistant principal or nominated staff member is responsible for considering and making decisions to reduce any potential risk.

Extreme Heat Timetable

8.45-11.00 am – Morning Block

11.00-11.45 – Extended Recess Break

11.45-1.45- Middle Block

1.45-2.15 pm- Shortened Lunch Break

2.15-3.15 pm- End Block

Note: Recess duties on Bulletin to be completed at lunchtime.

Lunchtime duties on Bulletin to be completed at recess.

Students requiring 1:1 additional supervision/accommodations to be supervised by scheduled staff member in Room 0 (Prep Room) or another classroom space.

This policy was created May 2026, to be reviewed May 2029.