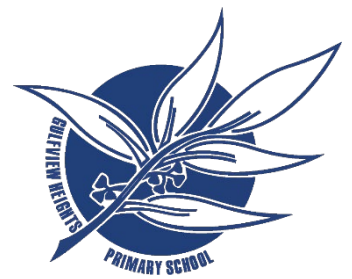


Gulfview Heights Primary School



Inclement Weather Policy

Rationale & Context:

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.

Inclement weather can affect everyday activities and comes in many forms. Inclement weather includes:

- extreme high temperatures
- high UV levels
- heavy rain or hail
- strong winds
- severe dust storm
- lightning or thunderstorm
- flooding

When planning outdoor activities it's important to prepare contingency plans to minimise the risk of injury and illness from inclement weather. Outdoor activities includes sports, events, travel, camps and excursions.

Gulfview Heights has an **R1 Bushfire Rating and has an Emergency Management Plan** which outlines our course of action as a site during Bushfire season (Terms 1 & 4). Additionally, this policy should be read in conjunction with our **Sun Protection Policy** which is a requirement of our Cancer Council of SA SunSmart schools annual accreditation.

Building Design:

Gulfview Heights school buildings are over 40 years old. All buildings are of solid construction and are well maintained, with all areas recently being either refurbished or redeveloped. All buildings with the exception of the gymnasium (Bushfire Refuge Area) have newly installed refrigerated air conditioning.

All indoor learning spaces have been complimented by access to many indoor break-out spaces and outdoor hard covered learning spaces, providing flexibility in the delivery of learning programs and protection from the outdoor elements.

Outdoor learning spaces include the amphitheatre area, COLA space behind the Primary Years learning unit, undercover veranda areas and shaded play equipment.

Procedures in place in the event of inclement weather conditions:

Site leaders must make sure they've considered the potential hazards for all locations and situations impacted by inclement weather conditions.

Monitor, or delegate someone to monitor, daily weather forecasts and severe danger weather forecasts through **Bureau of Meteorology** and identify any potential inclement weather risks.

Consider the health and safety risks to employees, students and others before allowing them to undertake outdoor activities, and make necessary changes to learning activities, transport arrangements, movement to and from learning and play spaces, access to outdoor learning spaces, student supervision etc.

Look out for:

- Signs of an approaching storm such as dark sky, high winds, thunder and lightning.
- Tree debris that might pose a slip or trip hazard such as leaves, nuts and branches.
- Damaged tree limbs and branches that may fall.
- Wet floors and stairs.
- Employees or students having trouble breathing triggered by dust, thunderstorms or panic.

During hot weather look out for:

- Signs and symptoms of heat-related illness
- Avoid sitting under trees during prolonged hot weather as heat stress can cause branches and limbs to break.
- Eucalypts are especially dangerous during hot weather as they will shed healthy branches or limbs to preserve water in the rest of the tree.

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 i.e. amphitheatre, grassed hill area by Nature Play area, veranda areas, COLA. 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 IT suite for activities. Learning Community colleagues will 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 will be modified and 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 arrangements and venue taken into consideration.
- Doors & windows are kept closed at all times to maximise performance of air conditioners.
- It is recommended that daily fitness activities be conducted before recess.
- Student lunches will be brought indoors and where necessary stored in the fridge.

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.