



"To Live, To Love, To Grow In Christ"

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NT SEVERE THUNDERSTORM – POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR END OF DAY

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

Out of School Hours Care

Community of Learners

Rationale

While we experience many types of thunderstorms in Australia, some more intense are referred to as severe. These storms can produce damaging wind gusts, and heavy rain which may cause flash flooding and these phenomena can all cause significant damage.

Thunderstorms which produce any of the following are classified as severe in Australia:

- Damaging winds gusts (90km or greater)
- Heavy rainfall conducive to flash flooding

Most thunderstorms do not reach the level of intensity needed to produce these dangerous phenomena. The Bureau of Meteorology only issues severe thunderstorm warnings for thunderstorms that are expected to produce any of the above severe phenomena.

Policy

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School will be prepared in the event we are issued a severe warning from the Bureau of Meteorology.

For up-to-date weather alerts please refer to TIO Weather Alerts. A free service for all Territorians. Log into <https://www.tiofi.com.au/alerts> and register. Information can be received directly to your phone/tablet or email.

Procedures

Holy Spirit Catholic School procedures are consistent with normal processes used by schools in the Darwin Region.

Steps in place:

When we receive a severe thunderstorm warning from TIO Alerts, the following will occur:

- Parents will be notified of warning through Operoo, email, and Class Dojo
- Children will remain in their classroom with their teacher until collected by parent or authorised adult until 2:45pm where they will be signed into After School Care. Charges apply
- Before 2:45pm weather permitting children will be taken to parent pick-up as per normal procedures
- For those children who walk or ride they will remain at school until storm passes. Once weather has cleared those children will be permitted to leave
 - Where the storm persists, children will be signed into After School Care and charges will apply.

- For those children who catch a bus, they are to remain at school to wait for parents or an authorised adult to collect them. If after storm passes and children have not been picked up, they shall be signed in to After School Care and charges will apply.

Where children are signed in to After School Care, parents will be notified. Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

Out of School Hours Care and Homework Centre

- After School Care will remain open when issued with a severe weather warning.
- All children and staff shall gather in our Multipurpose Room where roll will be taken. Staff from OSHC will collect children from their classroom.
- Once weather clears, children and staff will then move back to OSHC building where planned activities and events will resume.
- For children who attend Homework Centre (HWC) on Monday, procedures as per OSHC.

Informing Parents

Where severe weather identified for afternoon dismissal notification to parents through email, Class Dojo and Operoo. Information will be provided by 2:00pm when able or as identified through Bureau of Meteorology.

Message:

We have been issued with a severe weather warning and ask that parents adhere to safety requirements:

- All students to remain in their classroom until otherwise notified, unless picked up by parent
- For those children that walk, ride, or catch the bus home, to please collect their children from classrooms at the end of school day
- If you normally collect your child from parent pick up, please park your car in the visitor's car park and collect your child from their classroom
- After School Care remains available for those students booked in. OSHC staff will collect children from classrooms and deliver to our Multipurpose Room where roll will be taken for the purpose of duty of care.

The safety of everyone is paramount during a severe thunderstorm

Please ensure our front office has current contact details for all students

Scope

The policy applies to all staff of Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School with special responsibility given to officers of the school including Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Director (COL), Out of School Hours Coordinator (OSHC), Groundsman and Administrative staff.

Evaluation

This policy is flexible in nature to ensure it suits the context and the fluidity of the school environment. While flexible, adjustments made must be in consultation with Principal/Deputy Principal. This policy will be reviewed as deemed necessary as part of the School Strategic Plan.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by School Board 2024

Review:

This policy will be reviewed in 2027