Extreme Weather Policy

What is Extreme Weather?
At Anne Hamersley Primary School, the definition of *extreme weather* is defined by extreme heat or heatwave or extreme rain, thunder lightning and/or storm.
Extreme heat or heatwave is defined a period of unusual and uncomfortable hot weather that can negatively affect health.
Extreme Wet Weather is defined by a period of heavy rain, thunder, lightning and/or storm.

Purpose:
This policy has been developed to provide guidelines for Anne Hamersley Primary School to implement strategies to manage the risks associated with extreme heat or extreme wet weather and unsafe conditions including early intervention, prevention and preparedness measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all staff and students during periods of extreme weather.

School Closures:
Schools do not close at a certain temperature threshold during days of extreme heat or wet weather. A decision to close any school is made by the Deputy director General Schools in consultation with the Director of Education. If the principal holds concern regarding the health and safety of staff and students, they should contact their Director of Education, to consider appropriate actions.

Implementation of Extreme Weather:
The decision to implement the Extreme Weather Policy will be at the direction of the Principal.
An announcement will be made by a member of the administration team, prior to the upcoming recess/lunchtime break.

Adjustments School Operations:
The regular duty roster will be cancelled for the duration of the break.
Duty will occur within the classroom. Students and staff will stay inside.
All clubs will be cancelled.
The canteen will remain open.
Modify physical education lessons and not undertake them outside. Provide alternative inside activities.
School events will be postponed (such as assemblies) where adequate shade/shelter is not able to be provisioned for students, staff and visitors.
Vigorous activity will be postponed or cancelled.
Ahletics and swimming carnivals will be postponed.
Modify learning programs to protect students and staff from long periods of high temperatures.
Teachers will allow drink bottles in classrooms, including the provision of additional water bottles during periods of extreme heat.
School bags and/or lunchboxes will be kept inside the classroom.
Classes may rotate through use of airconditioned facilities where available i.e. library, transportables.

Recess/Lunchtime Inside the Classroom:
Teachers will take turns (15 minutes each) to supervise students and have their breaks..
With the exception of Kindy classes and two classes combine with the first teacher listed supervising from 11:10-11:25am (recess) or 1.30-1.45pm (lunch). The second teacher supervises from 11:25-11:40am (recess) or 1.45-2.00pm (lunch).
Students will follow the regular 10-minute eating time for recess/lunch.
Teachers will provide viewing on the IWB and/or small group activities. All movies must be rated G and previewed before viewing.
EAs will to do their regular duty in their class and/or student and take breaks per their timetable.
Specialist teachers listed are to assist in the block as needed.
Additional teachers not listed are to assist for 15 minutes as needed.

Consider Adjustments to the Classroom:
Close any internal and external blinds.
Use portable shade structures where possible.

Utilise large industrial fans and ensure indoor spaces have open doors and windows or air conditioning during activities.
Use fans or other devices (wet flannels) in an appropriate way to remain cool.
Ensure sufficient water supplies within the school.

Educate, Prepare and Monitor Staff and Students:
The School will…
Display heat guidelines and charts in prominent locations in the school for reminders about hydration and symptoms.
Educate and encourage students and school staff to stay hydrated.
Communicate to staff the symptoms of and response to heat related illness.
Conduct walk-throughs and check ins with staff and students to monitor impact of heat.
Review first aid kits and consider the inclusion of additional ice packs and hydrolytes.
Establish sunscreen stations for staff and students.
Review students with known medical conditions and triage support for those more likely to be impacted by the heat.
Consult with staff who work outside (e.g., gardeners/physical education teachers), reallocate their duties.

Extreme Weather During Recess/Lunch:
If the weather turns Extreme *during* recess or lunchtime, a PA announcement will instruct all teachers to implement the Extreme weather policy immediately.
Teachers on duty will instruct students to return to their classrooms, staying undercover until their teacher arrives.
All teachers are to go back to their classrooms to supervise children and discuss further breaks if required as per the extreme weather process. Please follow the supervision schedule below, making sure all teachers receive a break. Let admin know if this does not occur.
The oval duty teacher will remove all students from the oval and lock the oval gate.
Equipment is to be put away in each block.

