EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

RATIONALE/PURPOSE
The SACCS Duty of Care Policy states:

“Duty of Care relates to the law of negligence and, simply, it means that teachers and schools owe a duty to students to take all reasonable measures to protect their safety and welfare. If an injury results from a teacher’s or a school’s failure to exercise the required standard of care, a negligence claim may result.”

It also states clearly that the school authority itself owns a duty of care to students – it has a duty to ensure that reasonable steps are taken for the safety and welfare of the children.

The nature and extent of the school’s authority is:
- to take all reasonable care to provide suitable and safe premises;
- to take all reasonable care to provide an adequate system to ensure that no child is exposed to any unnecessary risk of injury or neglect; and
- to take all reasonable care to see that the system is carried out.

St Martin de Porres School is committed to ensuring that all students in our care are safe and their well being is maintained.

It is recognised that weather conditions can change dramatically at St Martin de Porres, but equally it must be recognised that a process needs to be in place that can be followed, which isn’t reliant upon individual interpretation.

SCOPE
This policy applies to all St. Martin de Porres students and staff and shall be followed as outlined below.

PROCEDURE
A decision regarding weather conditions will be made by a member of the leadership team prior to the commencement of the play period and announced over the PA system.

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY
BEFORE SCHOOL INCLEMENT WEATHER
- If there is inclement weather, as defined by the teacher on duty, classrooms will be open from 8.30am. If a teacher is absent, a member of leadership will open the classroom until the relief teacher arrives at the school or other arrangements are made.

AFTER SCHOOL INCLEMENT WEATHER
- In the event of extreme weather at the end of the school day, students will stay under the verandah outside the library and wait for directions from the teachers on duty.
If the weather is extreme before home time, parents are permitted to collect their child(ren) from their class up to 20 minutes prior to the end of the school day to help relieve congestion in the car park and they do not need to be signed out.

**RECESS AND LUNCH TIME**

**HOT WEATHER**
If the temperature is 36 °C or above at recess or lunch (after checking the BOM website [http://bom.gov.au/weather](http://bom.gov.au/weather)), an announcement will be made prior to a break. Children will remain in classrooms and teachers are to share the supervision.

**WET WEATHER**
On days of extreme weather such as wind, rain, hail or thunderstorms, staff at St. Martin de Porres School will exercise duty of care and implement a “No outside activities” procedure. This may include reduced playtime, no outdoor playtime or emergency evacuation by calling all students inside to classrooms.

**General Procedures**
- Teaching staff will work in pairs for supervision so that they can go to the staff room for a break
- Students to stay in their allocated indoor area and are not play under the verandahs.
- Students may play games or take part in activities that are suitable for an indoor classroom environment – use of outside equipment (ball etc) is prohibited.
- Students leaving area to go to the toilet or canteen must receive teacher’s permission to do so.
- Where an excursion is planned for a day or HOT or WET weather, leadership will determine the safety of the excursion and advise if it should continue. If it is decided to cancel the excursion where possible it may be rescheduled.
- When it is wet but not raining, the oval grassed areas and sand pit are out of bounds. Students may play on the paved and court areas unless the condition of these are very wet.

**COMPETITION SPORTS POLICY**
On the days where the estimated maximum is 36 °C, interschool and competitive sport will be cancelled. This decision will be confirmed by the host school following discussions. The procedure will also apply to days of wet weather.

**SUN PROTECTION POLICY**
All children F-5 are required to wear an approved legionnaire school hat when outside during the months from September to April –Term 1 & 4. This includes recess, lunch and any lessons held outside and excursions. Children with no hats will be required to follow the **NO Hat Stay In The Shade Policy** and stay under cover in designated areas.

The use of 30+ sunscreen is encouraged (see Sun Protection Policy SBP 5).

NB the school will not be closed because of extremely hot weather: however, if a parent requests to take their child(ren), they will not be discouraged. It is expected that activities taken by the class will be modified to be suitable to the environment and any extremes in the weather.
PLEASE NOTE: School leadership may override this policy if circumstances on the day change.

ENDORSEMENT DETAILS

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Endorsed by School Board:

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