ANNUNCIATION ‘ADVERSE ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS’ POLICY
February 2011.

Guiding Principles.
Student and staff well being
Responding to latest information.

Rationale.
At Annunciation we take seriously our responsibility to provide a workplace that looks after the safety, health and well being of students and staff. This includes making appropriate responses should weather and outside conditions be extreme or within measurements that may see being outdoors foreseeably unsafe or having an adverse effect on well being, and being indoors as a safety measure. Such conditions may exist in cases of extreme heat, cold, wind or storms, and days of poor air quality.

Heat.
Days of extreme heat can produce conditions whereby normal outdoors activities [eg Physical Education lessons and playtimes] may carry a higher risk of children ‘overheating’. In such cases leadership and teachers may decide on one or more of the following courses of action:
• To instruct children not to play the more physically demanding games,
• To keep children in shaded areas,
• To hold PE sessions indoors,
• To take more drink breaks
• To conduct recess breaks indoors.

In regard to protection from skin damage from the sun, our ‘Sunsmart’ Policy details our actions.

Cold, rain, strong wind, storms.
School Leadership will decide whether an inside recess should be called due to the presence or imminent presence of any of these conditions. The “Bureau of Meteorology” weather website, the forecast from the day and observation of outside conditions will be used where possible and appropriate to make such calls. The information will be relayed to staff in as timely a manner as possible.

Air Quality.
The issue of air quality [and lack of], both in terms of offensive odours and airborne dust, is currently the subject of much discussion and research. Brooklyn, because of the proximity of many industries, regularly has air quality measurements poorer than most of Melbourne. Questions remain about air quality and the potential for health affects.
We are regularly receiving updated information from the EPA and Health Department, and while these contain some cautions about general public safety, none of the information suggests there is any quantifiable proof that it is dangerous for children to be outside.
In February 2011 a joint statement from EPA and Health Department, in the form of an “Air Quality Table with Graduated Advice” was issued regarding suggested responses to air quality readings. The details in this advice will form the basis of Annunciation’s responses, and the following principles will apply;
School Leadership will, as far as practically possible, monitor the EPA hourly air quality monitoring website at [http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/air/airmap](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/air/airmap) for measurements of air quality from the Brooklyn Station.

On any occasion where the latest measurements are available, and those measurements indicate the air quality within the “Poor” or “Very Poor” ranges, the recommendations contained in the “AQ Table with Graduated Advice for Schools” will, at the discretion of school leadership be applied.

Staff supervising students will be informed in a timely manner.

On days where offensive odours outside may be impacting on the well-being of students and/or staff, school leadership may declare an inside play should it be deemed that such measures would be beneficial to health or well being.

School Leadership will continue to attempt to access further information from authorities such as the EPA and Health Department to update our Policy and Procedures to reflect latest information and most appropriate responses.