

Wet Weather Policy



**Wellard
Village**

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wellard Village Primary School Wet Weather Policy



Purpose

The Wet Weather policy is provided to ensure a high level of duty of care for all students, staff, and the wider community during periods of inclement weather at WVPS. Consideration is also given to the need for staff to obtain a break period on wet days.

This policy has been developed in consultation with the WVPS Steering Committee and in accordance with the Department of Education's "Duty of Care for Public School Students Policy". Any review or future changes will be made with the approval of the future WVPS School Board.

Duty of Care

The Department is committed to achieving a balance between protecting students from an unreasonable risk of harm and encouraging students' independence and maximising their educational opportunities. All Department of Education employees have a duty of care to protect students from risk of harm that can reasonably be foreseen when students are involved in all school activities. This statement can be read within the context of wet weather.

Definitions

To ensure that staff, students, and the wider community have a common understanding of what we define as inclement weather and the practices associated with each type, please refer to the definitions below.

1. Wet Weather – light rain, light wind, and no chance of lightning.
2. Cold weather – very cold temperatures and/or strong winds.
3. Severe Wet Weather – heavy rain, storms, strong winds and lightning.

Our school will implement the Wet Weather Policy when it is raining, very cold or if there has been significant recent wet weather that makes areas within the school unsafe. The decision to cancel activities or events due to weather will be at the discretion of the Principal or a nominated person e.g. Associate Principals to ensure foreseeable risk is managed.

Procedures:

	<u>Play during break times</u>	<u>Physical Education</u>
<u>Wet Weather</u>	✓	✓
<u>Cold Weather</u>	✓	Physical Education (PE) will be conducted in the Undercover Area during Cold or Severe Weather. If available, the PE teacher will use the area, unless it is too cold. If the assembly area is not suitable or available, then the PE teacher will use the classroom.
<u>Severe Weather</u>	✗	

Inclement weather prior to play time:

- The Principal, or delegate will make the decision to call wet weather, cold weather or severe wet weather. A school administrator will announce that the Wet Weather policy is to be implemented (over the PA).
- Students will remain in their classrooms under the supervision of their class teacher.
- Teachers in adjoining rooms may negotiate with the other class teacher to share supervision.
- Students will be directed into one room prior to their teacher leaving for a break period.
- Administration staff and support teachers will provide assistance where required.

Inclement weather during play time:

- If the weather during a break period becomes inclement the duty teacher will direct all students to the nearest covered area and contact administration, who will determine if 'Wet Weather' is called.
- Administration will provide assistance as required.
- If safety is determined to be a concern, a member of the administration staff will ring the siren, call 'Wet Weather' over the PA and end the break period early.

Wet weather: play opportunities

- Children will be able to play on days when the weather is wet (light rain only, that is on and off) and are able to wear a raincoat at play times and change into and out of gum boots.
- To enable our children the opportunities to play all year round when the weather is wet, we will utilise the undercover playgrounds, Library and Undercover Area.
- ECE children will be able to access the playground and sandpits that are in covered shelters.

Wet Weather Inside Play Locations

When 'severe weather' is called, staff will provide opportunities for children to play inside. Please note; this is for play only, as eating is inside each individual classroom.

Location	Procedures	Staff Involved
TB1: Kindy 1 and 2	Teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break	Teachers and Allied Staff Maintain 1:10 ratio
TB1: PP 1 and PP 2	Teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break	PP Teachers and Allied Staff
TB 2: LF 1 and LF 2	Teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break	Year 1 Teachers
TB 2: LF 3 and LF 4	Teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break	Year 2 Teachers
TB 2: UF 1 and UF 2	Teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break	Year 3 Teachers
TB 2: UF 3 and UF 4	Teachers will provide duty of care and take turns having a break	Year 4-6 Teachers

- Special Needs Allied Staff to remain with timetabled classrooms on that day and time.
- Specialist staff: to have a 10-minute break first and then offer support to TB 2: Upper Floor.
- As the day warms up and/or the wind eases, teachers may take their students out for a short play at their discretion.

Dress Code- dressing for the weather

- It is important that parents support our students by dressing them appropriately for Winter weather so that our school can maximise play opportunities for the students during break times.
- Parents are encouraged to ensure children wear the school jacket and tracksuit pants during **cold weather**.
- Children are permitted to wear a raincoat during **wet weather**, so that they are still able to play during light periods of rain.
- Parents should ensure that children have a change of dry clothing in their school bags during the Winter season to enable children to play all year round.
- Umbrellas will not be permitted at play times, as they pose a risk to the safety of all.

Wet Weather for parents: drop off and pick up

- **Before school:** All students are encouraged to arrive when classes open (8.30am).
- **Before school:** If students arrive early when all gates open at 8.20am, they must go directly to the class undercover verandah and await classroom doors opening:
 - TB1 students are to wait outside their classrooms
 - TB2 ground floor students are to wait outside their classrooms
 - TB2 upper floor students are to wait in the alcove outside the internal activity area (lower floor)
 - TB 3 floor students are to wait outside their classrooms
 - TB3 upper floor students are to wait in the alcove outside the internal activity area (lower floor)
 - TB4 students are to wait outside their classrooms
- **After school:** Gates will be opened by staff approximately 10 minutes before the end of the day.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to arrive 5 minutes before the end of the school day. If parents arrive before the end of the school day, they can wait in the verandah space outside their child's class or under the administration block verandah.
- Students who walk or ride home by themselves should bring appropriate wet weather protection to school.