



## Hot Weather

At Samaritan College, students are not sent home during the day if the weather becomes too hot. The college believes it is not appropriate to have children, potentially, walk or ride home during the hottest part of the day. Some students may also need to go to homes that are not cooled as well as the college is. Staff need to remember that the age of the student and type of activity being undertaken or planned must be considered when deciding whether heat is a factor.

In cases of extreme heat and longer periods of extreme heat, the college will:

- Allow students to have extra drink breaks
- Use air-conditioned rooms at recess and lunch
- Change planned lessons to allow students to gather in the most cooled areas
- Have students remain in shaded areas during breaks. In extreme heat, the students are not allowed outside at all.
- Make arrangements to have extra cooled classrooms open and supervised when students are not permitted outside during breaks
- Parents are welcome, as they are on any occasion, to collect their child during the day or to keep their child home.
- Allow students to phone home to arrange to be collected if riding their bikes (bikes can be stored at college overnight to assist).

### **YARD DUTY in HOT WEATHER**

At 35 & 36 degrees\*\* students are not allowed to play in usual areas but can be outside in designated shade areas with no playing or ball games.

At 37 degrees\*\* and above students are inside for the duration of the break –with small groups to go to canteen and/or toilets as required.

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*\*\* This is always a guide. There may be even lower temperatures with extreme wind or humidity that will still require this Yard Duty procedure to be implemented. It is also based on the temperature at the time i.e. the forecast is for 40 degrees but is only 31 at recess time. Several days in a row of 32 degrees or more, for example, may also see changes to how we allow students to be outside. For example: allowing students to play football at recess when it is 34 may not be appropriate even though it is less than 35. It is also campus specific – often it is much cooler at STC than OLHCC, for example.*

***The teacher in charge of the campus on that day will make the decision regarding changes to recess/lunch.***

### **CAMPS, EXCURSIONS, SPORTING EVENTS, SCHOOL ACTIVITIES including PE Lessons**

The above information regarding at what temperatures does the college seek to cancel or postpone excursions and sporting events need to be considered. The college, however, also must consider:

- Age of participants
- Where the event is
- What the event is (i.e. sitting in shade at a music event versus 9-a-side football)
- How the group gets to the event (the event itself may be inside but if group needs to walk to get to the event then it may be cancelled)
- Time of day of the event (a PE lesson at 8.55am may not be cancelled but a lesson at 1.50pm may be)
- Length of event (45 minutes compared to 3 hours)
- Access to shade or air conditioning
- Availability of refrigerators and/or freezers
- Access to medical assistance (especially relevant for camps)
- Potential for weather to change (a 3 day camp may be cool on day 1 but forecast heat on day 2)

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These factors may mean an event (including at school) may be cancelled or postponed. These factors also apply to school lessons i.e. a science lesson outside

Depending on these factors, the event may be, if possible, moved forward to a cooler part of the day.

The college may need to cancel/postpone/change an event ahead of time and then it finds the weather has changed for the better. For some events, early calls may need to be made and stuck to.

If weather changes significantly whilst already on the camp/excursions then the teacher-in-charge will implement their procedure as listed in their Risk Assessment for the camp/excursion.

### **BUSH FIRES and TRAVEL**

In the case of travelling on days of extreme fire danger the following will apply based on Fire Ban Advice of the SA CFS at 4pm the day prior to travel:

- If 'Severe' rating – travel with caution
- If 'Extreme' rating – travel with caution and monitor advice regularly (CFS)
- **Do not travel** through or to areas rated as 'Catastrophic'

*(these are statewide instructions and not just for Samaritan College)*

The above information would already be covered in the Risk Assessment for the particular excursion or camp. This includes planning to be in a location where a higher fire risk may occur i.e. Southern Eyre Peninsula and Flinders Ranges, during a time of extreme fire danger.

***This Information Sheet is also read in conjunction with the college's Sun Protection Policy and CESA's Excursions, Camps, Adventure, Physical and Sporting Activities: Procedures & Appendices for Catholic Schools and Preschools.***

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