



**Policy And Procedure Title: Severe Weather Policy**

Code	Effective Date	Edition No	Last Revision Date	Next Revision Date
SCS A/009/27/09/17	27/09/2017	07	01/10/2024	01/10/2025

### Introduction

The weather in Dubai for most of the academic year is suitable for outdoor learning and play. The implementation of the 'Severe Weather Policy' will be necessary during warmer months and storms of varying nature. It is the purpose of this policy to state guidelines for outdoor activity during specified 'Heat Index' ranges, thunderstorms and sand storms. Extreme climatic conditions that affect the normal functioning of the school should be approached through the 'Critical Incident Pathway'.

### Heat

Young children are at risk of heat-related illness due to their body mass to surface area ratio, and children lose fluid more quickly so are more likely to become dehydrated than adults. Heat stress which can result in heat-related illness is increased during both hot, dry conditions and humid conditions. Heat stress is affected by 3 main environmental factors:

1. Humidity
2. Sun radiation
3. Temperature

**Humidity** is the most dominant environmental factor in heat-related illness. Heat Index is the measurement of both air temperature and relative humidity in shaded areas and light breeze conditions. Heat Index measurements show 'how hot it feels.

This policy is designed to protect children from the environmental effects of heat-related illness through the following actions:

- a. Provision of shade to outdoor play areas
- b. Reinforcement of the 'No Hat, No Play rule
- c. Ensure availability of cool water at all times
- d. Monitoring of outdoor temperature and relative humidity in warmer months
- e. Provide indoor play in designated areas when the heat index is 38 degrees C or above
- f. Reduce the level of outside activity in relation to heat index guidelines.

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**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) heat index table converted to Celsius.**

Temperature (°C)

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43

Relative  
Humidity (%)

40	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	35	37	39	41	43	46	48	51	54	57
45	27	28	29	30	32	33	35	37	39	41	43	46	49	51	54	57	
50	27	28	30	31	33	34	36	38	41	43	46	49	52	55	58		
55	28	29	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	46	48	52	55	59			
60	28	29	31	33	35	37	40	42	45	48	51	55	59				
65	28	30	32	34	36	39	41	44	48	51	55	59					
70	29	31	33	35	38	40	43	47	50	54	58						
75	29	31	34	36	39	42	46	49	53	58							
80	30	32	35	38	41	44	48	52	57								
85	30	33	36	39	43	47	51	55									
90	31	34	37	41	45	49	54										
95	31	35	38	42	47	51	57										
100	32	36	40	44	49	54											

Caution

Extreme Caution

Danger

Extreme Danger





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**Heat Index Guidelines:**

- Heat Index will be measured daily or more frequently as required during the warmer months. The designated team (Medical Team) will use the heat index monitor to gauge the heat index level.
- The Heat Index guidelines apply to children without predisposing medical conditions or illnesses. In cases where there is an underlying medical condition, extra caution is advised. For children with underlying fever, please see Infection Control Policy.
- During outdoor play, children should be carefully observed for signs of heat illness, and any necessary action taken immediately.
- No outdoor extra curriculum activities, events or sporting fixtures should be planned after the summer half-term break.

Heat Index under 33°	<b>All outside activities:</b> Water is available as required. Normal play with hat/shade. The application of sunscreen lotion is recommended prior to the start of the school day. Monitor for signs of heat stress.
Heat Index 33-36°	<b>Early Years activity:</b> Mandatory water breaks every 20 minutes. Normal play with hat/shade. The application of sunscreen lotion is recommended prior to the start of the school day. Monitor for signs of heat stress.
Heat Index 33-38°	<b>Primary /Secondary School Activity:</b> Mandatory water breaks every 20 minutes. Normal play with hat/shade. The application of sunscreen lotion is recommended prior to the start of the school day. Monitor for signs of heat stress.
Heat Index 36-38°	<b>Early Years activity:</b> Consider reducing outside activity to 10 minutes. Monitor for signs of heat stress. Mandatory water breaks at 10 minutes. The application of sunscreen lotion is highly recommended prior to the start of the school day. Reapply as necessary. Outside activity with hat/ shade.
Heat Index 38° +	<b>Early Years activity:</b> Indoor activity only: <b>Red Break</b>
Heat Index 38° +	<b>Primary /Secondary School Activity:</b> Indoor activity only: <b>Red Break</b>

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### Thunderstorms

A thunderstorm, also known as an electrical storm, a lightning storm, a thundershower or simply a storm, is a form of turbulent weather characterized by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect on the Earth's atmosphere known as thunder.

Thunderstorms result from the rapid upward movement of warm, moist air. They can occur inside warm, moist air masses and at fronts. As the warm, moist air moves upward, it cools, condenses, and Forms cumulonimbus clouds that can reach heights of over 20 km. The rule is simple:

- If we see or hear thunder, take action immediately, pupils must be taken inside or to a safe shelter.
- The activity can be resumed when it appears as though the storms have passed and lightning has not been seen, nor thunder heard for at least 15 minutes.
- This applies to breaks, swimming, PE, ECAs and School fixtures.

### Sandstorms

During the summer season, a low-pressure area develops over Dubai forcing strong north-westerly winds to blow from Saudi Arabia. These winds, also known as Shamal (north) in Arabic, become gusty and unpredictable on reaching Dubai. Shamal boosts up the desert sand and reduces visibility, and the sandstorms may last for several days.

- In the event of a sandstorm, the medical team and SLT will evaluate the severity of the storm.
- In a minor storm – normal school lessons will continue.
- When the storm is more severe, pupils will be moved indoors.
- Pupils with respiratory issues must be continually monitored during minor dust storms. If they show any signs of discomfort, then they will be asked to go inside and report to the medical clinic if deemed appropriate.

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