



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL, SOUTHAMPTON

Severe Weather Policy

Rationale:	This policy sets out the Schools procedures for managing the School during extreme weather conditions, to ensure the safety of the pupils and staff.
Owner:	Head
Endorsed by Governing Board:	N/A
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Reviewed:	Three Yearly
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Circulation and publication:	Public/ Website

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During Cold weather conditions

The key issue when considering whether or not to close the School is the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision to close the School will be made by the Head or, in his or her absence, the Senior Deputy Head. This will involve reference to detailed weather forecasts and transport services.

The following factors will be taken into account when deciding whether the School should be closed.

1. The safety of the site for pupils, staff and visitors.
2. The ability of pupils to get to School. The critical issue here is whether the KETA bus companies are prepared to run the majority of routes to School.
3. The ability of staff to get to School. Staffing levels must be sufficient to provide appropriate cover and supervision.
4. The ability of pupils to get home at the end of the School day. If the weather changes in the course of the day and severe weather is expected to prevent a return journey, the School may be forced to close earlier than normal.
5. The adequacy of on-site supplies of fuel and food and the resilience of infrastructure, e.g. heating systems.

If severe weather is expected overnight the Head will check conditions early in the morning. If it is decided that the School cannot open, then this information will be relayed to parents via:

- School Website, as a primary source of information
- Text messaging to all known contacts (details of how to send a message through iSAMS can be found in the Critical Incident Management Plan)
- Additionally, all known parental email contacts may be used.

Staff will be contacted via text messaging, and possibly email but should also check the School Website for information as a primary reference.

If severe weather occurs during the School day then the Head may decide to send the pupils home. Again, this information will be relayed to parents via:

- School Website, as a primary source of information
- Text messaging to all known contacts
- Additionally, all known parental email contacts may be used.

In the case of School closure the Head and the Senior Leadership Team will meet regularly to ensure that all necessary procedures are followed and to plan the re-opening of the School. If weather conditions prohibit meeting, the group will liaise closely by other means. Detailed procedures for severe weather conditions are provided for all staff as an appendix to the Severe Weather Conditions policy.

During Hot weather conditions

During conditions of extreme hot weather the School will ensure that students have been informed to take care by using appropriate factor sun cream, drinking plenty of water and protecting themselves from the sun as much as possible.

At these times, shelters will be erected on the School field to provide shaded areas and baseball caps will be made available for students to use during break and lunchtimes. Water is available throughout the School and on occasions where students will be outside for a

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more prolonged period of time (Sports Day, Endeavour activities) posters will be placed around the School highlighting the signs of heat exhaustion.

The NHS website states 'heat exhaustion is not serious and usually gets better when you cool down. If it turns into heat stroke it needs to be treated as an emergency'.

The signs of heat exhaustion include:

- headache
- dizziness and confusion
- loss of appetite and feeling sick
- excessive sweating and pale, clammy skin
- cramps in the arms, legs and stomach
- fast breathing or pulse
- temperature of 38C or above
- intense thirst

The signs of heat stroke include:

- feeling unwell after 30 minutes of resting in a cool place and drinking plenty of water
- not sweating even though too hot
- a temperature of 40C or above
- fast breathing or shortness of breath
- feeling confused
- a fit (seizure)
- loss of consciousness
- not responsive

The nursing team will always be available to assess the medical needs of students and treat them appropriately. They closely monitor any patterns of ill health within the School and will inform the Senior Deputy Head if further action needs to be taken by the School.