



# DORMSTON SCHOOL

## Adverse Weather Policy Statement

### Introduction

It is the aim of the Dormston School to provide an uninterrupted education to all of our pupils throughout the year. To this end, it will be the aim of the school to provide these services in all weather conditions, including periods when there may be extreme ice and snow, whilst ensuring the safety of staff, pupils and visitors.

However; the decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors. 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.

All notification will be available on [www.dormstonschool.co.uk](http://www.dormstonschool.co.uk) and where possible we will send a GroupCall message to pupils (parents) and staff.

During anticipated adverse weather periods there will be daily announcements using the school website.

If the weather were to suddenly deteriorate after school has started then updates about what action the school is taking to secure the safety of pupils will be made every 30 minutes. It should be remembered that when pupils are in school they are safe, warm and can always be fed. The school would never ask a pupil to leave the premises in adverse weather conditions.

These arrangements also mean that parents do not have to panic and put themselves at risk by travelling in adverse weather conditions.

Parents acting on the assumption that the school will be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the pupil

coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of snow and or freezing conditions the School will:

- apply salt/grit to main vehicle and pedestrian access routes onto the site in anticipation of ice or snow to attempt to prevent it forming. Please see attached map to show points of access and for safe routes around the school site;
- aim to maintain safe passage through the main external pedestrian and vehicle routes as far as is practicable within our resources;
- aim to clear snow/ice from the Car Park as far as is practicable within our resources;
- clear snow/ice from building entrances, steps and the most used pedestrian routes;
- make safe any hazards due to areas becoming unsafe e.g. snow fall from roofs, etc.
- expect staff and students to keep to all cleared routes;
- ensure that pupils are safe once they arrive even if this means they remain in the school building long after normal closing time;
- if the weather deteriorates suddenly we will provide advice on the website regarding revised arrangements.

In the event of a Heat Wave (thermal comfort) the School will:

- utilise the natural ventilation systems of the School, opening all vents, windows and doors whilst ensuring the safety and security of the building is not compromised;
- ensure pupils' only access the sheltered and shaded areas;
- monitor temperatures to ensure safety;
- actively encourage pupils' to drink water and fluids to ensure they do not become dehydrated;
- monitor our outdoor lessons (physical education) against our risk assessments.

Our Expectations

- for you to wear suitable clothing and footwear;
- for you to keep to routes cleared and maintained;
- to notify the buildings team of any points/areas likely to affect safe passage;
- for you to take due care for your own safety in adverse conditions;
- to ask for support if you need to enter areas that have not been cleared;
- expect that staff, pupils and visitors will take due care for their own safety in adverse conditions;
- to be extra vigilant in less used areas and areas that may have less illumination;
- for you to only use the school website to obtain accurate information it will be updated every 30 minutes, do not rely on hearsay;
- do not telephone or text students who will be in lessons, it causes a major disturbance and although it is against school rules for pupils to have mobile phones

on them during the normal school day, some students may breach these rules to text or call parents without permission;

- Please visit the school website for all correspondence unless in an emergency situation.

In the event of there being snow or freezing conditions for a prolonged period, the Schools Major Incident Plan may take effect. This will only be as a result of a loss of essential services (electricity, water or gas) or a complete lack of safe travel opportunities. You will be informed of all up to date information via the schools GroupCall facility and via the school website.