

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

### 1. CONTEXT

This policy has been developed with respect to inclement weather conditions, particularly in the case of hot and wet weather, but also in other circumstances such as storms, or extremely cold conditions, this policy is provided for the College to meet the following objectives:

- to provide guidelines for staff so that their duty of care are acknowledged and addressed, but also to ensure that the College has acted responsibly
- to establish procedures and processes to assist staff in making decisions efficiently to establish consistency of practice.

### 2. PURPOSE

Nazareth has a duty of care to ensure all staff, students and community members are safe and protected from extreme weather conditions. This applies to all physical activities, whether at school or at an excursion, to ensure the risk of harm due to high temperatures, rain/hail, storms and high winds are minimised. We encourage a commonsense approach with consideration given to the comfort and well-being of all individuals involved. Modification and or the limitation of play during school breaks, PE lessons, after school sports and excursions may need to occur.

This policy applies to all students and staff.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**Inclement weather** is defined as 'abnormal conditions', whether they be of hail, cold, storm, wind, or high temperatures that may affect normal activities across Nazareth College.

**College** includes all Nazareth Catholic College Campuses and all the services offered by the college.

### 4. POLICY

#### **Inclement Weather Guidelines**

- In the event of inclement weather conditions occurring while the students are at school, the College's Senior Leadership Team will make an announcement via the Public Announcement (PA) System advising staff and students that the Inclement Weather Policy is to be implemented.
- Staff members and students are not to play on ovals or sit under trees until further notice.

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- Classes will run as normal, with staff members varying learning activities accordingly.
- Physical education or outdoor education classes will be appropriately modified where possible, relocated or postponed.
- During break periods, staff members will be assigned supervisory duties as per the Inclement Yard Duty Roster, and students are to participate in 'passive' play activities with the College gymnasium and indoor appropriate places such as library and breakout spaces.

## **Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat is temperature that exceeds 36°C or when an extreme heatwave is declared.

- The College's Senior Leadership Team will make an announcement via the PA system and/or a staff briefing/meeting advising staff and students that the Inclement Weather Policy is to be implemented until further advised.
- Students are encouraged to regularly drink water, and water bottles are to be kept at student desks.
- Classes will run as normal, with teachers varying learning activities accordingly.
- Leadership to consider whether movement to be limited on extreme heat days – timetable changes may be required
- Additional bus services to be used for movement that cannot be reduced
- If academic classes cannot be held in air-conditioned environments, they should be relocated to an area where air-conditioning is available, or the activities are to be altered accordingly.
- Physical education classes will be appropriately modified where possible or postponed.
- During break periods, staff will be assigned supervisory duties as per the Yard Duty Roster and students are to participate in 'passive' play activities or remain indoors.
- College sports activities that involve participation for prolonged periods outdoors, such as sporting and athletics, swimming carnivals, and outdoor excursions will be postponed, or times of events may be amended to a cooler part of the day. The decision to postpone or change events will be made by the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with relevant teaching staff 24 hours prior to the event.

Where physical education and other outdoor classes are to be held outdoors during Terms 1 and 4, the College must practise the guidelines as per the UV Protection Procedure.

## **Extreme Heat & UV Protection**

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. However, too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage, and skin cancer. Sun exposure in childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Please refer to section 5 for a link to the Sun Safety Protection Policy.

## **Wet Weather**

- The College's Senior Leadership Team will make an announcement via the PA system and/or a staff briefing/meeting advising staff and students that the Inclement Weather Policy is to be implemented until further advised.



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- When it is raining at the commencement of play, it will be considered that students are to stay in breakout spaces, the gymnasium, library or designated classrooms until an announcement is heard.
- Senior Leadership to consider whether movement to be limited on Wet weather days – timetable changes may be required
- Additional bus services to be used for movement that cannot be reduced

## **Working in Hot Conditions**

Heat stress and heat-related illnesses are serious and preventable. When working in hot conditions, it is important that staff adhere to the guidelines as outlined by SafeWork SA to prevent heat related illness and consider the health and safety risks arising from working in hot conditions.

Please refer section 5 for a link to the Safework SA guidelines for working in hot conditions and the 2025 Workplace Health Improvement Practice for Extreme Heat.

## **Excursions, Camps, Sporting Events, & Off-site Activities**

- Where an off-site activity has been planned and there is a forecast of inclement weather, the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with attending staff, will make a decision as to whether the activity will proceed based on the (BOM) Bureau of Meteorology forecast.
- In the event that weather conditions deteriorate while staff and students are participating in an off-site activity, the attending staff members, in consultation with members of the Senior Leadership Team, will decide if the activity is to proceed. If the safety of students, staff, parents, or others in attendance is placed at risk, an immediate decision will be made to terminate the activity and return to the College.
- Where an extreme weather event is forecast, the Leadership Team will postpone all excursions, camps, sporting events, and off-site activities until it is safe to proceed. All members of the College community affected by the postponement of the event will be informed of this occurrence up to three days prior, if possible, to the event, or by notification via the morning Staff Daily Bulletin.

## **5. SUPPORTING LINKS & DOCUMENTATION**

- ✓ [Adelaide weather forecast – BOM](#)
- ✓ [South Australian Commission Catholic Schools Duty of Care Policy](#)
- ✓ [Catholic Safety Health and Welfare Work Health Safety and Injury Management Policy](#)
- ✓ [Sun Safety Protection](#)
- ✓ [SafeWork SA | Heat & UV](#)
- ✓ [2025 WHIP Extreme Heat](#)



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## 6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT

Responsibility for implementation, monitoring and review of the policy is vested at the level appropriate to the following roles:

- Principal
- R-12 Deputy Principal
- Early Years Director, Heads of Campus and Campus Leadership Team Members
- House Leaders and Year Level Coordinators
- Class and Mentor Group Teachers
- ECC Staff

## 7. REVISION RECORD

The following roles provide a point of contact for the policy and are responsible for its ongoing review:

Policy Leader	R-12 Deputy Principal
Approval Authority	Nazareth Leadership Team
Implementation Date	February 2025
Review Date	February 2028

