STANBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Committee Responsible:	**FGB**
Last Reviewed:	**July 2026**
Approved By:	**Headteacher**
Next Review Date:	**July 2028**

What is meant by severe weather?

Severe weather is classified as weather conditions which have an impact on service delivery. The weather may be extreme heat, heavy snow, black ice, fog, floods or strong winds.

In the event of disruption caused by severe weather the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff.

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

The Headteacher is authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance would put the health, safety or welfare of pupils and/ or staff at risk.

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 become too hazardous for travel later in the day.

If the school is to close in the morning

- A dojo message and Arbor email will be sent out to all parents/carers;
- The closure will be recorded on the school's website;
- Staff who are able to get into school will use the phones to answer queries;
- Staff will be posted outside school to inform parents/ carers as they arrive at school.

Unexpected closure during the school day

The safety and well-being of pupils is paramount. Safe and speedy dismissal of pupils in the event of an emergency closure depends on the school and parents/carers working in partnership.

Parent/carers responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that school has up to date emergency contact details.
- Parents are expected to check the website, dojo, Arbor emails when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.
- The school appreciates that during severe weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed.
- It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

If the weather forecast gets worse, the Headteacher may make the decision to close school early and ask for parents/carers to collect children before the end of the day.

The Headteacher will aim to keep the school open, but may give parents the option for early collection if this is in the best interest of families.

School premises

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to children at break and lunchtimes or times outside may be reduced.

Work

As far as possible, in the event of partial or full school closure, teachers will set work for children to complete at home.

In the Headteacher's absence the deputy Headteacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Severe Weather Policy during the school day.