



Sheep Dip Lane
Academy



Exceed Learning Partnership
• EVERY CHILD • EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY •

Severe Weather Policy Sheep Dip Lane Academy



Responsible Governing Board	Local Governing Board
Responsible Persons	Principal/ABM
Date of last review	28th September 2021
Review Date	November 2024

1. Aim

Our Academy appreciates that any closure will disrupt children's education and can make life very difficult for parents/carers especially those who work and need to find child care at short notice. Therefore, our Academy has developed this contingency plan for severe weather on the assumption that school will endeavour to stay open where possible using strategies such as reduced hours in the school day and reduced numbers for each year accessing provision dependent on staff available.

Exceptionally severe weather or other crisis events may disrupt the best of plans.

It may be necessary to close the Academy for a variety of extreme reasons including:

- Exceptional weather including flooding, snow or storms
- Disruption to national transport system through petrol or diesel shortages
- Accommodation problems for example loss of power supply, heating failure or fire damage

2. Rationale

The rationale behind the decision to close our Academy will normally rest with our Senior Trust Team, Principal or in her absence, Vice Principal and will be in agreement with our Chair of Governors.

The decision will be made where possible before 7.00am on the basis of information received from the media about weather, supplemented by on the spot observation by our Site team and through appropriate agencies such as the Met Office.

Factors involved in reaching a decision to close the Academy are likely to be:

- If access to the school i.e. road conditions (obstructions, snow, ice, flooding) prevent safe entry to the grounds and building
- Breakdown of Academy essential services (heating, electrical services, water, storm damage)
- Lack of first aid cover, designated persons for child protection, food service

The Principal will advise staff and Governors through text alerts, phone calls and/or email. The Academy will attempt to access the school texting service, website, Seesaw and Tapestry to contact parents/carers but strongly advise parents/carers to also listen to Hallam FM and/or Greatest Hits Radio or visit their websites for the latest school closure information.

3. Initial response in the event of severe weather

Staff to attend the academy as soon as is possible although it is recognised that severe weather conditions make it difficult for staff to get to and from work. Unless advised to the contrary by the Principal or Vice Principal, the expectations is that all staff present themselves for work as soon as they can safely.

4. Clearance of snow

Within the Academy site, the school is responsible for snow clearance and the clearing of approach paths is the specific task of the Site Team. When severe weather is forecast, the Site Team will spread salt and grit the night before and also on arrival at 6.30am.

Please note the clearance of public roads is the responsibility of the Highways Department.

5. Reduce Academy hours

The Academy will start at 10.00am to give as many staff the opportunity to get in. It will also close at 14:00 to support children and staff getting home safely.

6. Reduction of year groups

In the event of greatly reduced numbers of staff getting into the Academy, children will be taught in key stage appropriate groups.

If there is a question of children's safety being at risk, for instance if the playground is deemed unsafe, the Academy will take the responsibility to keep the children indoors.

The Site Team will be first on site along with the Principal. Staff living closest to the Academy will be expected to cover classes as needed until further colleagues arrive. Academy Governors who live close have expressed commitment and are to hand if necessary to support. The Academy will decide how many classes are to remain open determined by first aid and designated staff available. Situations will be adapted to meet the needs of the children as staff arrive.

Review: This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date of Policy 28th September 2021

To be reviewed November 2024

Signed: Principal

F Parish



Signed: Governor

K Holland



Chair