

# Si Ri Panya International School



## **Extreme Weather Policy**

### **Introduction**

Si Ri Panya School is committed to protecting the health and safety of our students and staff. These guidelines are meant to provide a decision making structure to promote student and staff safety when local weather may be detrimental to their health.

### **Early intervention - Extreme Heat**

It is important that school staff know the signs and symptoms of heat stress and how to respond. Some heat-related illnesses and common symptoms include:

- General deterioration – sluggish, losing focus/lack of concentration
- Heat rash
- Heat cramps - these include muscle pains or spasms
- Dizziness and fainting
- Heat exhaustion - warning signs may include paleness and sweating, rapid heart rate, muscle cramps, headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness or fainting.
- Heatstroke - The person may stagger, appear confused, have a fit, collapse and become unconscious. This is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention.

Treatment options vary according to the type of heat-related illness. If a student, staff member or visitor shows any sign of heat exhaustion or heat-stroke, medical assistance and first aid is required immediately.

### **Prevention - Extreme Heat**

To minimise the risks associated with extreme hot weather, the school must review and where practicable and appropriate, implement the following strategies:

- Ensure adequate shade on school grounds from man-made structures and/or trees.
- Educate and encourage students and school staff to stay hydrated.
- Have ice available to keep drinking water cool in the event of an outage.
- Classroom first aid kits to include hydrolytes. Extra ice packs and additional hydrolytes to be stored in the first aid room.
- Should the power be off during a hot day, children will have passive play.

(\*Passive play – no active play which will result in children getting too hot e.g football, running, ball games)

### **Action - Extreme Heat**

During a period of extreme heat and/or power outage the school will also actively consider:

- Modifying or postponing any planned vigorous activity.
- Allowing children to be collected before the end of the day if there is no power and access to air-con.
- Encourage children to wear their PE kit to make them more comfortable.
- The school may purchase ice for children to place in their drinks.

### **Flooding**

In the event of extreme rain causing the school grounds or neighbouring roads to flood, the management team will consider the risk posed to children, staff and parents and may make a decision to close the school due to health and safety concerns:

- Parents will be notified as early as possible to prevent unnecessary travel if the school grounds or roads are flooded. This will be done via the school Facebook page.
- If children are already at school parents will be contacted via email/phone and through the school facebook site to come and pick up their children.

### **Extreme Weather - Lightning, Thunder, Hail and Strong Winds**

If there are severe weather conditions such as lightning, thunder, hail and strong winds the following actions will be taken:

- All children will be directed inside the classrooms if they are outside.
- Break times will be supervised indoors in classrooms.
- All staff will be in communication (Radio Communication) with each other and monitoring and assessing the safety of the situation before allowing the children back outside.