



EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Ratified by:	Date available	Date approved
Leadership Team	16-2-2024	16-2-2024
Staff	18-2-2024	18-2-2024
School Board		
Review Date	16-2-2026	

BACKGROUND

Extreme heat or heatwave is a period of unusual and uncomfortable hot weather that can negatively affect health. Children and young people are more susceptible to heat stress. For this reason, Kardinya Primary School will recognise and respond to heat related illness and have strategies to manage the risks associated with extreme hot weather and heat wave.

KARDINYA PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL:

- be able to recognise and treat heat related illness.
- have strategies in place to manage the risks associated with periods of extreme heat, including early intervention, prevention, and preparedness measures, as outlined below.

Kardinya Primary will not close at a certain temperature threshold during days of extreme heat. A decision to close the school will be made by the Deputy Director General Schools in consultation with the Director of Education.

RATIONALE

Where possible, Kardinya Primary School students are encouraged to be outside during break times, enjoying fresh air, physical activity, and social interactions. However, sometimes break times coincide with weather that is too wet, windy or in extremely high temperature and it is necessary to plan for such events.

PURPOSE

- To provide staff with clear direction regarding student supervision during break times of extreme weather.
- To ensure that, despite extreme weather supervision, all staff can access food and drink and have access to a break.
- To ensure that all staff contribute to student supervision during extreme weather.

GUIDELINES

- Extreme weather decisions will be made by Admin and called over the PA before the recess or lunch break.
- Where possible, Admin will allow students to move outside if the weather subsides, this will also be announced over the PA. Duty teachers will resume, as per the duty roster.

DURING A PERIOD OF EXTREME HEAT KARDINYA PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL ACTIVELY:

COMMUNICATE EARLY

- Notify parents/carers about upcoming weather conditions and remind them to provide their child with extra water, sunscreen, icepacks in lunch boxes.

REVIEW AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- Review timetabled activities and duty rosters prior to the commencement of the school day and modify any activity that could add to heat related illness of staff and students.
- Reconsider events (such as assemblies) where adequate shade is not able to be provisioned for students, staff and visitors.
- Keep all students inside during break and eating times.
- Limit outside play and provide alternative inside activities during break times.
- Review and modify duty rosters to limit staff exposure to heat.
- Postpone any planned vigorous activity.
- Modify physical education lessons and not undertake them outside.
- Postpone athletics and swimming carnivals.
- Allow drink bottles in classrooms, including the provision of additional water bottles.
- Rotate class use of airconditioned facilities where applicable.

IN-TERM SWIMMING:

- Where the on-site location has minimal shade (e.g., beaches), the principal will make an assessment on whether in-term swimming should go ahead.
- Considerations should include:
 - The availability of sufficient shade
 - The temperature at the location
 - The length of the lesson.
 - The time of day the lesson is scheduled.
 - The age of the students.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PHYSICAL SPACE

- Close any internal and external blinds.
- Use portable shade structures where possible.
- Utilise large industrial fans and ensure indoor spaces have open doors and windows or air conditioning during activities.
- Use fans or other devices (wet flannels) in an appropriate way to remain cool.
- Provide sufficient water supplies in the case of a power outage and loss of reticulated water supply.

EDUCATE, PREPARE AND MONITOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

- Display heat guidelines and charts in prominent locations in the school for reminders about hydration and symptoms.
- Educate and encourage students and school staff to stay hydrated.

- Conduct a briefing of staff who provision first aid on the symptoms of and response to heat related illness.
- Conduct walk-throughs and check ins with staff and students to monitor impact of heat.
- Review first aid kits and consider the inclusion of additional ice packs and hydrolytes.
- Establish sunscreen stations for staff and students.
- Review students with known medical conditions and triage support for those more likely to be impacted by the heat.
- In consultation with staff who work outside (e.g., gardeners/physical education teachers), reallocate their duties.

PROCEDURE AT KPS DURING EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

- If extreme weather is called during a break, a PA announcement will be made and the siren will sound earlier to alert students to return to class.
- When extreme weather is called by Admin, students stay inside classrooms.
- The break time is to be supervised by a teacher. In adjoining rooms teachers can share the supervision load, allowing each teacher to take a break for half the time.
- Where classrooms are stand alone, a member of the Administration team or DOTT teacher will provide release either during the break or shortly afterwards.
- This is not learning time; students should be allowed to socialise and/or play quiet indoor games.

WET WEATHER

The main undercover area at Kardinya Primary School can be fully enclosed to protect against wet weather. Physical Education lessons can be done in this area in both hot and wet weather. Physical Education lessons can be modified so the activities suit the weather conditions and area but also keep the emphasis on providing physical activity for students. Heat –undercover area. Heavy rain – enclosed undercover area. Light rain – continue activity or move to the undercover area. Thunderstorm/lightning/hail –library or classroom. Extreme weather – utilise creative activities in the library or classrooms.