All school staff will implement a consistent approach to the Extreme Weather Policy at Anne Hamersley Primary School. Teachers will support students to stay safe and support colleagues to deal with inappropriate behaviour of students where applicable.

*** Please note that drizzle/sprinkling rain is not considered 'Extreme Weather'. If there is no announcement, then regular duty procedures will apply. If it begins drizzling/sprinkling rain during recess or lunchtime, duty teachers will direct students out of the rain to the nearest shelter in their duty area.**

During long periods of extreme heat or extreme wet weather:
schools stay open.
parents may keep their child at home.
parents may withdraw their child from parts of the school program.

Communication to Parents:
During periods of extreme heat Anne Hamersley Primary School will communicate to parents, vis Connect, to notify parents/carers about upcoming weather conditions and remind them to provide their child with extra water, sunscreen, icepacks in lunch boxes.

Identify Heat-Related Symptoms and Illness:
Some common heat-related symptoms include:
heat rash.
heat cramps, including muscle pains or spasms.
dizziness and fainting.

Signs of Heat-Related Illness:

Heat Exhaustion: Warning signs may include paleness and sweating, rapid heart rate, muscle cramps, headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness or fainting.
Heat Stroke: A person with heat stroke may stagger, appear confused, have a fit, collapse and become unconscious. This is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention.
Heat Stress: Signs of dehydration, heat rash and heat cramps (muscle pains or spasms), dizziness and faintin

Treatment of Heat-Related Illness:
Treatment options vary according to the type of heat-related illness.
If a student, staff member or visitor shows any sign of heat exhaustion or heatstroke, schools must apply first aid and seek medical assistance immediately.
Some heat-related illnesses and common symptoms include; Deterioration in existing medical conditions
Heat stress – is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention.

Disruption to Services:
In the event of a disruption to essential services during extreme heat, staff should:
Report fault to admin and record in the Maintenance Book in the office. The office staff will report the fault to the Department of Finance Maintenance service centre on 13 21 34
Report to Capital Works and Maintenance on 9264 4212
Notify the regional office director of education.

Air Conditioner Usage Considerations:
For schools with reverse cycle air conditioners, consider raising the temperature of the system if this can be locally controlled.
Raising the temperature that the air conditioner is attempting to cool the room will reduce the power draw.
Air conditioners installed following the Department's school design documents (Primary School Brief/Secondary School Planning Guidelines) should be preset to only allow the temperature to be varied from 21-23˚C.
In this case, raise the temperature to 23˚C. If possible, raising the temperature higher (e.g., to 26˚C) will further reduce power draw.
Notes regarding evaporative cooling systems Evaporative coolers are less effective in high humidity and at high temperatures (typically above 38˚C).
For improved efficiency, ensure windows are slightly open to push out hot air.
Consider using fans instead of air conditioners. If the air conditioner can be controlled locally, change to fan only mode and consider using pedestal or ceiling fans if available.
Use of air conditioners could be staggered around different areas of the school to reduce the power draw at any one time.
Consider turning off non-essential electrical equipment. This should be considered on a case-by-case basis but may include:
preferencing paper-based work to reduce use of computers
turning off unused/non-essential computers

Supervision Schedule for Extreme Weather

1st Recess & 1st Lunch (STAY)	2nd Recess/2nd Lunch (MOVE TO)
A1/ BF (M-W)	CM (M) KJ (W) / Cortney (M-T), Katie (T-W)
A6/ KJ (M), CA (T) HO (W) DT (TH), JASMINE (F)	A7/ Niki (M-W), BF (TH), BN (F)
A2	A3
A4	A5
P1	P2
P3	P4
S1	S2
S3	S5
S4	KF (M-W) AUSLAN (TH, F)
C1	C2
C3	C4
C5	SCIENCE (M, T, TH, F), AUSLAN (W)
E1	E2
E3	E4
O1	O2
O3	ART
O5	AUSLAN (M-T), MUSIC (W-F)
O6	PE