



Severe Weather Policy

Policy updated: October 2024

Policy to be reviewed: October 2025

This policy aims to provide information and advice on unavoidable school closures and travel arrangements in difficult weather circumstances

When it snows

On rare occasions, the weather can be so severe that getting to and from school becomes hazardous. A school like ours, which many pupils and staff travel to on buses, sometimes over long distances, are particularly vulnerable. This is especially so if the weather worsens in the afternoon.

We will ensure that our website www.compass-school.co.uk is updated throughout the day regarding any developments which might affect transport arrangements. In extreme circumstances, when very bad weather is predicted or has broken out, the school will allow pupils to call parents via a phone call.

Decisions about closing the school or sending pupils home early are always difficult to make. We need to gather reliable information, such as checking weather reports, getting advice from the taxi companies and try to assess what is happening elsewhere in the area before making a judgement. Given weather model advancement, Compass school should be able to see severe weather potential prior to any closure.

If the weather deteriorates during the day

1. Any decision to close the school early will be based on the need to ensure the safety of staff and pupils in their homeward journey.
2. Pupils living farthest from school and requiring transport may be sent home. The school **may** remain open for pupils living locally. The closure may be staggered based on these principles.
3. The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher and other key staff.
4. The decision to close the school early will be passed on to staff, parents/guardians and pupils as soon as we have arrangements in hand. It will also be posted on the website, broadcast by local radio and sent via text message.
5. We will tell pupils if we know of any changes to normal routes for public transport so they can decide the best way to get home.
6. Pupils collected from school or with other arrangements will be allowed to phone home for advice on what to do.
7. Pupils who can walk home will be sent, preferably, in the company of other pupils who live near to each other.
8. School will be kept open with staff on hand until the last pupil has left.

If the school is to be closed due to adverse weather overnight

Three possible scenarios might occur:

- 1) The school will be closed. This will be posted on our website by 7.30am and will usually mean that Green Lane and/or the school grounds are inaccessible. Opening the school would be deemed unsafe for staff and pupils. We would make every effort in these circumstances to ensure the school

opens as soon as possible. All parents/carers will receive a text message via Call Parents in the event of a school closure.

2) The school will delay making a decision about opening, and will definitely not be open until 9.30am. Pupils should not leave home until a definite decision about opening is made at 9am. Again all parents/carers will receive a text message via Call Parents.

3) The school will make the decision to close and learning resources will be provided via our website www.compass-school.co.uk/curriculum.

In the event of adverse weather overnight, the Leadership team will work with staff, parents and agencies to prepare contingency plans.

On the morning adverse weather affects the area, staff need to make the decision as to whether they can or cannot get into work. All staff are required to contact the Business Manager on 07719 302007 at anytime until 7.00am either by text or phone to confirm if they can or cannot travel to work.

There is an expectation that staff make a reasonable effort to attend work if the school is open and it is safe to do so.

If staff cannot get into school/there is a school closure, they are expected to work from home and to make contact with pupils so that they can continue with their learning.

Staff will be paid and their non-attendance will be recorded.

If the school closes due to the weather, staff will be notified by text by 7.30am where possible.

Please refer to Appendix A regarding guidance on school closure overnight.

How parents can help

- Check the school website and listen to Local Radio.
- Plan ahead with your child what to do in a bad weather emergency.
- Ensure your contact details are up-to-date with the school including mobile phone numbers and email addresses
- Only call the school if you really have to – calls in prevent calls out!

In the event of a school closure, the school will endeavour for key members of staff to make contact with pupils so that they can continue with their learning.

Closure notices will appear in the following place so please can you check this website too:

