

Upper Plenty Primary School INCLEMENT WEATHER

POLICY

Rationale:

- Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against inclement weather during times when students would normally be at school.

Aims:

- To ensure the wellbeing of students and staff during times of inclement weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

Implementation:

- As part of the usual yard duty timetable process, an inclement weather timetable will be activated by the Principal or staff in charge when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff.
- Inclement weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning, or any other condition that is considered to be unsuitable.
- Where inclement weather is obvious prior to children being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, the yard duty teacher will notify class teachers to follow the inclement weather time-table until further notice.
- In such cases, teachers will supervise a number of grades (as previously agreed to by the teachers concerned), for half the recess or lunch break, then swap over.
- All children will be confined to classrooms unless permission has been granted by a teacher to leave temporarily, e.g. toilet break.
- Children will be expected to walk indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities.
- In the case of inclement weather during a recess break, the yard duty teacher will activate the inclement weather timetable.
- The yard duty teacher will assess the situation and make the decision to call the children inside, or alternatively, to seek adequate shelter, in which case the yard duty teachers will continue to supervise outside.
- All staff and students are required to wear broad-brimmed hats during terms 1 and 4 consistent with the school's Sunsmart policy.
- Scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of inclement weather.
- **Where the Melbourne forecast for the temperature is 35 degrees or more (as per the channel seven 6 o'clock news), the lunch break will be shortened by 15 minutes and the dismissal time for school will be brought forward to 3pm. No Staggered dismissal on these days.** Staff will remain on duty for the normal hours. Students not collected by parents will be supervised in their classrooms. Parents will be reminded of this aspect of the policy each year.

Notes:

- Where practical, the school website will be used to confirm inclement weather days, as will the school car park notice board.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

October 2013