

Policy owner:	Deputy Head (Admin)
Approving body:	Governing Body
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Extreme Weather Policy

St Aubyn's School, Woodford Green, Essex

Introduction

We can experience a wide variety of adverse weather during a year. We adopt a risk based approach to the procedures we follow when the weather is extreme at School and on School trips.

Sun/Heat

We are committed to ensuring that pupils receive appropriate education and are protected from over exposure to the sun. It is our aim to teach life-long healthy attitudes to enjoying the sun. The School intends to achieve these aims by providing good education and appropriate protection.

In moderation, the sun is good for us. We need it to produce Vitamin D for healthy teeth and bones, and UV light will improve some skin conditions such as acne, eczema and psoriasis. However, over exposure can cause potential harm and we need to ensure that pupils are adequately protected.

Sunburn in childhood can double your risk of skin cancer. You will not see the damage immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop. If we protect ourselves from the sun then we can reduce our risk of getting skin cancer. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged.

1. Education

- Create a partnership between pupils, parents and staff by sharing information and building good practice at home and School.
- All pupils will have at least one SUNSMART lesson per year to emphasise the slip, slap, slop, slurp approach
- The Head will raise SUNSMART issues in assemblies in the Summer Term.
- Parents and guardians will be reminded about sunscreen, water bottles and the appropriate School headwear for their children.

2. Protection

- Shade: Natural shade is limited on site. The trees on the field and the well-being garden provide some shade and should be used when necessary. Gazebos should also be erected for pupils to use when outside when they are required and it is safe to do so.
- Clothing: St. Aubyn's School has a regulation sun hat which is available from the uniform suppliers. It is designed to protect the face, head and neck and we would urge all pupils to have one and to keep it at school for those days when needed. The Head will decide on modifications to the uniform in hot weather (eg removing blazers and ties)
- Sunscreen: We are not able to apply sunscreen to pupils so parents are asked to apply a long lasting, high protection sun cream/block in the morning when required. This, combined with a sun hat, should provide adequate protection. Reminders will be sent to parents.

- Drinking sufficient water will be promoted as a key part of staying hydrated on hot and sunny days. This is particularly important when children are physically active. Each child should bring in a water bottle labelled with their name. Water is also available from water fountains around the site.

Storms

Our staff are responsible for safeguarding our children. If thunder and lightning is occurring, children should be promptly taken inside until the storm passes. This applies in all situations whether on site or off and regardless of what staff from other schools are doing (eg. at a sports tournament).

The same procedure applies to very high winds. In circumstances where it is windy but considered safe to be outside, pupils should be kept away from trees, due to the danger of falling branches.

Pupils benefit from being outside and shouldn't be kept in due to light rain. They should bring and wear a coat if necessary. For outdoor sports, rain shouldn't prevent outdoor participation as pupils can get changed afterwards. However, PE staff have to use their professional judgement as to how long is spent in rain, particularly if it is cold, to avoid a negative experience for pupils.

Storm Plan – If a storm is forecast which could cause severe disruption to transport systems and/or damage to property and people the Head and Bursar will decide if the School will open. If not, parents will be informed well in advance.

If the School is open during a storm, staff will be informed to take children outside only when it is necessary and safe for them to do so. When outside during high winds, staff and pupils will be kept away from trees. The maintenance team will ensure areas that are not safe have no access.

Snow, ice, cold

We make every effort to remain open whenever possible. Generally, we stay open for those pupils and staff who can travel in safely.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous or health and safety cannot be maintained
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be notified to parents and staff by email with as much notice at possible
2. Notification of the closure will be added to the school website and social media as soon as possible.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents and staff informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. Communication regarding remote learning would follow. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

Where adverse weather conditions cause delays or difficulties in travelling to school, staff and parents should take all reasonable steps to make their way to school as soon as they possibly can, taking into account their personal safety. If staff are unable to get into work, they should call their line manager at the earliest possible opportunity to explain the situation and agree what to do. Staff should continue to monitor the weather conditions during the day to see if they can attend work later, for example the afternoon.

If staff are unable to travel to work, it is expected that they work from home (planning, preparation, recording and assessment systems are on-line in a secure area of the website; staff can also read and research articles to develop their practice).

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child. Such an early release will only be contemplated in extreme circumstances.

Staff who are likely to face particular difficulties in getting home may have to leave work early, taking into account their personal safety. This decision will be taken in collaboration with Head. Minimum cover arrangements in school will be provided by employees who do not have a particularly long or difficult journey home to ensure staffing ratios are maintained for the safety of the children.

