EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY: 2011

All schools are required to have procedures in place to care for students who attend school on days of extreme weather. DEECD has no uniform policy on this matter. Rather, it expects schools to develop policies that best suit the conditions of that particular school.

Occupational Health and Safety policies indicate that 35 to 40 degrees Celsius is considered to be the “limit of high temperature tolerance” for most people. This would certainly apply for an effective learning environment.

Teaching and Learning conditions vary across the 3 campuses of Essendon Keilor College.

At Niddrie 8 out of thirty one teaching spaces in the school have some form of cooling. At East Keilor 10 rooms and the Library are air conditioned. At Essendon 14 rooms and the Library are air conditioned. This is without counting the use of grounds for sport or physical education.

It has been decided to dismiss some classes when the temperature is excessive and to concentrate lessons in those spaces that possess some form of cooling. The trigger temperature for this action will be 38˚C [a little above 100˚F] as measured by the Bureau of Meteorology’s website for Essendon Airport. Generally at Niddrie and East Keilor we will keep all Year 7 and Year 8 classes operating and will supervise students unable to go home at that time for whatever reason. Essendon will keep Year 12 classes running. The decision that classes are cancelled will be published on the College web page under “Notices”.

Discretion may need to be exercised in some instances, such as an anticipated early cool change.

DEECD further authorises a reduced midday recess [to not less than 30 minutes] and adjustment to dismissal times during days of extreme heat.

Parents are obviously able to exercise their own discretion on such extreme days. Parents are asked to emphasise the need to their children to drink plenty of water on hot days and encourage students to bring and use water bottles throughout the day.

Parent Consent Form – Permission during 2011 school year

On days of extreme weather, as determined by the Essendon Keilor College Extreme Weather Conditions Policy,
I give permission for my son/daughter [name] ____________________________

Class/Year ______________ to be dismissed early from school.

Parent/Guardian Signature ____________________________________________

Contact details _____________________________________________________

Mobile _____________________________________________________________

Date _______________________________________________________________