

Stanborough Primary School Inclement Weather & Other Emergency School Closures policy

Rationale

Stanborough School recognises that certain conditions may require the School to take precautions to ensure the safety of both its students and staff. Such conditions include:

- Inclement weather such as ice, snow, tornadoes and other natural disasters
- Flood, fire, chemical spills, air pollution and other similar emergencies
- Acts of terrorism, escaped prisoners and other major threats to personal safety

Aim

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and visitors during times of inclement weather or in emergency situations by implementing a planned management strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

School Closure

- School closure will occur in extreme conditions that pose an immediate health and/or safety hazard to the students and staff. The criterion for closing will be the current condition of the school and the immediate environment.
- The Head will take into consideration advice given by the Hertfordshire Education Authority and when necessary the Hertfordshire Police Service.
- The decision to close the School will be made by the Head in conjunction with the Deputy.

Communication about School Closure

- The School closure decision will be:
 - posted on the website by the Head Teacher. Parents and staff may access the information by visiting the School website: www.stanboroughprimary.org.uk
 - attached to the front gate of the school, informing parents on arrival
 - recorded on the School answering machine for those telephoning the School
 - Staff will be contacted via telephone, by the Head and Deputy.

Inclement Weather

Inclement weather is usually defined as rain, lightning, snow, ice or severe wind. In such conditions, the following precautions will be taken:

Before School:

- Children are supervised from 8.30am. In inclement weather, they will be brought into the hall and supervised.
- Access to the School will be through the hall fire door, which will be opened by the supervisor as the children arrive.
- Whole School Fitness will be cancelled during inclement weather. Class teachers will be responsible for running fitness in their own classrooms.

Morning Break:

- The senior teaching assistant will check the weather conditions prior to morning break and advise the teachers if break is to be inside.
- The Infants will be brought to the hall where they will be supervised by an assistant.
- The Junior classes will be supervised by a roving assistant and prefects.
- Any Year 6 pupils not on duty will remain in the dining area.

Lunch

- The senior lunchtime assistant will decide whether the children will be inside at any time for break.
- One assistant will rove between the Reception and Year 1 classrooms and another between Years 2, 3, 4 & 5.
- Two prefects will also help with supervision in each classroom.
- Year 6 pupils not on duty will remain in the dining area.
- The Year 6 teacher is responsible for preparing the rota for prefect supervision.

Afternoon Break

- The senior lunchtime assistant will check the weather conditions prior to break, notify the teachers of the decision and decide whether the children will be inside at any time during break.
- Children will be brought into the hall for supervision by the assistants.

Indoor Supervision

- All children are to remain in their classrooms unless permission has been granted by the assistant to leave temporarily e.g. toilet, drink
- Children are expected to walk indoors at all times and undertake appropriate indoor games and activities e.g. no scissors or ball games

Clothing in Inclement Weather

- All children are required to wear a black coat and black gloves at School during inclement weather.
- The playground assistant must ensure that all children are wearing their coats when they come out to play. Playground assistants must notify the class teacher of any child who does not have appropriate clothing for inclement weather and the teacher must speak to the parent or notify the parent, in writing, of the correct uniform requirements.
- Children without clothing suitable for inclement weather must remain indoors or borrow suitable clothing from the clothing pool.
- Boots may be worn to school, if the weather conditions warrant it, but pupils must change into school shoes once inside.