

Policy: *Hot Weather Policy*

Review Date: *February 2018*

Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection in times of extreme heat waves. Stirling North Primary School (SNPS) aims to ensure the wellbeing of students and staff during times of very hot weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

When the radio forecast at 8.00am indicates temperatures of over 38 degrees, the students are to be kept indoors during play periods. Other areas of the school that provide adequate cooling may be used as alternative areas for students and staff if classroom air conditioners are not operating effectively. Scheduled sports matches are to be cancelled. When the radio forecast at 8.00am indicated temperatures of over 36 degrees, there are to be no outdoor sport/fitness activities from 11.00am and no after school sports practices.

Students are encouraged to drink plenty of water during very hot weather.

Lights, computers and Smartboards are to be turned off to avoid a power outage. Doors and windows are to be kept closed.

SNPS currently has air conditioners in all teaching areas. However, some of these units are not effective in extreme hot weather, due to their age and limited capacity. If the air conditioners are not providing adequate cooling, or if they are not operating at all (such as in a power failure), students are to be moved to an alternative area in the school where adequate cooling is in place.

Students who are feeling the strain of the current heat wave may be better off not attending school. Parents can assess whether the home can offer cooler conditions than school. These children will be marked absent for family reasons or heat related illness. (The office must still be notified).



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Parents may choose to collect their children early from school. Any students collected early must be signed out through the front office. Students will not be allowed to go home unaccompanied by an adult.

If the school cannot provide a comfortable environment for all students, parents/caregivers are to be contacted and asked to collect their children. Those students whose parents or caregivers cannot be contacted, or who cannot be collected, will be cared for at school in the most comfortable areas available. All students must be signed out in the front office by parents or caregivers before they leave the school before normal dismissal time at 3.15pm. (2:25pm on Mondays).

Ratified by Governing Council – February 2015



Government of South Australia
Department for Education