



# HOT WEATHER POLICY

## Rationale:

The safety of all staff and students at all times is paramount. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment which maximises the learning conditions and opportunities for all students.

## Building Design:

Gulfview Heights school buildings are over thirty years old. Whilst all buildings are of solid construction and air conditioned by evaporative cooling they are predominantly open space design which accommodate well over 100 students at any given time.

A hard cover pergola was erected over the amphitheatre area in 2008 to provide additional shaded protection from the sun during outdoor learning activities.

## DECD Early Dismissal Guidelines:

- Students may be dismissed at 12.30 pm on days when the forecast maximum is 38°C or higher, or up to one hour before normal dismissal time when the estimated maximum temperature is to be at least 36°C. Arrangements must comply with a school policy determined in consultation with the school council, endorsed by the appropriate District Director and conveyed, in writing, to parents at least once annually. The policy must take into account factors which include location, building design and whether or not the school is equipped with air conditioning.
- Staff are expected to remain on duty on days of early dismissal. The principal will be expected to provide an appropriate standard of care until normal dismissal time for students whose parents are unable to make alternative arrangements.

## Gulfview Heights Primary School Hot Weather Policy

1. **When the forecast temperature is 36 degrees or above (as broadcast on ABC 891 AM) on any single day the local temperature will be checked on the Australian Bureau of Meteorology at 12.30 and if recorded 36 degrees or above the following procedures will be actioned:**
  - Students will go out for Recess play ONLY in restricted play shaded areas ie. amphitheatre, grassed hill area, verandah areas. The oval area will be closed at all times.
  - Students will remain indoors during lunchtime play period and be able to access the Resource Centre and computer room for activities. Teachers will pair up and provide release for each other to ensure all staff have an adequate break.
  - All physical and sporting activities outdoors will be suspended for the day. Where possible, these can be relocated to the gym.
  - All classes who have booked excursions for the day will need to seek direct approval from the Principal before proceeding with the excursion. A decision as to whether the excursion proceeds or not will be negotiated with the teacher with transport and venue taken into consideration.
  - Teachers will open up and air buildings, switch off lights where possible and draw blinds shut to keep class areas as cool as possible.
  - Technology equipment will be turned off where possible.
  - All classes will have regular breaks and ensure students maintain their water intake. Students are encouraged to bring frozen water bottles to school.
  - Classes may use spray water bottles under direct supervision of teacher.
  - All classes are expected to maintain their regular learning program to lunchtime, with modified learning programs to be implemented after lunchtime.
  - It is recommended that fitness should be conducted before recess.
  - Classes will be encouraged to access cooler areas of the school including the gym and resource centre where possible.
  - Student lunches will be brought indoors and where necessary stored in the fridge.
  - Consideration will be given to those staff that have recess duty so that they can receive a break.

- **EARLY DISMISSAL practice will not be endorsed.** Parents / carers who wish to 'pick up' their children early from school for medical or family reasons will need to 'sign out' students through the front office as per our regular late arrival / early departure procedures.
2. **When the forecast temperature is 38 degrees or above for two consecutive school days or more (as broadcast on ABC 891 AM) the following procedures will be actioned commencing on the third day (provided the third day is also forecast above 38 degrees in the same school week):**
- All procedures as above to be actioned
  - **Additionally EARLY DISMISSAL practice will be endorsed:**
  - Students may be dismissed early at 12:45pm in line with lunch time eating.
  - Students will need to be 'signed out' at the front office and collected by an adult. The front office staff and teachers will need to be informed either by phone or in writing of the 'pick up' arrangements if they differ from usual ie. another adult collecting your child on your behalf.
  - Students will not be allowed to walk home even if this is their usual after school arrangement
  - These procedures will be conveyed annually to parents and members of school community, and written consent obtained annually for early dismissal practice.
  - Teachers will remain on duty until 3:15pm for students whose parents are unable to make alternative arrangements.

NB: In the event forecast temperatures and weather conditions are extreme the Principal will determine whether it is safe for students to be outdoors at recess time.