

HOT & WET WEATHER POLICY



PURPOSE

Australian International Islamic College (AIIC) recognises the importance of encouraging all students and staff to protect themselves from the harmful effects of Ultraviolet Radiation (UV) exposure. The weather policy has been developed to implement procedures for hot and wet weather days.

SCOPE

Parents, students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements

Approved By: College Board

Status: Approved

Contact: Principal

Reviewed | Bi-annually

Date Approved: May 2022

Next Review Due: April 2023

This policy may be updated or revised from time to time. The College will not notify you each time the Policy is changed.

Hot Weather

On days forecast by the Weather Bureau as 36°C or more, the hot weather policy applies. The period of greatest risk is two hours either side of noon, when the sun is directly overhead, specifically between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm during daylight saving. At AIIC we have the potential to reduce students' UV exposure and future risk of developing skin cancer for the following reasons:

- Students are at school throughout the high-risk period five days a week.
- The crucial period for sustaining damaging levels of UV exposure occurs during the school years.
- AIIC can play a significant role in reducing exposure and changing behaviour through our Policy, education and role modelling.

Objectives

- Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer and other skin damage caused by exposure to UV radiation.
- Assist students to develop strategies that protect their skin from the sun.
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade and other sun protective measures for students and staff.
- Encourage all members of the school community to protect their skin from UV at all times, but particularly at high-risk times such as lunchtimes, sport, excursions and camps.
- Ensure that parents are informed of AIIC's Weather Policy

Implementation

Shade: AICC have increased the amount of shade available in the school by introducing shade sail structures throughout the school. Some other strategies for increasing shade will include:

- Maximising existing shade (verandas, covered walkways).
- Allowing students to eat lunch indoors.
- Planting trees in clusters to increase shade area.
- Building seating around trees.
- Moving seats and tables to areas of shade

Organisation of outdoor lessons and breaks: To reduce student and staff exposure to UV, timetables will be reviewed to minimise time spent outdoors during peak UV periods. If the forecast is for temperatures over 36°C, the following will be implemented:

- Students will be supervised in the classroom/hall.
- They will be notified of the conditions by any Admin staff at the beginning of recess and/or lunch.

All-day events: The risk of skin damage on all - day excursions is high. Severe sunburn is likely when students are outside for long periods of time.

For all day excursions the following strategies will be implemented:

- Provide plenty of sunscreen.
- Inform students, parents and staff that sun protection will be a priority.
- Promote the sun protection message in all printed information about the day.

Curriculum: Incorporate lessons on UV radiation risk reduction and sun safety into the curriculum across the school. Students should not only understand how and why they need to protect their skin, but also have the opportunity to explore related issues, such as self-image and peer pressure, all of which influence decision making in relation to UV exposure.

Clothing: All students will be required to wear a bucket or broad-brimmed hat whenever they are outside (*e.g.* morning tea, lunch, sport, and excursions). Staff members are to actively act as role models by wearing appropriate hats and clothing. Students will be encouraged to wear T-shirts or protective shirts over bathers while attending swimming lessons.

Sunscreen: It is recommended that all students wear sunscreen provided from home, especially on their face and arms, particularly during the first and last terms of the year.

Vitamin D: Safe sun exposure for the production of Vitamin D –particularly during the winter months for healthy bone development in children is encouraged. Vitamin D is essential for strong bones, muscles and overall health.

Students are encouraged to expose their hands, face and arms to:

- 10 minutes of sunlight before 10.00 am or after 3.00 pm on most days of the week.
- Two to three hours per week of sunlight to face, arms and hands in winter

Occupational Health & Safety: The School recognises that staff members are at risk of UV damage during yard duty and outdoor events, especially physical education and sport teachers and ground staff. Staff are strongly encouraged to keep a broad-brimmed hat, sunglasses and a long-sleeved shirt at school for use during outdoor activities. An umbrella may be used for any staff who does not wish to wear a hat.

Junior School Sport and Co-Curricular Programs –activity based: Junior School sport fixtures and/or co-curricular activities which are activity based will be cancelled on days forecast to be 36 degrees or over.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The Sun Safe Policy will be monitored by the Principal who will ensure that the Policy is reviewed every three years and they will contact the Cancer Council of Queensland to ensure that up-to-date information is maintained in relation to resources and policy information.

Wet Weather

Preamble

During wet weather it is important that a teacher take reasonable care to ensure the health and safety of all students. In order to have a coordinated approach to wet weather between schools, this policy will be implemented when necessary. Sport will not generally be cancelled due to wet weather until the actual time of the game.

Objectives

- To provide a safe and caring environment for students during wet weather.
- To provide guidelines for staff on the procedures to follow to ensure that educational, legal and duty of care requirements are satisfied.

Implementation

1. The Principal / Administrative team is responsible for the implantation of this policy when necessary.
2. Staff / student will be notified via the PA system when the policy is put into action.
3. Students will eat undercovers or in their classroom and be occupied with appropriate activities after eating.
4. Staff will share supervision (duty rooster) of students in classroom
5. Wet weather may be declared during morning tea or lunch.
6. Depending on weather conditions, the wet weather policy may cease during a morning or lunch break.