



AVELEY
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Extreme Weather Procedure

Aveley Secondary College is committed to providing a safe environment which reduces exposure of students and employees to the effects of extreme weather conditions such as heat, humidity, hail and lightning. The health and safety of all school members during heat and extreme weather conditions is a priority of the College. The College has installed numerous shade sails on the oval and around the College grounds to provide plenty of shade and cover areas for students, providing protection from the sun and rain.

Heatwave/Hot Weather Procedure (incorporating SunSmart guidelines)

ASC is committed to providing a safe environment which reduces exposure of students and staff to conditions that could result in heat stress or skin cancer. Heat stress (also known as heat illness) and heat stroke occur when the body is unable to disperse excess heat and maintain its normal body temperature. Contributing factors include work rate, dehydration, air temperature, humidity, air flow, clothing, and radiant heat. Heat stress can occur in both outdoor and indoor environments. The Bureau of Meteorology alerts the Education Department when heatwave conditions are expected, and our extreme weather procedures are applied.

Sunscreen is available in PE classes, bucket hats and caps are available at the uniform shop, and uniforms were designed using high UV rating fabrics.

Where potential risk of heat stress is identified:

- Events or outdoor activities will be considered for rescheduling, postponement, cancellation, or making adjustments e.g. taking additional breaks, rotation of duties, lower intensity activities, access to shade and water. Outdoor activities scheduled for the peak periods are generally suspended or moved to covered areas.
- Additional indoor areas will be opened for students during break times. Staff duty areas and play areas may be adjusted.
- Students are encouraged to carry water bottles and remain hydrated. There are refrigerated water fountains around the College that students can use to fill water bottles during peak times.
- Classrooms are airconditioned. During heatwave conditions classrooms are monitored and additional portable refrigerated air-conditioners are available to be used in identified classes or areas.
- Schools remain open. Parents can keep students at home if they are concerned about impact on students during a heatwave – but are requested to contact the school to confirm the cause and length of absence.

Wet weather, hail and lightning.

When storms, heavy rain, hail or lightning are present:

- Events or outdoor activities will be considered for rescheduling, postponement, cancellation, or making adjustments after consideration of the weather forecast, duration of weather events, access to cover etc.
- Classrooms are heated, there are numerous areas around the school that are undercover to provide shelter for students in inclement weather.

- Additional indoor and undercover areas are opened during break times to ensure adequate cover for students.

Students can self-refer to first aid if they are feeling unwell or impacted by the heat or weather conditions.