



WILLIAMS PRIMARY SCHOOL

INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES

Our Vision

Williams Primary School uses proven methodology to promote excellence in a nurturing culture, preparing students socially and academically for an evolving world.



Western Australian schools can experience a wide range of temperature conditions that necessitate adjustments to the normal recess and lunchtime breaks. This is to ensure the safety and well being of students and staff. Inclement weather is defined as extreme heat, rain, lightening or any other condition that is considered unsuitable for outside play by the Health Department, Department of Education or School Administration. Schools do not close at a certain temperature threshold during days of extreme heat. A decision to close any school is made by the Deputy Director General Schools in consultation with the Director of Education.

At Williams Primary School an announcement will be made that we are proceeding with our Inclement Weather Plan and the following will be in place.

Before School:

- ✚ In the event of a forecast for intense heat conditions:
 - Classroom Teachers will provide a place for students to store their lunchboxes inside their rooms.
 - Students will be invited to keep water bottles on their desks and will be reminded to stay hydrated during the day.

Recess:

- ✚ An announcement will be made over the PA System to implement the Inclement Weather Plan.
- ✚ Class Teacher to remain in the classroom with students.
- ✚ Students will be released in small groups to go to the toilet and get a drink.
- ✚ Teachers may use their discretion to combine classes to take duty of care while they take a comfort break.
- ✚ Specialist Teachers and Administration will check that teachers are offered a break prioritising those teachers on lunch duty.

Lunch:

- ✚ An announcement will be made over the PA System to implement the Inclement Weather Plan
- ✚ Class Teacher will remain in the classroom with students while they eat or until the end of the first duty.
- ✚ Class Teacher will ensure that suncream is available for students and that they have a suitable hat for the conditions.
- ✚ Duty Teachers will go to the Undercover Area and the PAC to supervise students in those spaces.
 - There are to be no ball games in the undercover area unless it is an organised game refereed by the duty teacher.
 - The PAC is to be used for board games or quiet games.
 - When possible, the library will also be made available for individual and shared reading.
- ✚ Duty Teachers will monitor students to ensure they are not playing in the sun or in areas other than as described.

During the Day

- ✚ All staff will monitor students throughout the day for signs of heat distress.

Keeping everyone safe as possible during extreme heat or heatwave conditions is incumbent on parents and the school cooperating to ease the effects. We each have a responsibility to ensure we have put the necessary actions in place to manage the risk to students.

How parents can support the school:

- ✚ Provide their child with extra water bottle.
- ✚ Apply suncream before leaving for school.
- ✚ Provide extra icepacks in lunch boxes.
- ✚ Discuss with their child how to stay safe in extreme heat conditions.
- ✚ Ensure that their child knows to tell an adult straight away if they are feeling unwell.

Supporting our students:

We will:

- ✚ 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 eg: assemblies, incursions, excursions
- ✚ Keep all students inside during eating times and sheltered during break times.
- ✚ Limit outside play and provide alternative inside activities during play 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 if necessary.
- ✚ Allow drink bottles in classrooms.
- ✚ Send out notification to parents when we have instigated our Inclement Weather Plan.

It is important that we all recognise the symptoms of Heat Stress. Some of the more common symptoms include:

- ✚ deterioration in existing medical conditions
- ✚ heat stress – including dehydration, heat rash and heat cramps (muscle pains or spasms).
- ✚ dizziness and fainting
- ✚ heat exhaustion — warning signs may include paleness and sweating, rapid heart rate, muscle cramps headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness or fainting.
- ✚ ***heatstroke — the person may stagger, appear confused, have a fit, collapse and become unconscious. This is a medical emergency and requires urgent medical assistance.***

To enhance student and staff safety when extreme weather conditions are predicted the appropriateness of any planned excursions or sporting events will be reviewed. This will be when local conditions are severe and pose an increased risk for students and staff. These conditions could include excessive wind, hail or electrical storms. In these events the school may elect to implement restrictions. In these circumstances it may become necessary for excursions, camps and sporting events be rescheduled or cancelled. While the priority will be to reschedule the event this may not always be possible due to factors outside the school's control or the operational management of the school.



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