

SECTION 3 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

3.17 Extreme Weather Policy

INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the strategies and procedures that The Gums will follow when planning for outdoor play, excursions, and outdoor events in the event of extreme weather.

HOT WEATHER PROCEDURE

If the maximum temperature is forecast **between 36 – 39 C** for Clare on the BOM website, all planned excursions and outdoor events must be **completed by 11am** or cancelled. This is in support of the Centre's SunSmart policy in that children must be provided with the option of indoor or outdoor play when the temperature is 37 C and above on the BOM website.

If the maximum temperature is forecast **40 C or above** for Clare on the BOM website, all planned excursions and outdoor events will be **cancelled**.

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO OTHER WEATHER CONDITIONS

It is recognised that extreme weather conditions (hail, lightning, heavy rain, strong wind) can threaten our safety. Where forecast weather conditions for Clare on the Alert SA app or the BOM website are considered severe, excursions and outdoor events may be cancelled.

LIGHTNING / THUNDERSTORMS

Due to the inability to accurately forecast electrical storms and the likelihood of very localised weather patterns it is not possible or practical to create a policy that can be applied to any particular day. However, the following guidelines should be considered and followed;

- If the weather forecast is for possible thunderstorms/lightning educators must remain vigilant for approaching storms and/or changing or rapidly deteriorating conditions.
- If you see lightning, apply the "30 – 30 Rule". Count the time from seeing lightning to when accompanying thunder clap is heard, if less than 30 seconds (storm is less than 10 kms away) go immediately to a safer place, preferably indoors. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder clap before returning outdoors.
- Hearing thunder means that lightning is likely to be within striking range, however Educators must remain vigilant if storms are predicted, as thunder is **not always** heard prior to lightning.

HEAVY RAIN / HAIL

Heavy rain or hail is unlikely to present a significant personal injury risk to children and educators. However, heavy rain or hail may result in pooled water. A visual risk assessment must be completed by an educator prior to children returning outdoors.

STRONG WIND / WIND GUSTS

If a severe weather warning has been issued on the Alert SA app / BOM Website for Clare for strong winds/wind gusts, excursions and outdoor events may be cancelled. Educators must remain vigilant for approaching storms and/or changing or rapidly deteriorating conditions and remain indoors with children until the warning has been lifted/cancelled.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The Gums Bushfire Policy & Action Plan
The Gums Emergency Procedures Policy
The Gums SunSmart Policy

This policy links to the following National Quality Standards:

2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

2.3.3 Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.