

MARK OLIPHANT COLLEGE



Mark Oliphant College Inclement Weather Policy & Procedure 2026

VERSION 2



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Purpose

Mark Oliphant College is committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff, families and visitors. At times, weather conditions can place people on our school grounds in unsafe situations. The Inclement Weather Policy provides procedures and guidelines that will maximise the safety of every person on our school site.

Scope

- Inclement weather includes:
 - ✓ extreme temperatures (heat over 36 degrees)
 - ✓ heavy rain, hail and snow
 - ✓ strong winds
 - ✓ severe dust storm
 - ✓ lightning or thunderstorm
- HoS will assess weather conditions prior to break times and implement this policy as needed, based on current forecasts and observations
- HoS will delegate the announcement to the front office staff to inform primary and secondary students, while the Children's Centre will be communicated with internally. If the change is known in advance, the announcement will also be displayed on internal screens using Vivi. Instead of an announcement over the PA, the weather bell will be signalled to notify students of the change.
- Mark Oliphant College will ensure that
 - ✓ All students and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation.
 - ✓ Outdoor environments accessible by staff, students and visitors provide protection from inclement weather
 - ✓ Students and staff have access to alternative 'Support Locations' within the school to minimise the impact of inclement weather.
 - ✓ Staff are supported in managing outdoor activities (on site or off site) where additional measures are needed to maximise the safety of all involved.

Procedure

Support Locations

When the Inclement Weather Policy is implemented, the following locations will be available for students. Students and staff are made aware through emails, Vivi and bell signals and will remain in these areas during breaks unless further announcements are made.

They will remain under supervision by the allocated Yard Duty or Classroom Teacher. Secondary staff are reminded to familiarise themselves with their backup yard duty responsibilities in the event of inclement weather. Yard Duty Documents

<u>Year Level</u>	<u>Inclement Weather Location</u>	<u>Supervising Teacher</u>
Children's Centre	Building 5	Children's Centre Teachers and Educators
F-6	F-6 Classroom	F-6 Classroom Teachers
7-12	Building 11	Oval and Soccer Fields Yard Duty Teachers
7-12	Building 20	Courts Yard Duty Teacher

The following areas will be closed during inclement weather. (Please note the canteen will remain open):

- Oval
- Soccer fields
- Courts
- Village Green (PY only)
- Playgrounds

In secondary, the staff member responsible for closing these areas once inclement weather has been announced will be the supervising yard duty teacher for the alternative areas. Please note that, the oval, soccer fields and court areas should already be closed, as the teacher on that specific yard duty is also responsible for opening them.

In F-6 the following procedures will apply:

- Yard duty teachers return to their own building when the inclement weather bell is signalled during playtime.
- If inclement weather is called before playtime, inside supervision is shared between adjoining classroom teachers.
- Teacher pairs must coordinate to ensure each has a break, alternating between first and second half of the break.
- The library will be closed during inclement weather; students return to their classrooms.
- A leader will supervise the canteen so students can still access it.
- Students must engage in quiet activities (e.g., board games, mindfulness colouring, movies).
- Students are not permitted to enter other classrooms during inside play.

Implementation procedures

- Monitoring of weather forecasts using the [Bureau of Meteorology South Australian forecasts](#)
- Monitor for severe weather danger warnings in the lead up to planned activities/excursions using the [Bureau of Meteorology national warning summary](#)
- During periods of hot weather, check the heatwave forecast using the [SES heatwave forecast](#)
- **Leaders will also look out for the following:**
 - ✓ signs of an approaching storm such as dark sky, high winds, thunder and lightning
 - ✓ hot weather followed by heavy rain or wind that can affect the stability of trees

- ✓ tree debris that might pose a slip or trip hazard, such as leaves, nuts and branches
- ✓ damaged tree limbs and branches that may fall
- ✓ wet floors and stairs
- ✓ employees or students having trouble breathing triggered by dust, thunderstorms or panic

Hot Weather - Extreme Temperatures

If the temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius or above at Mark Oliphant College, according to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the school will implement the Inclement Weather Policy and all students will be directed to their locations

School Sport:

All Physical Education lessons and other outdoor activities must be moved indoors when the temperature is 36°C or above. After-school sport and practice must be treated in line with the Sports Association for Adelaide Schools Extreme Weather Guidelines.

Excursions:

Where excursions have been scheduled, the Principal will assess the risks of the planned activity and decide whether to cancel or reschedule the excursion. Relevant considerations may include whether the planned activities are to be carried out indoors or outdoors, the planned mode of transport, the length of time the students are exposed to direct sun etc. The created risk assessment will also be taken into consideration.

Wet Weather (Rain/Hail)

If it is raining immediately prior to, or during recess and/or lunch time, the school will implement the Inclement Weather Policy and all students will be directed to their Inclement Weather Location

Dangerous Extreme Weather (Strong winds/Storms/Thunderstorms)

In the case of extreme winds, storms (including lightening), the school will implement the Inclement Weather Policy and all students will be directed to their Inclement Weather Location

Secondary Locker Information

An email from the Head of School will be sent to secondary staff regarding students' use of lockers during hot and wet weather.

Internal School resources

- Yard duty roster/roles and responsibilities. - Yard Duty Documents

Department for Education, South Australia

- Work Health and Safety Act 2012
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
- Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017
- DfE Outdoor learning environment standard (PDF 969 KB)
- DfE Safety management procedure

Bureau of Meteorology - <http://www.bom.gov.au/>

- Warnings for South Australia - a summary of the valid weather warnings issued in the state.

South Australian State Emergency Service – SES - <https://www.ses.sa.gov.au/home/>

- Current Warning List - real-time information on current SASES warnings, incidents and when available.
- Heatwave Forecast - SA State Emergency Service will issue a State Heatwave Summary every day at 4pm.