

Brabham Primary School Severe Weather Policy

Rationale

The Severe Weather Policy provides direction for high levels of care for students, staff and the wider community during periods of very cold, wet or severe weather.

Definitions:

1. **Wet Weather** – light rain, light wind and no chance of lightning
2. **Cold weather** – very cold temperatures and/or strong winds
3. **Hot Weather** – temperature in mid to high 30s including humid conditions
4. **Severe Wet Weather** – heavy rain, storms, strong winds and lightning
5. **Severe Hot Weather** – temperature at 40 degrees, or multiple consecutive days above 37 degrees with humid conditions

Context:

The school will implement the Severe Weather Policy when it is raining, very cold or hot, or if there has been significant recent weather that make areas in use unsafe. The decision to cancel activities or events due to weather will be at the discretion of the principal or a person she nominates, often one of the Deputy Principals.

Procedures:

Before School Wet Weather, Cold/Hot Weather & Severe Wet/Hot Weather

All students are encouraged to arrive when classes open (Kindy to Pre-primary at 8.20am and Years 1-6 at 8.30am) and go directly to class where possible. If students arrive early, they go directly to the supervised undercover area. A staff member will provide supervision until 8.30am when classrooms are open.

Recess and Lunch Wet Weather, Cold/Hot Weather & Severe Wet/Hot Weather

The principal, or a person they delegate will make the decision to call wet/hot weather or severe wet/hot weather. They will make the announcement over the PA to the whole school and call either 'wet/hot weather,' 'cold weather' or 'severe wet/hot weather.'

Wet Weather

- Students will be permitted to wear rain coats and play; however, sandpits and playgrounds will be out of bounds. Students without rain coats will be encouraged to play undercover.
- In ECE area, students will eat in the classroom, and be released to play.
- Duty teachers will refer to the Wet Weather Duty Roster. Duty teachers in the playgrounds and sandpit areas will support in areas where the majority of students maybe, as indicated on the Roster.
- If the rain increases during recess or lunch, it is at the discretion of the duty teacher to call students in to the nearest covered area and contact a member of the administration team, who will make the decision to announce 'severe wet weather' to the whole school.

Hot Weather

- All classes are equipped with refrigerated air conditioning.
- Students will be reminded frequently to drink water.
- At all times students are required to have a hat to play outside.

Severe Wet/Hot Weather

- Each teaching block will have adjusted play areas to suit the developmental age and needs of the students, and the available indoor space.
- With severe hot weather, lunch boxes and food will be taken into the classroom.

Location	Procedures	Staff
ECE	Students will eat in the classroom, and be released to play inside or undercover (weather permitting).	All teachers and EAs from ECE will provide duty. The teacher/EA pairs will release each other for a short break.
Green Block	All students and staff will move into the wet area where they can eat and play inside.	The teachers will provide duty of care and release one at a time for a break. Specialist - Science
Magenta Block	Classroom will pair up for eating and play inside.	The teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break. Specialist – Visual/Performing Arts
Purple Block	Classroom will pair up for eating and play inside.	The teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break. Specialist – Intervention EAs
Orange Block	Classroom will pair up for eating and play inside.	The teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break. Specialist – AUSLAN/PE
Primary Transportables	Classroom will pair up for eating and play inside.	The teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break. Specialist – PE, Music/PA

Cold Weather

- Students will remain in their teaching blocks or transportables as it will be too cold to play outside for an extended period.
- Staff will follow the 'Severe Wet Weather' procedure mentioned above (except ECE, where the students will remain inside).
- As the day warms up and/or the wind eases, teachers may take their students out for a short play at their discretion.

After School Wet Weather, Cold/Hot Weather & Severe Wet/Hot Weather

- Gates will be opened by student councillors approximately 10 minutes before the end of the day. They will have an umbrella or other wet/hot weather protection. If there is severe rain, a staff member will open the gates.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to arrive 5 minutes before the end of the school day. Parents and guardians are encouraged to bring appropriate weather protection. If parents arrive before the end of the school day, they can remain in the veranda space outside their child's class or the administration block. We encourage all parents to remain respectful of staff and students who may still be working by keeping noise to a minimum.
- Families who utilise the Kiss and Drive can continue to do so and students should bring their own weather protection. There will be access to some weather protection, such as umbrellas, for students who do not bring their own.
- Students who walk or ride home by themselves should bring appropriate weather protection to school. If a student does not have suitable weather protection and informs their teacher, the teacher will direct the student up to the office with a note. The school officers will contact the parents/guardians.

Outdoor Curriculum Activities during severe weather conditions

- Physical Education (PE) will be conducted undercover during Wet, Cold, Hot or Severe Weather. If available, the PE teacher will use the assembly area, unless too cold or hot. If the assembly area is not suitable or available, then the PE teacher will use the classroom. Lessons and activities will be modified to suit the conditions.
- All other curriculum activities must remain in the classroom.

School Events and Community Events

- The decision to cancel activities or events due to weather will be at the discretion of the Principal or nominated persons, often one the Deputy Principals.
- The decision to cancel school or community events will be decided in consultation with organisers and based on the safety of students, families, staff and the wider community. The decision may be communicated to students, staff, families and the community via Seesaw, email, on the school website, Facebook or physical note. If unsure of the event taking place, please check these before contacting the school.
- Depending on the event, the school may make the decision early or leave it to the morning of. This is at the discretion of the Principal or a nominated persons.

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