

Date: September 2023
Review date: September 2024
Responsibility: MW

Bishop Challoner School



Extreme Weather Policy



Bishop Challoner School EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

As a school providing EYFS education for pupils, these procedures should also be considered in this context.

Extreme weather covers conditions such as snow, ice, fog, floods which render journeys by road, by both public and private transport extremely hazardous. 'Extremely hazardous' is defined as those conditions in which the police and/or appropriate motoring organisations advise people not to make unnecessary journeys or indeed travel at all.

Closing the school due to extreme weather is a difficult decision under the best of circumstances. In the event of extreme weather, **the school will remain open** unless to do so would endanger the safety of the pupils, parents or staff. Premises staff will ensure paths, steps and roads are cleared or gritted in accordance with the H & S procedures. Staff who are able to come into school safely should endeavour to do so as there will inevitably be a handful of pupils who live locally and who are able to attend. Due to virtual and blended learning, lessons can continue as normal, either in person, to those pupils present, or virtually to those pupils at home. The school will continue to use Teams for this purpose.

If it is necessary to declare an early dismissal due to weather conditions, the normal timetable may need to be suspended depending on the age and number of pupils present but they will be supervised safely until such time as they are collected or are given permission by their parents or the school to leave.

The challenge faced by the School is that weather and conditions often change throughout the day. The School will make every effort to notify pupils, parents and staff as early as possible if the school is to close.

If the School declares a delayed start due to extreme weather conditions, staff and pupils should aim to arrive in time to begin the day at the delayed time. Pupils will be registered by the subject teacher.

The Chair of Trustees must be informed of school closure.

In the interests of their own safety, pupils will not be allowed to leave the premises unless express permission is received from parents via the school office. Under no circumstances will pupils be allowed to leave the site at their own discretion. If it is not possible for the school to remain open, the Headteacher (or in his absence the Deputy Headteacher) will make a considered decision to close.

When the school declares an early dismissal due to inclement weather, a member of the office staff will contact all parents by text or Parent Mail and telephones will be manned so that those parents not on the system can be contacted to collect their children. Parents will also be informed via an announcement posted on the school website.

Pupils and staff should access the school website www.bishopchallonerschool.com and the school telephone 020 8460 3546 (a recorded message will be left on Option 7) as any closure details or delay start arrangements will be given from 6.30am.

If the school is open, staff are expected to report to work, however, each person must observe weather conditions in his or her area and determine whether it is unduly hazardous to attempt to drive to work when weather conditions are severe. We do not expect anyone to take unreasonable risk while attempting to get to work. The Deputy Headteacher must be informed by staff who feel it is unsafe to travel to work.

Issues of pupil safety are paramount and this essentially lies in the parents' decision making. A parent always reserves the right to keep their child at home if they feel the conditions are not suitable for travel and this would be treated as an authorised absence, as long as they inform the school office by telephone. However, excessive absences will be handled in line with the school attendance policy.

Reviewed by: M Wallace

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