



BILPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Bilpin Public School Extreme Weather Policy

(Revised October 2019)

Rationale

Bilpin Public School is committed to providing safe and caring environments for students, staff and parents. This policy is designed to manage procedures and protocols for inclement weather events such as hot days, high wind, thunderstorms, smoke and dust.

It is expected parents will provide hats for students each and every day they attend school. Teachers may insist students play under a covered area if they are not wearing a hat.

High Temperature

- There is no temperature at which schools are required to close.
- In the event the temperature is predicted to be over 38 degrees at 1:00 pm the school will consider closing the top and bottom playground and opening the library and classrooms for students.
- In the event the temperature is 45 degrees or over, the school will close the fields and may restrict students to the library or classrooms.

High Winds

In the event of high winds being forecast the principal will monitor the situation and take the following actions on a needs basis to ensure the safety of students:

- Close areas under trees to minimise the risk of falling branches injuring a student
- In the event of high wind (above 50km per hour), consider closing all areas around trees or entire playground areas to ensure safety, and notify students via the phone system or assembly to exercise extreme care when moving around the school
- Ensure regular checks are made by arborists as to the health of trees and follow directives for the removal of branches/trees.

Thunderstorms

In the event of electrical storms the following arrangement will be carried out subject to the conditions being presented. When thunder and lightning occurs;

- Close all areas where trees are located
- Remove all students from top and bottom playgrounds
- Ensure all students are under cover or inside a room, until the storm passes.
- In the event a storm occurs at recess, lunch or at the end of the day, teachers may hold students in classrooms until the storm passes.
- Students will not use devices which are plugged into a power point during an electrical storm.

High levels of Smoke or Dust

When there is low air quality, principal will assess the situation and may restrict student movement and play by staying in the classrooms and or library at recess and lunch.

Basis of Discretion

When students and staff are involved in external learning events i.e. sports carnivals, camps, excursions etc, a decision will be made by the principal, in collaboration with key staff, to discern the impact of potential weather conditions on the safety of students.

At all times, the expertise of the Bureau of Meteorology will be acknowledged and utilised to ensure the safest decision can be made to maximise student safety.



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