St Mary's School
CAMBRIDGE

Adverse Weather and Unexpected Closure Policy

This policy is the responsibility of the Head, Head of Juniors and the Operations Manager.

Last review: July 26

Next review: July 27

It is always the aim of St Mary's School, Cambridge (the School) to remain open except in the most extreme circumstances when we are forced to close because there is a risk to the health and safety of staff and students.

Travel and school arrangements during adverse weather

Before setting off for school during a period of adverse weather, parents/carers should carefully consider both the journey into school and the journey home. Roads and public transport can quickly become unreliable in such circumstances, often with little prior warning.

The School will endeavour to offer a programme for students who do manage to come into School; however, this may not be a full teaching day on the first day of any such disruption. The School will take into consideration the safety of the students and the possibility of them being sent home soon after arrival. After school clubs and events may be cancelled.

Many students travel in from other towns and villages within the county and beyond. If the weather is closing in where parents live to the extent there are concerns about a safe journey home, and parents have not yet received notice of an early closure, they should contact the school to give permission for their child to travel home (in the Senior School only), or to inform the school that they will be collecting their child early.

Closure before the start of the school day

If adverse weather conditions affect Cambridge city centre that mean it is unsafe to open the School, information will be posted on the School website and through other media outlets; a text/email will also be sent to all parents.

Closure will be avoided wherever possible. Parents should not contact the school in bad weather to check whether or not the School is open. Unless announced as above, the school will be open.

In the event of closure, class teachers will share the learning expectations for the day via Firefly.

Closure during the course of the school day

The onset of adverse weather may make it necessary to send students home during the school day. Should this be considered necessary, parents will be sent a text/email and a notice will be placed on the school website. As the staff will be supervising the safe departure of several hundred students, parents should not telephone the school to query

this notice – unless specifically requested to do so. In the Senior School, students whose parents have given permission may make their own way home. All other students, including all Junior School students, will be supervised until collected. If parents are unable to collect their daughter, they should call the school to confirm collection time or alternative arrangements.

In the event of an early closure, the minibus service to each of the Park and Ride sites may not operate if conditions are considered unsafe. Families who use the minibus service will be contacted directly with any changes.

Should any other situation, such as a gas leak or power outage occur, resulting in an early closure or the School is unable to open, the same channels of communication and procedures will be used.

Adjustments during the course of the school day

In the event of the onset of extreme heat, the Head and Head of Juniors may make adjustments to the school day. These may include the following, which will be communicated to parents:

- Relaxing the student dress code to allow PE uniform
- Relaxing the staff dress code
- Deploying fans
- Moving lessons to cooler classroom spaces
- Suspending outdoor lessons and activities
- Introducing hydration breaks during lessons
- Amending the school menus to provide additional cold food options
- Offering ice-lollies at break/lunch times
- Reminders to parents regarding the need for hats/water/suncream
- Early finish for EYFS/Junior School
- Cancelling PE clubs and fixtures and adjusting PE curriculum lessons
- Rescheduling events
- Additional supportive measures for people with underlying medical needs
- Relocating the Senior School nursing team to Reception