

Extreme Weather Policy

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 practical 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.
- Extra ice packs and electrolytes 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.
- Offer parents the option to collect their children before the end of the day if there has been no power and access to air-con all day.
- Encourage children to wear their PE kit to make them more comfortable.
- Encourage children to bring battery powered personal fans from home
- Encourage parents to freeze the children's water bottles at home so they stay cool during the day.

Flooding

In the event of extreme rain causing areas of the island, the school grounds or neighbouring roads to flood, the management team will consider the risk posed to children, staff and parents. The road outside the school floods yearly but does not affect the inner school grounds or under normal circumstances pose a risk to the safe operation of the school. Only in severe conditions would the management team make a decision to close the school due to health and safety concerns.

- Parents will be notified as early as possible of a flooded road and encouraged to car share with parents who have 4x4 vehicles
- Parents with 4x4 vehicles can relay children to a safe collection point away from the flooded school road
- Offer parents the option to collect their children before the end of the day if this helps their individual circumstances and they have more flooding in their area

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.

Emergency Closures

The school will always work to stay open and will only make a decision to close due to health and safety concerns after considering the risk posed to children, staff and parents.

- Notification of any possible closure will be done via the school Facebook page.
- If children are already at school, parents will be contacted via email or phone to come and pick up their children.