

## INCLEMENT WEATHER TIMETABLE POLICY

### **Rationale:**

Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against adverse weather conditions, including wet weather and extreme heat during times when students would normally be outside.

### **Aims:**

To ensure the wellbeing of students and staff during times of inclement weather.

### **Implementation:**

1. As part of the usual yard duty timetable process, an 'inclement weather timetable' (previously 'wet day timetable') will be activated by the Principal, Assistant Principal or other senior staff member when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff.
2. An 'inclement weather timetable' may cover adverse weather conditions including rain, lightning, extreme wind, extreme heat, or any other condition that is considered by the Principal, Assistant Principal or other senior staff member to be adverse/unsuitable.
3. Where adverse weather conditions are obvious prior to children being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, an announcement will be made by a member of staff advising class teachers to follow the inclement weather timetable until further notice.
4. In such cases, teachers will supervise a number of grades (as previously agreed to by the teachers concerned & timetabled), for equal amounts of time at the lunch break or recess.
5. All children will be confined to classrooms unless permission has been granted by a teacher to leave temporarily, e.g. toilet break. Toilets may be accessed by walking under covered walkways on these occasions.
6. Children will be expected to behave sensibly at all times while indoors and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities\*.
7. In the case of adverse weather conditions occurring during a lunch or recess break, when students are already outside, a yard duty teacher will direct students to undercover areas until an announcement is made to come inside.
8. The Principal, Assistant Principal or other senior staff member will assess the situation and make the decision to call the students inside, or alternatively, to

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seek adequate shelter, in which case the yard duty teachers will continue to supervise outside.

9. In the event of children being required to come inside the school buildings, yard duty teachers will supervise the entry to the buildings, then ensure students find an appropriate activity to do.
10. In the event of adverse weather conditions prior to school hours, children will be permitted to enter their classrooms from 8.45am and must be supervised by their class teacher.
11. All staff and students are required to wear broad-brimmed hats during designated times consistent with the school's SunSmart policy.
12. Scheduled Sport, Physical Education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of adverse weather conditions.
13. Classroom teachers will discuss inclement weather timetables with their students as part of the Start Up Program. Behavioural expectations and acceptable activities for students will form part of the discussion. Teachers should consider displaying relevant information within their classroom.
14. Due to limited supervision, students should not be permitted to use computers or iPads during an inclement weather timetable.

### **Evaluation:**

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

#### **\*Appropriate games and activities**

Classroom teachers should ensure that their students are clear about the things they can do during an 'inclement weather timetable'. Some suggestions:

- Board games
- Jigsaws – commercially produced or kids can make their own by cutting up a picture
- Drawing, colouring in
- Dress ups
- Card games
- Play an appropriate movie, episode, video etc
- Make a book
- Teach your students some games they can play with a partner or small group
- Complete unfinished work