

**Errington Special Education Centre R-12**

Hot Weather Policy

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Managed by:  Principal-Niki Takos | Approved by Governing Council | School Contact:  82933779 |
| Contact Person:  Front Administration | Date Approved: 22/08/2023 | Filepath: J:Common/Policies and Procedures/Hot Weather Policy |

On days forecast by the Weather Bureau (BOM) as 36ºC or more, the hot weather policy applies.

In exceptional circumstances, and on days of extreme heat (36 degrees or above) or in the event of an extreme heatwave declared by the State Emergency Service (SES), students may need to be dismissed early, subject to principals decision and parent consent. Staff remain on duty on days of early dismissal.

All staff will exercise duty of care when taking students out for outdoor activities during hot weather to ensure that students do not overheat and that sun exposure is kept to a minimum. Staff are advised to minimise outdoor activities between the hours of 11.00am and 3.00pm.

Parents are reminded to ensure children apply sun block and bring their water bottles daily.

Parents may also exercise their right to keep students home on days of extreme heat.

**SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

All children R-12 are encouraged to wear an approved hat when outside, regardless of the weather - except during terms 2 and 3 between May and September. This includes lunches, and any lessons held outside and excursions.

**Lunch Time:**

* For temperatures less than **36ºC**, students are permitted to play as usual and are encouraged to play in the shade and drink plenty of fluids.
* Students are to wear sun protective clothing including hats in terms 1, 3 & 4 and whenever

the UV rating is 3 and above at other times.

* For temperatures over **36ºC**, leadership will determine if a shortened lunch time will take place or an inside lunch time. For a shortened lunch time - Students go out to play for 15 minutes and are encouraged to play in the shade and reminded to drink plenty of fluids.

**Implementation**

In the case of extreme hot weather, as forecast at 7:30am we will:

• Activate air-conditioners in the morning (set to 20-22 C).

• Avoid outside play to shaded areas and as the temperatures rise encourage inside play.

• Provide drinking water for children to access throughout the day.

• Offer children opportunities to drink water or fluids regularly.

• Provide SPF 30 + broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and child use.

• Encourage families to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain,

• Encourage families to pack lunches in insulated containers with an ice pack

• Lunch boxes and drink bottles to be kept in classroom refrigerator.

**The school’s role is to:**

|  |
| --- |
| * To provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children. * Ensure heating/cooling equipment are provided and maintained to ensure a comfortable temperature for children. * Follow the Skin Protection Policy and advice from the Cancer Council. * Check all surfaces outdoors before play to ensure children are not at risk of burn injuries. |

**Staff WHS and role modelling**

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above staff are encouraged to:

• wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside

• apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen

• seek shade whenever possible.

.

Site manager and staff along with Governing Council will review the effectiveness of the Errington Special Education Centre Sun Protection Policy at least every three years and revise the policy when required.