www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/school-closures/

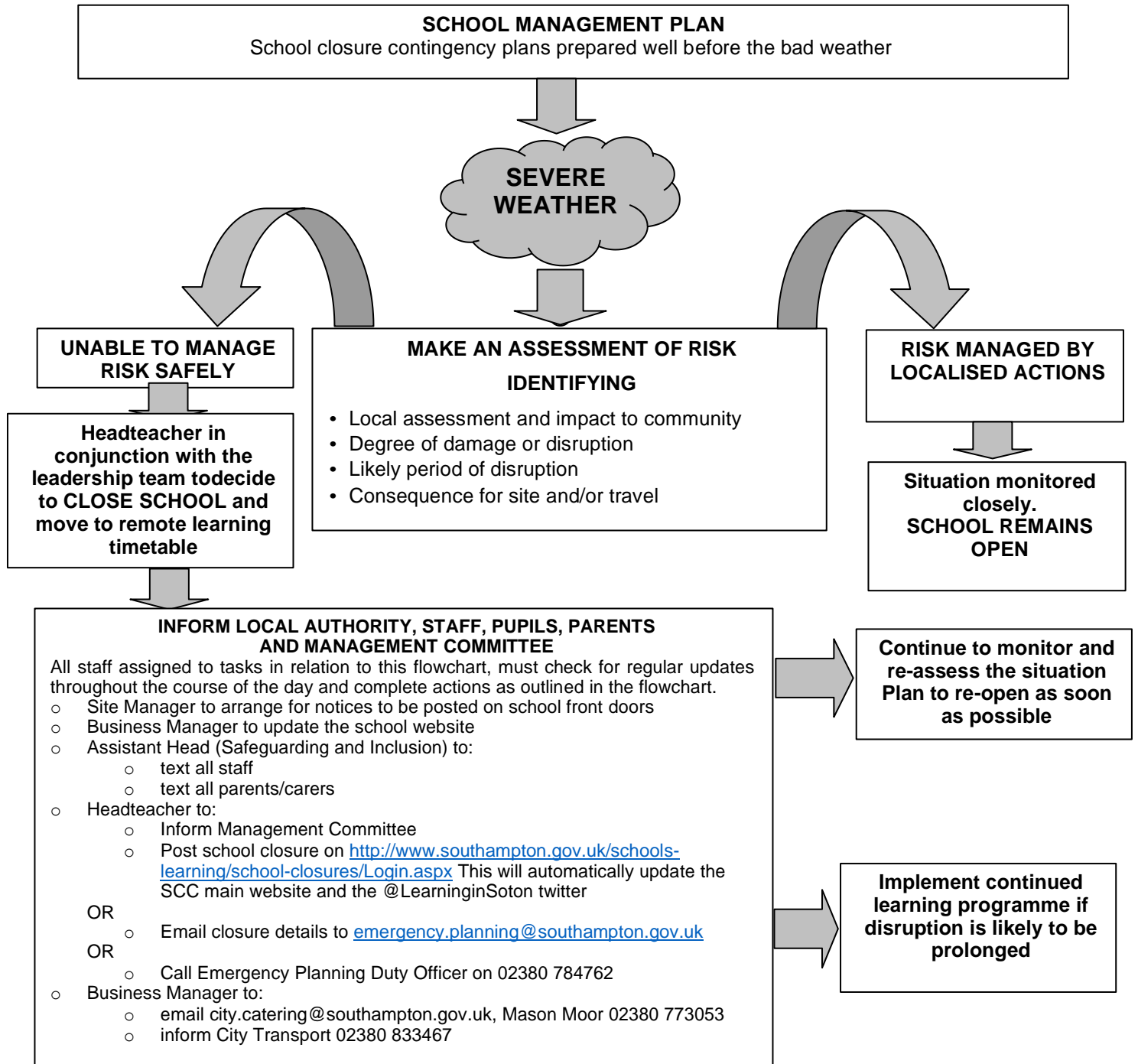
Examinations

We will always do our best to ensure that school is open for pupils to sit examinations. However, there may be exceptional cases when this will not be possible. If our website states that school is closed to all pupils and they are meant to be sitting an external exam on the same day, do not panic! We may be able to enter pupils for a later sitting, for example in the summer term rather than in January. If this is not possible then we will apply for special consideration for all those pupils affected.

If school is open but the weather is bad pupils should still do their very best to get into school, as long as parents/carers, think it is safe to do so. Do not worry if pupils have tried their best to get in for the start of the exam but have still been delayed as we can, in exceptional circumstances, allow pupils to start the exam a little later. However, we are not allowed to postpone the examination to

another day. If it is not safe to travel to school, in most cases we can enter pupils for the next scheduled date for the module they have missed.

Appendix A



October 2024