



Hot Weather Policy

1 PREFACE

Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School, is hereby referred to as 'the School'.

The School's policies which are made from time to time are made pursuant to the requirements set out in section 47 of the *Education Act 1990* and of the NESAs for registration of the school.

2 OBJECTIVES

The aim of this policy is to outline the school's approach to managing school teaching and learning activities during extreme weather.

3 SCOPE

This policy applies to staff, students and the wider school community.

4 DEFINITIONS

Extreme weather events referred to in this policy are excessive heat or heatwave conditions, as advised by the Bureau of Meteorology. A heatwave is now defined by three or more days of unusually high maximum and high minimum temperatures in any area.

While the northern rivers area may experience cold weather events they would not be classified as extreme in the context of the temperatures experienced in comparison to other areas of Australia.

5 PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

5.1

Heat waves or long periods of extreme heat can have an impact on staff and students. During very hot and extreme heat conditions, students, staff and the school community can be at greater risk of health problems.

5.2

School staff manage risks associated with excessive heat at school through a variety of strategies including:

- Providing extra hydration breaks and wet face clothes to younger students
- Using sprinklers and wading pools to cool off
- Confining play to shaded areas or remaining indoors
- Using fans, curtains blinds and other devices in appropriate ways to remain cool
- Modifying or postponing physical activity classes

- Modifying teaching and learning activities, as appropriate through such things as varying normal teaching programs through the use of shady and cool outdoor facilities
- Rotating students through air-conditioned rooms throughout the day, when possible
- Requesting students wear broad brimmed hats and sun protective, light, loose clothing
- Encouraging students to seek shade when outdoors, and providing a variety of shade options when outdoors, including temporary shade shelters as appropriate.

5.3

The school embraces passive design suitable for the local climate. Ceiling fans, wide verandas, cross ventilation, insulation, natural vegetation and shade are considered in the building and design of student learning spaces and facilities.

6 RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Work Health and Safety Policy

Building and facilities Policy

7 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for ensuring that this policy is reviewed for effectiveness and updated on a regular basis.

The Head of Education and Operations are responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented through the development and implementation of action plans, procedures and other documentation. The Head of Education and Operations are also responsible for ensuring that these documents are monitored for implementation, reviewed for effectiveness and updated on a regular basis.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version:	Date approved:	Description of changes made from previous version
V1	07/06/2018	
Draft B		
Draft A	NA	
Next review date:		

Version:	Author:	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
V1			School Board
Draft B			
Draft A			NA