



Weather Policy

DATE- August 2025

REVIEW DATE- December 2028



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RATIONALE

Boulder Primary School has a duty of care to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff. Weather conditions in Western Australia, including extreme heat, UV exposure, storms, strong winds and rain, can present risks to health, safety and wellbeing.

As a recognised SunSmart School, Boulder Primary School is committed to promoting sun safety and ensuring that students and staff develop lifelong protective behaviours against overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

This policy ensures consistent practices that protect our students, staff and community, in line with the WA Department of Education Duty of Care and Health and Safety requirements.

1. ACTIVATION OF EXTREME WEATHER PROCEDURES

- **Heat:** When forecast maximum is expected to exceed 40°C combined with high humidity, the Principal will activate the “Extreme Weather” protocol.
 - **Wet/Stormy:** When heavy rain, storms or unsafe play surfaces are forecast or present, the same procedure is triggered.
 - **Program adjustments:** Postpone assemblies or outdoor learning; use classrooms, library or approved sheltered locations.
 - **Communication:** A member of the administration team will advise before recess and/or lunch, alerting staff and students to follow the protocol for the day.
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2. OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS – HEATWAVE / HIGH TEMPERATURE DAYS

- **No outdoor vigorous activity:** Cancel or postpone PE, sports, assemblies, and outdoor briefings.
 - **Adaptive recess/lunch:** Students gather in the undercover area to eat, supervised by Admin (Recess: 10:45–10:55 and Lunch: 1:05–1:20). They are then collected by their classroom teacher and return to class.
 - **Hydration & cooling:** Encourage frequent water intake; make fresh water, ice packs, hydrolytes, spray bottles, and extra water sources available.
 - **Environment control:** Use air conditioning or ceiling fans in indoor areas; keep windows and doors open early or slightly cracked; close blinds or shades when the sun is intense.
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3. OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS – WET / STORM WEATHER

- **Adaptive recess/lunch:** Students gather in the undercover area to eat, supervised by Administration (Recess: 10:45–10:55 and Lunch: 1:05–1:20). They are then collected by their classroom teacher and return to class.
 - **Program adjustments:** Postpone assemblies or outdoor learning; use classrooms, library or approved sheltered locations.
 - **Communication:** A member of the administration team will advise before recess and/or lunch, alerting staff and students to follow the protocol for the day.
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4. OPERATIONAL ADJUSTMENTS – SEVERE WEATHER (LIGHTNING, HIGH WINDS)

- During thunderstorms and lightning, students and staff will remain indoors until the risk has passed.
- Outdoor activities will be suspended if high winds or storm conditions present a safety risk (e.g., falling branches, flying debris).
- Excursions, outdoor events or camps may be postponed or modified if severe weather warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

5. SUN PROTECTION

- Boulder Primary School promotes a “Yes Hat, Yes Play” approach, supporting our Positive Behaviour Support framework.
 - Students must wear a broad-brimmed school hat at all times during outdoor play and activities throughout the year.
 - Students are encouraged to wear SPF 30+ (or higher) sunscreen.
 - Staff are expected to model sun-safe practices.
 - Students are encouraged to seek shade, and the school provides shade structures and trees in play areas.
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6. COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING

- The school monitors weather updates through the Bureau of Meteorology and applies Department of Education advice in response to severe weather warnings.
 - Parents and carers will be notified if weather conditions significantly affect school operations (e.g., early closure, cancellation of events).
 - The Principal has authority to adjust school operations in response to weather conditions.
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7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Principal:** Ensures this policy is implemented and aligned with Department of Education guidelines.
- **Staff:** Follow procedures, model safe practices, and adapt programs to protect student safety.
- **Students:** Wear appropriate clothing, a broad-brimmed hat at all times outdoors, and follow staff directions regarding weather safety.
- **Parents/Carers:** Provide children with appropriate clothing, a broad-brimmed school hat, and a water bottle daily.