

Inclement Weather

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 outside.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is 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.

Definition

Inclement weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning, or any other condition that is considered by the Principal to be unsuitable.

Implementation

- As part of the usual yard duty timetable process, an inclement weather timetable will be activated by the Principal when conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for students and staff.
- Where inclement weather is obvious prior to children being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, an announcement will be made by the Principal / Assistant Principal advising 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 stay indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities.
- In the case of inclement weather during a recess break, a yard duty teacher will inform the Principal/Assistant Principal of the possible need to activate the inclement weather timetable.
- The Principal / Assistant Principal 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.
- In the event of children being required to come inside the school buildings, yard duty teachers will ensure all students leave the playground.
- Children are to line up; in their designated areas until their supervising teacher arrive to take them inside.
- Teachers are to quickly make their way to the classrooms, or other assembly areas, that they are required to supervise.
- All staff and students at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Primary School are required to wear broad-brimmed hats during terms 1 and 4 consistent with the school's Sunsmart policy.

- In case of inclement weather scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled.

Evaluation

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

Ratified by B. Marrinon, August, 2013.

