



St Joseph's Catholic School

Queenstown

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY & PROCEDURES

RATIONALE

Schools have a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes protection against inclement weather during times when students would normally be outside.

AIM

To ensure the well-being of students and staff during times of inclement weather by consistently implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

PROCEDURES

- Inclement weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning or any other condition that is considered by the Principal or teacher on duty to be unsuitable for safe play.
- As part of the usual playground duty timetable process, an inclement weather timetable will be activated for when conditions outside are considered unsuitable for students and staff.
- The principal or teacher listed as first lunch duty will decide on whether conditions allow for outside play immediately prior to the recess or lunch-play bell and the school will be informed via a public announcement or the ringing of the Wet Weather Bell three times.
 - Similarly, the principal or the teacher listed as first lunch duty may decide to allow children outside if the weather clears and the school is informed in the same manner.
- In case of inclement weather commencing during a recess or lunch break students are to follow the duty teacher's instructions. The inclement

weather hall and court roster will be activated and other students will be required to return to their classrooms.

- Duty teachers will inform staff in the staffroom of wet weather conditions via walkie-talkies should the outside conditions deteriorate during recess or lunch and staff meet the Inclement Weather protocols, **being mindful of relieving teachers who may have already been on duty for over half the break.**
- At regular intervals staff will revisit the procedures for inclement weather with students.
- Teachers, other than duty teachers, will share supervision as required, after accessing a reasonable break time.
- All students will be confined to classrooms, the lower Assembly Hall, the covered open learning area or the top Sports Court unless permission has been granted by a teacher to leave temporarily, e.g. toilet break.
- Rosters are to be displayed in classrooms, highlighted clearly to students by staff and adhered to for equity and easy of administration.
- Students are expected to walk while in classrooms and hallways at all times.
- When in classrooms students are to be purposefully engaged in specific, quiet activities, respecting the needs, rights and safety of self and others.
- Computer access must be approved and supervised by teachers.
- Safe, physical games may be played in the hall and court,. Only soft balls are to be used in these areas.
- Scheduled sport, Physical Education and other outside activities will need to be relocated, rescheduled or alternatively organised during times of inclement weather.

*This policy and procedures will be reviewed as part of the St Joseph's
School policy review cycle.*

***Implemented 2002; Amended April 2003; Amended April 2005; Amended
August 2008; March 2010; August 2010***

ADDENDUM



St Joseph's Catholic School **Inclement Weather Play Protocol**

1. **Classes abide by the inclement weather roster and remain in rostered areas.**
2. **Activities must be played in the interests of the safety of others.**
3. **Rostered teachers distribute equipment and may set up equipment.**
4. **Extra equipment may be used at the discretion of the rostered teachers.**
5. **All areas will have 'Remedial Clipboards' for uncooperative students.**

TOP SPORTS HALL

- End courts used for basketball; shooting for goals or ball game.
- Middle court used for dodge ball (foam) or cricket, using a small plastic ball NOT a tennis ball.
- Dance music may be played in the area outside the middle exit door – music at a low to moderate level.
- Skipping in any area out of the way of games.

Play equipment

- 2 basketballs
- 2 cricket wickets, 2 plastic cricket bats and one small ball
- 2 soft dodge balls
- 8 individual skipping ropes
- CD Player

LOWER ASSEMBLY HALL

- Canteen end used for basketball shooting, not a game area.
- Middle area used for Newcombe (net and sandbagged stands) or dodge ball
- Toilet end used for 'marking up' game using soft, dimpled ball.
- Skipping in any area out of the way of games.

Play equipment

- 2 basketballs
- Newcombe net, stands and sandbags
- 1 soft small dodge balls (Newcombe for junior grades)
- 1 soft large dodge balls (Newcombe for upper grades)
- 2 dipped soft footballs
- 8 individual skipping ropes & 1 long skipping rope

COVERED OPEN LEARNING AREA

- Skipping in any area out of the way of games.

Play equipment

- 1 soft small dodge balls (for junior grades)
- 1 soft large dodge balls (for upper grades)
- 2 dipped soft footballs
- 8 individual skipping ropes

CLASSROOMS

- Students will be expected to play board games, use ICT or draw or write.
- Noise should be moderate partner-voice levels.

Equipment

- Games, writing and drawing materials will be stored centrally and made available to students using the classrooms; alternately, students may bring their own games, drawing and writing material to the classrooms.
- Teachers may, at their discretion, allow lap-tops to be used appropriately in accordance with our school's ICT Policy.