



# Sporting Stars Academy

## Severe Weather Conditions Policy

<p><u>Agreed by the Directors:</u></p> <p><u>Last reviewed:</u></p>	<p><u>01</u></p> <p><u>10</u></p>	<p><u>09</u></p> <p><u>09</u></p>	<p><u>2013</u></p> <p><u>2023</u></p>
<p><u>Review Date:</u></p>	<p><u>September 2024</u></p>		
<p><u>Signed:</u></p> <p>Signed..... (Director of Premises, Recruitment &amp; Public Relations)</p> <p>Signed..... (Director of Business, Finance &amp; Enterprise)</p> <p>Signed..... (Headteacher/Director of Curriculum and SENCO)</p>			

## **Information and advice on unavoidable school closures and travel arrangements in difficult weather circumstances.**

### 1. General Information

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head teacher. 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;
- ✓ Conditions on site are dangerous;
- ✓ Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

Should the Head teacher make the decision to close the school on the morning of severe bad weather, parents and students should initially check Stoke-on-Trent council website or the local radio website as detailed below. Staff will also contact parents and students using the school's up to date 'snow list'.

Our website is currently under development. When live this will be updated throughout the day regarding any developments which might affect transport arrangements.

Decisions about closing the school or sending students home early are always difficult to make. We check weather reports, get advice from the bus companies and try to assess what is happening elsewhere in the area. Some buses may not be available. Operators have to decide whether running vehicles on particular routes in snow and ice is too high a risk.

### **PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON:**

- ✓ School closure following severe overnight weather.
- ✓ School closure if the weather deteriorates during the day.
- ✓ What parents can do during severe weather.
- ✓ External Examinations during severe weather

### **School closure following severe overnight weather**

We will always post this information on the Stoke-on-Trent Council website:

[https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20007/schools\\_and\\_education/162/school\\_closures](https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20007/schools_and_education/162/school_closures)

We also contact local radio stations which announce school closures as they get them.

Local Radio Stations that will be contacted by the school:

BBC Radio Stoke 94.6FM

Signal Radio 102.6FM

<http://www.signal1.co.uk/local/school-closures/>

### **School Closure if the weather deteriorates during the day**

1. The school will be closed early only in extreme cases.
2. Any decision to close the school early will be passed on to staff and students as soon as we have arrangements in hand.
3. There will be an orderly release of students.
4. We will tell students if we know of any changes to normal routes so that they can decide the best way to get home.
5. Students being collected from school or with other arrangements will be allowed to phone home, under supervision, for advice on what to do.
6. Students who can walk home will be sent, preferably, in the company of other students who live near to each other.
7. Parents/carers who turn up to collect their children may have to wait. Please do not come in to the main reception unless it is an emergency.
8. Students who have not made contact with a family member should not leave school. We will keep students safe until permission is granted to release them. School will be kept open with staff on hand until the last student has left.

### **What parents/carers can do during severe weather**

1. Check the local radio website or listen to local radio stations for early morning information.
2. Plan ahead with your child what to do in a bad weather emergency.
3. Only call the school if you really have to - calls in prevent calls out!
4. If the school is open but you are cut off, please inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has to formally authorise the absence to 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 prevents the child coming into school, risks their child 's absence being registered as an un-authorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

### **External Examinations during severe weather**

We will always do our best to ensure that school is open for students to sit examinations. However, there may be exceptional cases when this will not be possible. If the local radio website states that school is closed to all students and you are meant to be sitting an external exam on the same day, don't panic! We will enter you for a later sitting, if possible. If this is not possible then we will apply for special consideration for all those students affected.

If the school is open but the weather is bad you should still do your very best to get into school, as long as your parents/carers think that it is safe to do so. Do not worry if you have tried your best to get in for the start of the exam but have still been delayed as we can, in exceptional circumstances, allow such pupils to start the exam a little later. However, we are not allowed to postpone the examination to another day.

This policy should be read in conjunction with all policies and will be reviewed annually.