



Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School
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POLICY STATEMENT

Severe Weather Policy

Date policy written	September 2015
Reviewed	September 15 May 16 May 2019 October 2024
Consultation and Ratified.	
Next review date	October 2026



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 Site Manager is responsible for gritting, snow clearance and Autumn / Winter tidiness.

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 who have provided mobile phone numbers will be alerted to the closure using the School Spider texting service as directed by the Headteacher.

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 salted. 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 site manager, 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.