



Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School  
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# POLICY STATEMENT

## Severe Weather Policy

**Article 3** (best interests of the child). The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 23** (children with a disability). A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

**Article 24** (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Governments must

provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Date policy written	September 2015
Reviewed Consultation and Ratified.	September 15 May 16 May 21
Next review date	May 2024

## **Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School** **Severe Weather Policy**

This policy has been created to ensure a safe environment for all staff, pupils and visitors and allow all involved to know their roles and responsibilities.

It also allows swift action to be taken at the first signs of extreme weather.

### **Extreme Weather**

Normal weather allows for optimum learning conditions on site. Extreme weather conditions pose a threat both to the physical wellbeing of pupils and to their education. The government considers the following conditions to be 'extreme'.

- Severe storms
- Gales
- Persistent low temperatures
- Heavy snow
- Heat waves
- Major flooding

Activities outside may be postponed or cancelled in the event of these weather conditions or if temperatures exceed 28 degrees Celsius or reach below -2 degrees Celsius.

### **In the event of heavy snow**

Staff should be prepared to make their way to school as safely and as soon as possible. The following considerations should be made:

- Car share with colleagues.
- Walk to school if it is not too far.
- Communicate your intentions with the Headteacher / school.
- Check the weather on the television, radio, internet and / or social media sites.
- Consider taking alternative means of transport such as trains, buses or sharing taxis.
- Staff and pupils should wear warm, sensible clothing and footwear suitable for icy / slippery conditions.
- Staff who cannot come to school should be prepared to work from home.
- The Care Taker is responsible for gritting, snow clearance and Autumn / Winter tidiness.-  
he/she/they will complete the gritting checklist (see appendix 1).

### **In the event of extreme heat**

Heat exhaustion is a very serious condition that can easily develop into heatstroke if left untreated.

Warning signs:

- Pale and sweating.
- Rapid heart rate.
- Muscle weakness and cramps.
- Dizziness , headaches and fainting.
- Nausea and vomiting.

### **Treatment**

- Lie the person down in a cool area.
- Remove their outer clothing.
- Wet skin with cool water or wet clothes.
- Seek medical advice.

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher. 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.
- Risk of injury.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be reported to the Local Authority and information added to the school website.
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure using text, emails and phone calls.

The school will make all practical efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions. However, parents are expected to check the website when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school understands that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know that they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are unable to leave their homes, even where the majority of children can get to school. In such instances, parents should inform the school of the circumstances, as the school has a duty to formally authorise the absence with the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed, without gaining confirmation or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevent their child from attending school, risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is marked as authorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child. Such an early finish will only be considered in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and gritted, in line with the gritting checklist. Staff, parents, children and visitors will be made aware that the pathways, even when cleared, do remain dangerous.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the Care Taker, 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 during the school day if the Headteacher decides it necessary.