



PEAK SCHOOL

Adverse Weather Policy

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Approved by Nicola Price (interim Exec. Head) Nov 23

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Introduction

During the winter months we expect weather conditions to deteriorate and are likely to see increased rainfall, winds and even snowfall. However, with climate change impacting our weather we can also expect severe weather events outside of these times such as increased heavy rain, severe storms and periods of extreme heat. As a school we need to plan for these events to ensure that our pupils and staff are all kept safe at these times.

We understand that during these times it may be necessary to adjust school start times, reduce the day or even close for the whole day and that these decisions can be inconvenient and disruptive to our parents/carers, and we do not make such decisions without careful consideration.

Decision making process

Only the Head Teacher (or Deputy in their absence) can make the decision to close the school. If the decision is made to close the school due to adverse weather the following information will be used to support this process :-

1. Emergency Alerts from the Government Emergency Alert system (The school will follow advice set out in these alerts).
2. Weather forecasts using [The Met office website](#) for Chinley, Chapel-en-le Frith, Whaley Bridge, Buxton and Chesterfield.
3. Local weather forecast using [Buxton Weather](#) as this also provides information about local road conditions.
4. Conditions that can be seen on the ground and ongoing forecast for the day.

When there is a forecast for adverse weather the school will consider the weather forecasts and any advice given in any weather warning, and how this may impact the school during the day. This includes journeys that pupils and staff need to make into school and their return journeys as well as conditions on the school site. This is part of our dynamic risk assessment process and duty of care as set out in Health and Safety law and guidance.

Communication

1. Adverse Weather Event Overnight

If we have had a adverse weather event overnight such as heavy snowfall/heavy rain and the weather forecast is for the weather to improve during the day it may be possible to open school later to ensure pupils and staff are able to travel safely. However, this may not be an option and school may need to be closed for the day.

The Head Teacher (or Deputy in their absence) will make the decision about opening by **07:00**. This decision will then be communicated to parents/carers via the school website, social media accounts and Seesaw by **07:30**. So that taxis can be cancelled or delayed as appropriate.

The school will also contact SEND transport (SENDtransport@derbyshire.gov.uk) to inform them of the decision while also cascading this information to staff.

2. Adverse Weather Event during the school day

Sometimes weather events occur during the school day and can be more significant than forecast and the decision to close the school early may be required.

The Head teacher (or Deputy in their absence) will undertake a dynamic risk assessment linked to the current ongoing situation, this will take account of the conditions locally and information from the sources listed above to inform the dynamic risk assessment.

When the decision to close has been made, the School Business Manager will update the School Website, social media accounts and Seesaw, with the information – this is the quickest way to reach a large number of stakeholders in the first instance and the Deputy Head will inform SENDtransport@derbyshire.gov.uk.

In the meantime, the school admin team will contact parents/carers and taxis to ensure they are aware we are closing the school and the reason behind the decision. The admin team will ensure that there will be someone at home to receive the pupil.

School will hold all pupils until they have confirmation that there will be someone at home to receive them as this forms part of our safeguarding duty.

During adverse weather conditions or where extreme weather has been forecast, given the geographical catchment area of the school and the distances some pupils have to travel, as a school we expect parents/carers and taxi companies transporting pupils to and from school to be aware of the road conditions in their locality.

If parents/carers have made the assessment that road conditions are deteriorating in their local area and make the decision to collect their child from school, but the school has not made the decision to close, they must inform the taxi company of their decision.

If a taxi company have made the assessment that road conditions are deteriorating in their local area, but the school has not made the decision to close, and make the decision to collect pupils earlier, it is their responsibility to ensure they have contacted parents/carers and ensured there is someone at home to receive the child.

School will hold all pupils until they have confirmation that there will be someone at home to receive them as this forms part of our safeguarding duty.

During these adverse weather events, the school will operate a triage system, contacting parents/carers and taxi companies for those pupils with the longest journey first and then working their way through to those living more locally. This is to ensure that pupils living furthest away from school are not unnecessarily exposed to additional risks on their journey due to delayed communication.

