Rationale

Park Ridge Primary School has a duty of care to students and staff at all times. This duty of care includes protection against extreme weather. Extreme weather is considered to be weather conditions too cold, too wet, too hot, too windy or unsafe.

It is important to note that a healthy balance of the sun’s ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important to health. Whilst too much UV exposure from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer, too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. This policy also aims to ensure adequate protection from UV on days that are not considered extreme weather conditions.

Aim

• To ensure the wellbeing of our students, staff, volunteers and visitors during times of extreme weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for extreme weather circumstances.

Implementation

• All staff are to be aware of and inform themselves of current impending weather conditions throughout scheduled breaks in a typical school day, on all outdoor activities within and outside of the school grounds
• As part of the usual yard duty timetable process, an extreme weather timetable will be activated by the Principal or nominated person(s) when conditions outside are considered unsuitable for students, staff, volunteers and visitors
• An extreme weather timetable will see all students confined to the classroom unless permission has been granted by a teacher to leave temporarily, e.g., toilet break
• Students will be expected to walk indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities suitable to their year level, e.g., drawing, board games, reading. Computers and electronic devices are not to be used. Classroom teachers are responsible for organising the appropriate activities for students in their class during extreme weather timetables and duty staff will then supervise and monitor the students
• In the event that students are required to come inside the school buildings after a normal outdoor recess has commenced due to the commencement of inclement weather, yard duty teachers will supervise briefly while designated teachers make their way to classrooms or other areas, that they are required to supervise
• When planning outdoor activities, staff must make allowances for extreme weather conditions based on predicted weather conditions &/or the time of year. This extends to the type of and location of Physical Education and sporting activities
• On extreme weather days it may be appropriate to reschedule or alternatively organise scheduled sport, Physical Education or other outdoor activity
• The School Council will ensure that there are sufficient shelters and trees to adequately shade the school grounds, particularly in the following spaces:
  o where students congregate for lunch
  o the canteen
  o outdoor lesson areas
  o popular play areas
  o assembly areas
  o sporting grounds
• Wearing an approved sunhat will be compulsory for all outdoor activity in Terms 1 and 4. This requirement extends to all school staff including but not limited to gardeners, yard duty teachers and Physical Education teachers. A policy of no hat, no play will be extended to include the Outside School Hours Care programme. During these times of higher UV exposure, students will be encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen, wear sunglasses and protective clothing.
• On days of hot weather, students are to be reminded to use the shaded areas of the playground and to drink water on a regular basis. They should also be encouraged to advise staff if they are feeling unwell.
• On extreme heat days, the Principal or nominated person(s) may decide to take the following actions:
  - lengthen morning recess to 50 minutes and shorten lunch recess to 30 minutes of outside play
  - allow a longer outside morning recess and implement an extreme weather timetable for the shorter lunch recess
  - implement an extreme weather timetable for the entire school day
  - revise the timetable to ensure all Physical Education and Sport activities are undertaken in the morning only.

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review process.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Date Approved:</strong></td>
<td>October, 2016</td>
<td>Person Responsible:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date for Review:</strong></td>
<td>October, 2019</td>
<td>Date Updated on Policy Index:</td>
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