



## Severe Weather Policy

Written: 2019

Updated: May 2021

Reviewed : October 2023

This policy details procedures in the event of severe weather, lightning storms & snow.

The school will write to all parents (at least once each year) reminding them of the school procedure in the event of severe weather & snow. If at any point you change your contact numbers, please let the school know as soon as possible.

The safety of pupils, staff and parents **is paramount** in any decision to close the school. We are therefore able to close the school at short notice. The decision to close the school is not taken lightly.

### **The procedure will be:**

In the event of severe weather or snow the Headteacher will make a decision to close the school in consultation with the Chair of Governors based on:

- current weather conditions
- forecast weather conditions
- inability to staff the school adequately

### **If the school is to be closed:**

- A message will be placed on the home page of the school website from 8.00am. [www.pottshrigleycs.co.uk](http://www.pottshrigleycs.co.uk)
- An e-mail will be sent to each family. This will be done using the school's remote access facility which may be subject to delay.
- We will post on School Facebook and PTA Facebook pages
- If you arrive at school ***you will not be able to leave your child/ren.***

### **If the school is to open:**

- **Under NO circumstances should parents leave their child/ren at school in the morning without first checking that at least one member of the teaching staff is on the premises and that the school is likely to remain open.**
- In case of an early closure due to deteriorating weather conditions parents should inform the school of alternative contact numbers should they anticipate not being available during the school day.

### **If the school is to be closed during the school day:**

- The Headteacher will make a decision in consultation with the Chair of Governors where possible.
- Parents will be contacted, informed of the closure and requested to collect their child/ren. **This must be done without delay.**



# Pott Shrigley Church School

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Headteacher: Mrs Anne-Marie Willis

## **Lightning Storms**

If storms are forecast, the school will postpone or cancel outdoor activities. In the event of an outdoor activity taking place, and an unexpected thunderstorm occurring staff will follow the procedures listed below:

- Count the seconds between seeing lightning and hearing thunder – if it is less than 30 seconds there is a potential risk and staff will therefore escort the pupils back inside the school building.
- If a thunderstorm occurs whilst pupils are participating in an outdoor sports event off-site, staff will escort the children into a building on the site (if possible), or if this is not available, staff will escort the children to take cover in cars/coaches. Staff will ensure that the windows of the vehicle are closed.
- In the event of an approaching thunderstorm, all Reception children will be escorted back inside the Reception class and will not be allowed to remain in the EYFS outdoor area.
- Staff will unplug all non-essential appliances, to avoid the occurrence of power surges.
- In the event of lights going out, torches will be used instead (under no circumstances will candles be used).

In the event of pupils & staff being outdoors and not having sufficient time to reach a building for shelter. Staff will instruct the pupils to:

- find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles. Everyone will crouch down immediately, balancing on the balls of their feet, placing hands on knees with their head between their knees. The rationale for this procedure is that by making yourself into the smallest target possible, you can minimise your contact with the ground.

## **What to do if a pupil/ member of staff/ visitor is hit by lightning**

- If someone has been hit by lightning, call for help as they will need urgent medical attention.
- It is safe to touch them - people struck by lightning carry no electrical charge that can shock other people.
- Check for a pulse and for breathing - if you know first aid, begin artificial respiration and CPR if necessary.
- If they are breathing, check for other possible injuries. (Lightning strike victims have burns in two places - where the electric shock entered and then left the body, usually the soles of the feet. They may have broken bones or loss of hearing or sight).

## **After the thunderstorm**

- Be wary of venturing out too soon - the BBC Weather Centre advises waiting 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning.
- Avoid downed power lines or broken cables.