

# Extreme Weather Policy

## Rationale

Extreme weather can present as a hazard to students' and staff members' health and wellbeing. Extreme weather is considered to be weather conditions too cold, wet, hot, windy or unsafe.

## Do we remain open?

Yes. The Government of Western Australia invested heavily in our infrastructure to ensure that classrooms at Northam PS are fully air conditioned.

## Purpose:

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.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

This decision will be based on current weather conditions and information from the Bureau of Meteorology. The decision will be set and monitored and if weather conditions change, the decision will be updated and staff informed.

The Principal, Associate Principal or nominated staff member may decide on days of impending extreme weather to:

- Shorten the recess or lunch breaks of outside play.
- Plan an extreme weather timetable for the entire school day. This decision will be based on current weather conditions and information from the Bureau of Meteorology. The decision will be set and monitored and if weather conditions change, the decision will be updated and staff informed.

When the weather is **too wet, cold, windy or hot**, the following procedures will apply:

- Implementation of policy will be decided and announced by administration member via walkie talkie.
- All students and staff to remain in classes.

The following classes to merge.

### RECESS

- Room 1 goes to Room 3
- Room 4 goes to Room 9
- Room 5 goes to Room 6
- Room 7 goes to Room 10
- Room 11 goes to Room 12
- Science teacher goes to PrePrimary
- Phys Ed teacher goes to Kindy

### LUNCH

- Room 3 goes to Room 1
- Room 9 goes to Room 4
- Room 6 goes to Room 5
- Room 10 goes to Room 7
- Room 12 goes to Room 11
- Science teacher goes to PrePrimary
- Phys Ed teacher goes to Kindy

- Staff to ensure students are supervised at all times.
- Staff to share their breaks working in with what suits both parties.
- Non-teaching staff to continue to have their timetabled break and then return to their classes to help supervise.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff are aware of and implement their duty of care during extreme weather timetables.
- Staff who work outside (gardeners, PE teachers, duty teacher etc.) should ensure they follow Sun Smart guidelines, including appropriate school Sun smart hats, sunscreen use (SPF 30+) and have adequate hydration.

### What is a heatwave?

Heatwave conditions are specifically when excessively high temperatures combine with high humidity levels and are sustained over a number of days. That means, although the predicted maximum temperature for a region may be in the mid-to-high 30s, unless this coincides with high humidity and lasts for a few days, it is considered 'hot' rather than a 'heatwave'. People are most at risk during extreme heat conditions when the temperatures reach about 5 degrees Celsius above the average for sustained periods of time. The Bureau of Meteorology provides a Heatwave Service for Australia [External Link](#) with heatwave forecasts and heatwave assessments. This service is a set of maps showing colour-coded heatwave severity for the previous two three-day periods, and the next five three-day periods.

### What are heat-related conditions?

Heat-related conditions cover a wide range of symptoms ranging from swelling of hands and feet, prickly heat occurring in acclimatised people and heat cramps, through to heat exhaustion, to the more severe and potentially fatal heat stroke.

**“Play in a safe and sensible manner.”**