

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Rationale:

MTCPS has 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.

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 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 by the Principal to be unsuitable.
- Where inclement weather is obvious prior to children being dismissed for a recess or lunch break, an announcement will be made 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.
- Teachers, other than classroom teachers, will similarly share supervision of students.
- 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, a yard duty teacher will inform the Principal/Deputy Principal of the possible need to activate the inclement weather timetable.
- The Principal / Deputy 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 supervise the corridor briefly while designated teachers make their way to the classrooms, or other areas, that they are required to supervise.
- Scheduled sport, physical education or other outside activities will need to be rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of inclement weather.

SCOPE

Staff and students at Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School

PRINCIPLES

Teachers accept 'Duty of Care' commencing at 7:55 am when the first bell rings, and concluding at 3:00pm

Ratified 2023

Review 2025



INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Mild Weather Procedure:

When weather is mild enough to allow for play in the undercover area for 15 minute intervals in a shared rotation.

Recess & Lunch Timetable

	Assembly Area Play	Inside Play
10:15 - 10:30	Middle & Upper Primary students	Lower Primary Students
10:30 - 10:45	Lower Primary Students	Middle & Upper Primary students
12:45 - 1:00	Middle & Upper Primary students	Lower Primary Students
1:00 - 1:15	Lower Primary Students	Middle & Upper Primary students

Extreme/Unsafe Weather Procedure:

During wet weather & heat wave days, where safety is an issue, teachers and support staff will provide supervision in learning foyers. When this occurs, information will be announced over PA to remind all staff and students of procedures in place. Office staff will collect & deliver lunch orders on these occasions.

Where wet weather occurs whilst students are on the playground, a bell will sound followed by a message to inform students & teachers to move safely to their learning foyer.

If extreme wet weather occurs at dismissal time, parents will be notified and will collect students from classrooms.

WET WEATHER & HEAT WAVE DUTY:

Staff will need to provide duty of care in learning foyers provided below.

Teachers & ISAs assist each other and alternate break times to allow for adequate supervision of students and a break for all staff. Teachers are expected to use professional courtesy to ensure all staff share the duty load during inclement weather situations, especially when this continues for days at a time.

Example:

- Teacher 1 and ISA 1 on duty for half of break time
- Teacher 2 and ISA 2 on duty for 2nd half of break time
- Teacher 3 and ISA 3 on duty for eating time

REVIEW HISTORY

Year of Review	Reviewed by	Amendments/Review
2023	Leadership Team	Amended - normal yard duty roster suspended

NEXT REVIEW

Year	Responsibility
2025	School Staff