

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Approved by	
Date approved	Spring 2026
Review date	Autumn Term 2028

1. What is meant by severe weather?

Severe weather is classified as weather conditions which have an impact on service delivery. The weather may be heavy snow, black ice, fog, floods or strong winds.

In the event of disruption caused by severe weather the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff.

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

Head teachers are authorized to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance would put the health, safety or welfare of pupils and/ or staff at risk.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to become too hazardous for travel later in the day.

1.1 If the school is to close in the morning

- An email will be sent out to all parents/carers.
- Staff who are able to get into school will use the phones to answer queries.
- Staff, if possible, will be posted outside school to inform parents/ carers as they arrive at school.

1.2 Closure during the school day

The safety and well-being of pupils is paramount. Safe and speedy dismissal of pupils in the event of an emergency closure depends on the school and parents/carers working in partnership.

1.3 Parent/ carer responsibilities

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that school has up to date emergency contact details.

Parents are expected to check the website and check their school emails when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed.

It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorized absence.

If the weather forecast gets worse, then the Headteacher may make the decision to close school early and ask for parents/carers to collect children before the end of the day. This is to elevate the number of parents/carers collecting at the same time in bad weathers and to ensure most pupils are home before the bad weather sets in.

1.4 School premises

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this.

Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide or throw the snow/ice on the school premises.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- Pathway to the front of school to the office
- Route from front gate round to each year group block
- Route around pavement in car park
- Areas affected by ice will be covered in grit and/ or rock salt

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, where possible the above routes will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to children at break times.

In the Headteacher's absence, the Deputy Headteacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy during the school day.