



Extreme Weather Policy

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The Globe Primary Academy

Summer Weather

In the event of extremely hot weather, school staff will always follow the guidance given by the local authority, following at alert from the Met Office.

Children's susceptibility to high temperatures varies. School staff will always look out for signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

If sensible precautions are taken, children are unlikely to be adversely affected by hot conditions. These precautions include the following:

Protecting children outdoors

During periods of high temperature, the following steps will be taken:

- Children will not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days, such as when temperatures are in excess of 30°C
- Children will be encouraged to stay in the shade as much as possible when playing outdoors
- The length and timing of playtimes and lunchtimes may be rearranged to avoid children being in the sun during peak sunshine hours
- Parents/carers will be asked to provide their children with sunhats, preferably with wide brims to avoid sunburn
- Parents/carers will be asked to apply sunscreen (at least factor 15 with UVA protection) to their child before coming to school to protect their skin
- Children will be encouraged to drink plenty of water, more than usual when conditions are hot.

Protecting children indoors

During periods of high temperature, the following steps will be taken:

- Windows will be opened as early as possible in the morning before children arrive
- If the outdoor air becomes warmer than the air indoors, windows will be almost closed. This should help keep the heat out, while allowing adequate ventilation
- Use of electric lighting will be kept to a minimum
- All electrical equipment, including computers, monitors and printers will be switched off when not in use - staff will not leave equipment in 'standby mode' as this generates heat
- Where possible, staff will adjust the layout of teaching spaces to avoid direct sunlight on children
- Oscillating mechanical fans will be used to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35°C. At temperatures above 35°C, fans may not prevent heat-related illness and may worsen dehydration
- Children will be encouraged to eat normally and drink plenty of cool water.

Winter Weather

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 Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

Closing the school

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

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

In the Executive Headteacher or Head of School's absence, the next senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making the decisions relating to keeping the school site safe for staff, children and parents/carers.

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the staff, children and parents/carers.

If the school is to close:

- The closure will be uploaded to the school website after the decision to close has been made
- The school will send a message to all parents/carers via email
- The school will contact the local radio stations who announce lists of school closures:
 - BBC Radio Sussex
 - Heart Sussex FM
 - Splash FM

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed about the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions. However, parents/carers are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

Following a closure

School leaders will update the school website as soon as a decision has been made about whether it is safe to open the next day. The school will also confirm the decision with parent/carers via email.

In the event that the school is closed the next day, parents/carers are encouraged to check the website and the local radio stations for updated alerts.

Closing the school partway through the school day

In the event that bad weather comes in partway through the school day, our prime concern will always be the safety of staff, children and parents/carers.

If the decision is made that the site is becoming unsafe or it is becoming too hazardous to travel, we will:

- Contact all parents/carers via email, alerting them to the increasingly dangerous conditions on the school site or roads leading to and from the school
- Invite parents/carers to collect their children either immediately, or from a specific time, which will be decided by the Executive Headteacher or Head of School
- Upload the same message onto the school website
- Contact the local radio stations and ask them to broadcast the message for parents/carers (see above for radio stations).

Parents/carers will be asked to collect their child from the usual collection points. The person who collects the child **must** be on the list of adults who have been authorised by parents/carers. In the event where this is not the case, the school will not release the child, until permission has been given from the parent/carer. The class teacher will register that each child has left the school. **Pupils who usually walk home alone will not be released from school early, unless the school is able to contact the parent/carer for permission.**

In the event of increasingly dangerous travelling conditions, the school may need to begin to send staff home, particularly those who travel a long distance to school or those who live in areas that have been the most affected by the weather conditions. If this should happen, we will re-direct other members of staff to ensure that all pupils are appropriately supervised.

While parents/carers will be urged, if possible, to collect their children from school, the school will stay open until the usual closing time.

Following a part-day closure

The school will update the school website as soon as a decision has been made about whether it is safe to open the next day. The school will also confirm the decision with parent/carers via email.

In the event that the school is closed the next day, parents/carers are encouraged to check the website and the local radio stations for updated alerts.