In the event of snow, ice and/or extreme cold weather our Snow Plan will be implemented (see Appendix). This is designed to make the site as safe as possible. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. The car park will not necessarily be cleared of ice and snow and staff should be aware that due care must be taken at all times.

During adverse weather conditions, some outdoor areas may be restricted in use for the children. Clear procedures for children (eg behaviour, movement around school, uniform etc) need to be communicated to everyone and carefully monitored. This will be risk assessed by the Head.

Related Policies

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures

EYFS Staff Supervision Policy

HASPEV Procedures

Health & Safety Policy

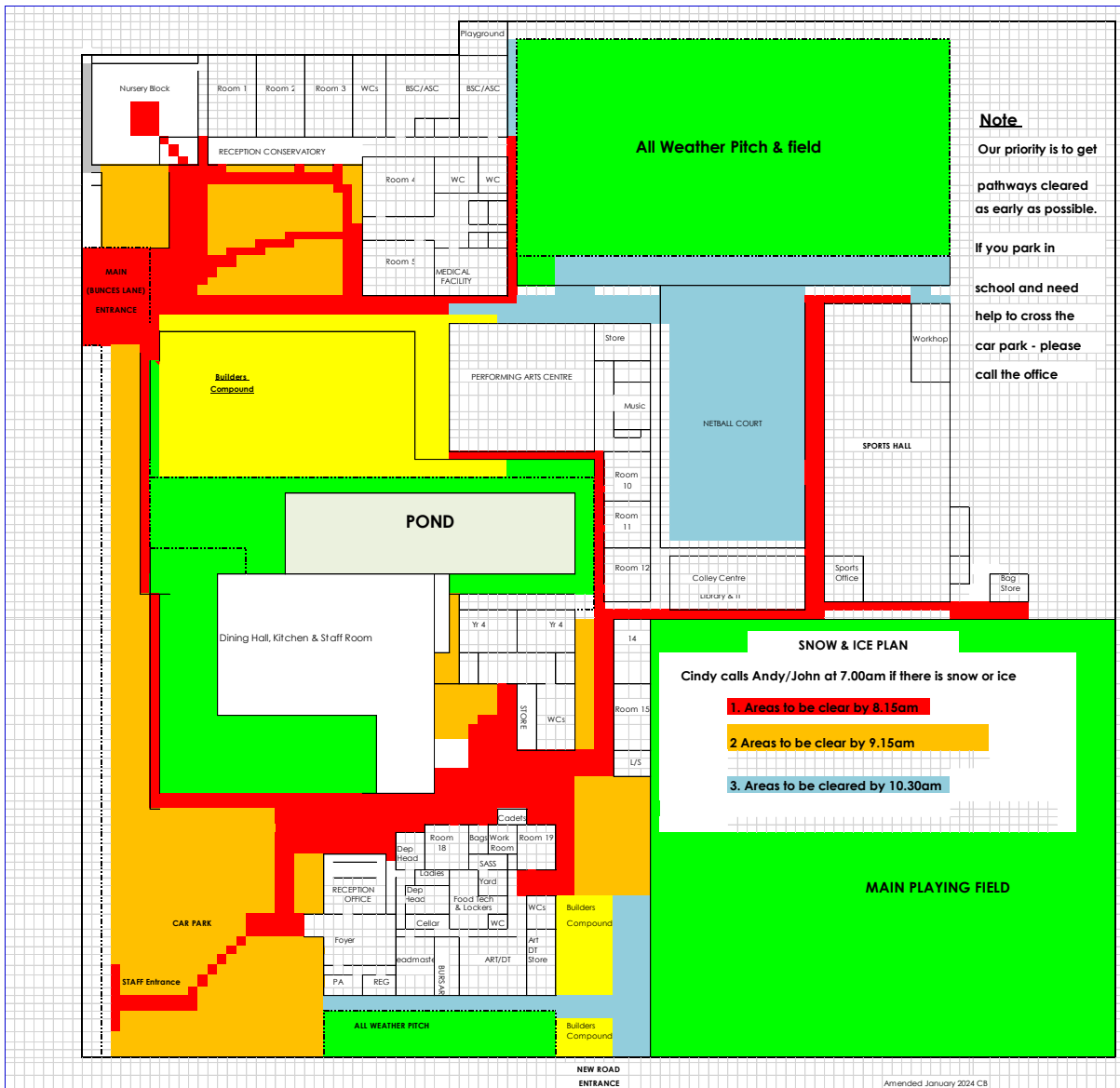
Medical Policy

Risk Assessment Policy

Staff Code of Conduct

Supervision Policy

Appendix – Snow Plan



Amended January 2024 CB