



Severe Weather Policy

Written by : Sue Beauchamp

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Review Date: 19/01/2025

SEVERE WEATHER

Every effort should be made to keep the school open, even if only a limited number of students are able to attend. There is a legal requirement to keep schools open for 190 days per year (380 sessions) but they may close 'unavoidably' if certain conditions apply, which will usually be for health & safety reasons.

The decision to close or restrict attendance will be taken by the Head Teacher after consultation with the senior leadership team, having discussed reasons for possible closure and subsequently having completed the KCC Risk Assessment.

The Head Teacher will inform the Local Area Education Officer of possible closures in order to secure the necessary legal Local Authority support.

Before deciding whether to close the School, a range of factors will be considered including:-

- Whether there are on-site hazardous conditions that cannot reasonably be mitigated.
- If there are enough staff to safely supervise the number of students who are likely to be present (but not necessarily to maintain the timetable)
- If a reasonable temperature can be maintained in the building or parts of the building where staff and students are likely to be.



- If water is available and sufficient toilets are working properly

Announcing a Centre Closure

If a decision is taken to close a centre, the Head Teacher will register that closure on the Kent Closures website (www.kentclosures.co.uk) from which all local radio stations will take their publicised information.

Parents and carers should make reasonable effort to check the website or to listen to local radio stations as early as possible on the day of severe weather conditions. However the senior staff will have prepared parent and carer contact lists on school mobiles and will make every effort to either call or text every contact to inform them of any closures, as early as possible. In addition information will be kept up to date on our school website www.twobridgesschool.com and School Facebook page.

Should a student have already set off for school before parents and carers are aware of any closure, they should contact the school to inform them and every effort will be made on the part of staff of the school to ensure that the student's welfare will be of paramount importance. If staff are unable to get to school, then the parents and carers will be informed of this. During the day the Head Teacher will review whether the School should remain open or be closed early enough for staff and students to travel home safely but parental and carer consent will always be sought if students are to be sent home earlier than usual.

Staff should not be directed to drive in conditions they consider to be dangerous but they should be able to demonstrate that they have considered all other travel options.

Staff

1. Senior Leaders have a complete list of contacts on work mobiles both for parents and carers and for their staff as well as a copy on SP for all student contacts.
2. Senior Leaders/staff who live within walking distance will check weather forecasts regularly and where possible, clear paths for access into and movement around the buildings.
3. Any closure will be registered on the Kent Closures website (www.kentclosures.co.uk)
4. In the event of a closure, all students must be safely supervised until parents and carers have been informed and either collected or given consent for their child to leave to travel home. A record should be kept of how and when students left the sites.

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5. If teaching and support staff are unable to get into School, they must telephone the Head Teacher by 7.30am in order that the level of supervision can be adequately assessed.

Contact on mobile 07595 545993 or landline 0208 856 9787 or by email.

6. If examinations are due to take place on a severe weather day, the centre Exams Officer will contact the Head Teacher to discuss the possibility of running the exams. Every effort will be made to organise the School and staff to run the exams but if it proves impossible to cover examination conditions and invigilator levels, the Head Teacher will let parents, carers and students know that the examinations will be postponed until the next series.

7. COVID Addendum

If a severe weather closure is announced during the period of COVID restrictions then remote learning would continue in line with the COVID expectations. Staff will be advised to have copies of all remote learning available on SP online and to be able to use email to communicate effectively with students so that learning time lost is kept to an absolute minimum.

Reviewed: January 2021

Date for next review: January 2023

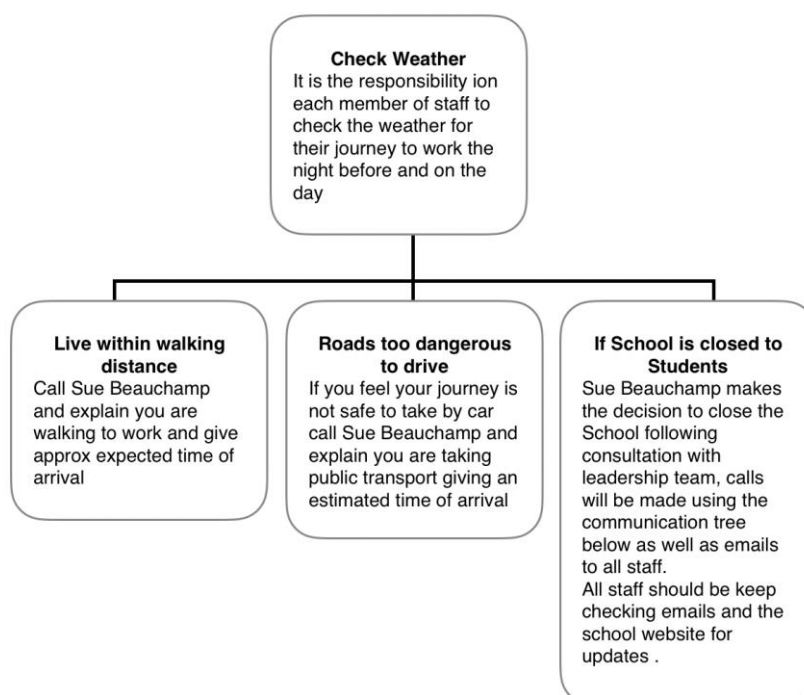
Reviewer: Sue Beauchamp

Signature.....Date.....

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Flow charts for staff travel to work and communication trees.



If School is closed to students:

