



Transform Trust Severe Weather Guidance

Policy/Document Number	Author	Publication Date	Review Cycle
209	Operational Safeguarding Lead	V8 September 2024	Annually

Severe Weather Guidance/V8 August 2024

1

Vision

Creating & inspiring a community where everyone recognises their self-worth as a unique child of God. Here we aim to develop a love of learning that enthuses and ignites hope for the future.

As the Angel Gabriel said to St. Mary:

"Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1: 37

Mission

To ensure every child flourishes and can explore life in all its fullness.

'I came to give life - life in all its fullness'
John 10:10

Values

We are proud to be a Take Care school where we live out our school values through the four main aspects of Take Care.

Bulwell St. Mary's is a proud Church of England school that develops Christian values and morals. We focus on 6 key values: Respect, Friendship, Courage, Honesty, Forgiveness and Creativity.



Take Care of Ourselves

Honour God with your body.
1 Corinthians 6:20



Respect

Do to others as you would like them to do to you.
Luke 6:31



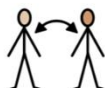
Honesty

Let us tell our neighbours the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.
Ephesians 4:25



Take Care of Each Other

Love your neighbour as yourself.
Matthew 22:39



Friendship

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
1 John 4:11



Forgiveness

If you forgive others their sins your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
Matthew 6:14



Take Care of Our Work

Let your good deeds shine out for all to see.
Matthew 5:16



Courage

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid.
Joshua 1:9



Creativity

We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us.
Romans 12:6



Take Care of our School and World

God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
Genesis 2:15



This allows our children to grow as individuals and interact positively with each other in all situations they encounter. The values are a way of life rather than a set of rules to be followed which allows our children to become respectful, thoughtful, content and happy. Prayer and worship are an important part of our daily school life. Through getting to know Jesus our children learn the importance of love and respect for all, and how these values are reflected in their own behaviour and attitudes.

Our school motto is '**Where Your Journey Begins**'. We look forward to supporting you and your children along that journey.



Introduction

Schools will always make every effort to open to our children. The decision to close a school (or partially close) will be made by the Headteacher. The decision will be made only if one or more the following conditions apply: -

1. Conditions on site are dangerous (this includes the grounds of the school).
2. Insufficient staff are able to come onto site to keep the school running safely.
3. Conditions are considered to be, or anticipated to become, too hazardous to travel for children, families and staff.

School Closure due to Severe Weather (severe weather includes, - snow, storms, hot weather)

Closing the school has a clear impact on children and families. When considering whether to close your school please check your own school's Emergency Plan and Guidance

Consider if it is possible to remain open, even if for reduced year groups and assess the risks (risk assessment attached). If some of your teachers can't get to work, you should be flexible, for example by:

- bringing together groups and classes with teachers and support staff working together;
- using other school staff or appropriate volunteers to provide cover supervision or oversee alternative activities;
- re-arranging the curriculum.

Consideration should be given to any person/child with a disability and any potential impact the weather conditions have on their ability to get to, from and/or around the school site.

It may also be possible, in some instances, for schools to agree between them that staff who cannot get to their own school should report to a more local school within the Trust and help at that school to cover any staff shortages. This may only be feasible where there is the possibility of arrangements being made in advance and set out in contingency plans.

It should be noted that schools must by law meet for 380 half-day sessions (190) in each year so you will be expected to make up any lost days.

Who to notify:

Chair of Governors	to confirm your recommendation to close the school	☐
Derby Schools	Radio Derby via their website: radio.derby@bbc.co.uk	☐
Nottingham Schools	Radio Nottingham via their website NG Alerts: www.ngalerts.co.uk (please note they will not accept notifications via telephone)	☐



Parents/Carers - by your usual school methods (group/group/text; class dojo; website – please include the reason for closure, how they can receive updates; how long you anticipate being closed. You may request that they do not phone the school (to avoid blocking up the phone system) and remember to thank them for their co-operation. □

Keep your website updated. □

Staff – all staff should make all reasonable efforts to attend work. It is appropriate for staff to attend work even when children are not in school. When not able to attend consider what other things could they be doing – planning or CPD (SSS modules for example).

Transform Trust Claire McKendrick on : 07929 521578
claire.mckendrick@transformtrust.co.uk

or

Steve Cox at steve.cox@transformtrust.co.uk

Or any member of the Trust's Executive Team

Closing school early

During severe weather some parents and staff may get anxious and want to get their children/themselves home straightaway. Factors such as re-organising childcare, time off work to collect children and ensuring there is someone home to let those children in (who are allowed to go home on their own) should all be considered and arrangements put in place for those who cannot be collected or those nearest to the area of concern. Those staff who live furthest away will be allowed to leave at the earliest opportunity. A skeleton staff should remain in school until all the children have been collected. Please remember to inform both your Chair of Governors and the Trust if you are to close early.

Please note: Traffic organisations that recommend only **essential travel**, in the DfE's view, **essential travel** includes pupils going to school to keep learning, and school staff going to work.

Storm warnings

If the local weather forecast indicates that there is a storm warning in place. Consider any actions which you will need to implement to keep children and adults safe. This can include, but not limited to:

- Not permitting children or adults to go into areas of the school grounds with trees etc.
- Ensuring that all play equipment and storage is secure and will not cause any damage.
- Following advice from the emergency services.

Extreme hot weather warnings

In the event of an extreme hot weather warning being issued by Public Health England, the Trust will endeavour to adhere to this guidance, but any change will be communicated promptly. Unless advised otherwise, it is expected that schools will remain open throughout, with some adjustments being made, such as increase access to drinking water, no prolonged outdoor activities and changes to the standard school uniform. They will also liaise with their Health & Safety Consultant and communicate any additional guidance.

School attendance statistics – a reminder

Where children are unable to get to school due to severe weather conditions, you will need to use the updated attendance codes from [Working Together to improve school attendance August 2024](#):

Y3 – unable to attend due to part of the school premises being closed

Y4 – unable to attend due to the whole school site being closed unexpectedly

However, if you believe that a child could have got to school, their absence should be recorded as unauthorised using code 'O'.

Reception and other infant classes (children aged 5, 6 or 7) should normally be groups of 30 or fewer but having more than 30 in one class due to temporary exceptional circumstances is not a reason to close the school or the class.

This guidance will be reviewed annually.