

Severe weather: risk assessment February 2021

Use and adapt this template to help you assess whether you need to close your school due to severe weather. We worked with our associate expert, Trevor Bailey, to develop the example control measures.

HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	CONTROLS TO BE PUT IN PLACE	WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE	WHEN THE CONTROLS NEED TO BE IN PLACE BY	ADDITIONAL NOTES
Tripping/slipping on icy surfaces	- Staff - Students - Parents	There will be enough grit available to cover affected paths and walkways.	Caretaker, Staff H&S & SBM	February 2021	Ensure enough Salt is available to make safe the site
Heating failure	- Staff - Students	Heating will be regularly tested and serviced annually.	SBM, HT	February 2021	Heating has always been an issue and is currently being looked at by DfE
Falling debris, tree branches etc. due to high winds	- Staff - Students - Parents	Rope off any areas considered dangerous. Regularly inspect buildings and trees to check condition. Minimise time staff and students have to spend outside in areas considered a risk.	SBM, Staff H&S, Caretaker	February 2021	
Traffic accidents due to poor driving conditions	- Staff - Students - Parents	Advise staff and parents not to travel by car in poor weather conditions. Close school car park if there is a build-up of snow/ice.	All staff	February 2021	Staff to keep contact with HT & SBM if they live in a higher risk area
Insufficient number of staff to supervise students due to inability to reach school	Students	Be aware of the number of staff who need to travel long distances to reach the school, and use this information to plan ahead as to who might not reach the school in the event of severe weather.	HT, SLT & SBM	February	Plan for teaching year groups together if needed or adhoc TT for the day.

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Loss of water supply	- Staff - Students	Communicate with water company about timeframes for getting the supply back on.	SBM, HT & Caretaker	February 2021	
Power failure	- Staff - Students	Contact energy supply company regarding timeframe for restoration of supply.	SBM, HT & Caretaker	February 2021	School system are maintained by Blakes Electrical
School closed but some students, who've missed the announcement, still arrive	Students	Have a dedicated holding space that's warm and secure where available staff will wait with students. Contact parents to arrange return home when possible and safe.	HT, SBM, H&S Staff and caretaker	February 2021	Students that still arrive will be kept safe and parents informed. Decisions will be made individually with parents on the plan of action
Severe snowy weather approaching during the school day	- Staff - Students	Have protocols and arrangements in place for closing early, including arrangements with coach companies and lines of communication to parents. Issue warning on previous day based on current forecast.	HT & SBM	February 2021	If severe weather approaches during the school day parents will be informed and verbal consent for students to leave early gained. If they are at risk of becoming stranded through public transport individual plans will be made with parents.