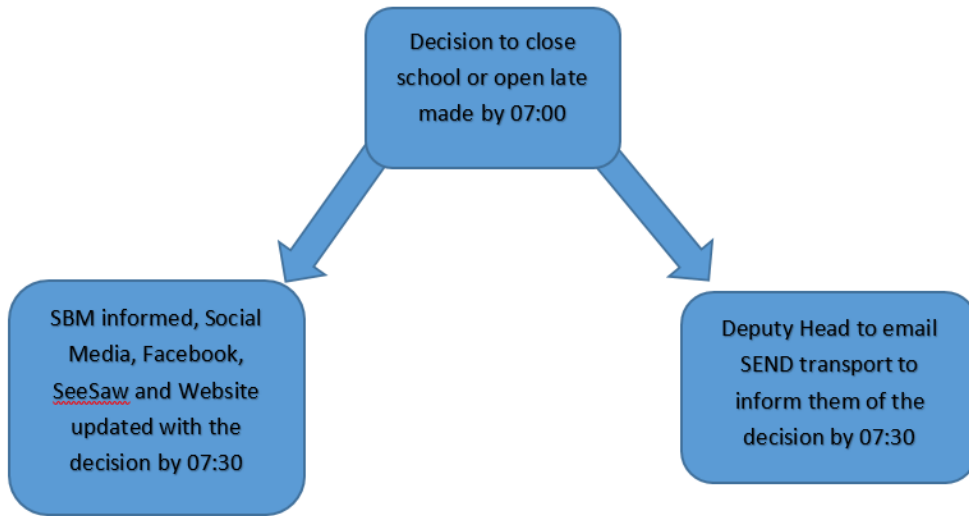
School Responsibilities

1. To ensure that all pupil contact details including two emergency contacts are up to date on the school information system enabling effective communication.
2. To ensure the triage list for contacting parents and taxis are up to date to facilitate effective communication.
3. To ensure the emergency school closure checklist is printed and used during a school closure event ensuring all pupils are accounted for.
4. To ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff are taken into account when making decisions about school closure.
5. To ensure that someone will be at the home address (or arranged alternative) to receive the child before they are allowed to leave the school site.
6. If for any reason parent/carers or taxis are unable to reach school to pick pupils up then the school will contact The Head of Transport at Derbyshire to source emergency assistance (01629 533868).
7. As children leave the school site SLT will triage the staff leaving, starting with those with the furthest to travel.

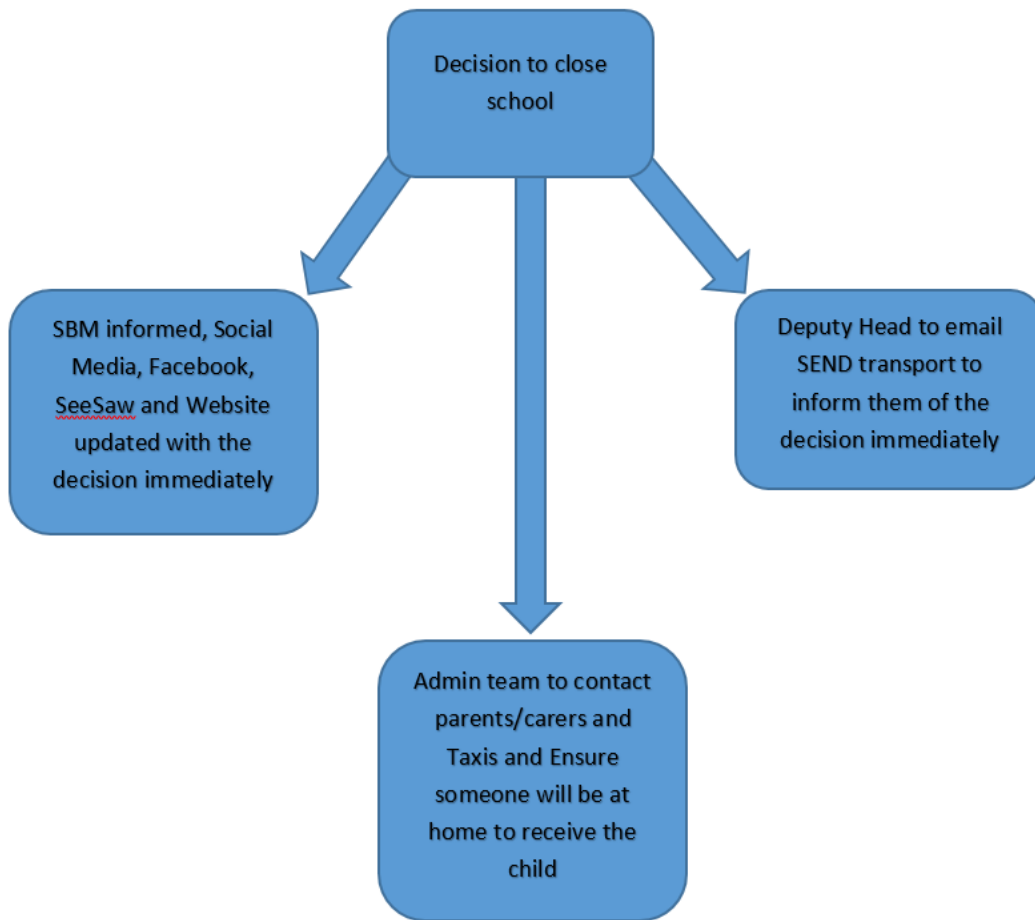
Parent/Carer Responsibility

1. To inform school when contact or emergency contact details change.
2. To respond to call from school, and make appropriate arrangements for child to be collected from school.
3. To inform school if they are worried about conditions in their local area and the course of action they will be taking.
4. If in doubt about their ability to collect or arrange collection from school, in the event of school closure due to forecast adverse weather conditions, to keep their child at home.
5. Where adverse weather is forecast, for carers of looked after children to have arrangement in place to receive children from school with minimal delay. This is to ensure the health and safety of all concerned at these times.

Appendix A – Adverse Weather closure before school starts communication flow chart



Appendix B – Adverse weather closure during the day communication flow chart



Appendix C – Adverse weather no decision made to close school but parents/carers or Taxis have assessed need to collect pupils before the end of the school day.

