



Rationale

The primary consideration in the formulation of the Island Catholic School inclement weather policy is the health, safety and welfare of students. Factors, such as the type of weather, geographical location, intensity of weather conditions, adaptability of students to weather conditions, community expectations, and the capability and responsibility of the school community to provide appropriate student clothing attire, need to be taken into consideration in formulating appropriate policy.

Policy

The Catholic Independent Schools, Diocese of Victoria, unless otherwise directed, will remain open during periods of inclement weather.

Regulation

1. The principal, in consultation with the school staff and school council, is responsible for establishing a consistent procedure for handling children on days where the weather is inclement.
2. Inclement weather procedures must reflect the responsibility of the principal to ensure reasonable and judicious care for the health, safety and welfare of all students attending the school.
3. Each school within the Island Catholic Schools, is required to develop an inclement weather procedure that:
 - Does not require children to be outside during rainy and/or freezing weather;
 - Does not deprive elementary students of a morning or afternoon recess nor reduce the lunch hour to an unreasonable time; and
 - Allows children to enter school at least 30 minutes before the regular start time and/or upon arrival of the first bus load of students.
4. In extreme weather conditions, the final decision to send a child to school or to the bus stop rests with the parents even though schools are open.
5. Children allowed to go outdoors during time of inclement weather should be suitably clothed for the occasion. The classroom teacher should exercise prudent assessment of the appropriateness of the type of clothing. Thereafter, direct supervision shall be provided to ensure no ill effects will result to students due to the length of time permitted to be outdoors.
6. The principal, in consultation with the school staff, is encouraged to explore ways of providing constructive activities for students during inclement weather conditions that confine students to the classroom. Such



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things might include intra-murals, rotation of recesses, games room, etc. When recording student attendance, the principal and staff will exercise discretion during periods of extreme weather conditions.

ference:	Approved
	Date Approved: December 2001
Cross-reference:	Date(s) Revised: