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| Policy Title | SEVERE WEATHER POLICY |
| Committee responsible | Resources & Finance |
| Last reviewed | July 2023 |
| Next review due | July 2026 |
| Who is governed by this policy | All staff and pupils at the school |
| Available on website | YES |

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Ice, Snow and Flooding

The school will ensure that it holds a stock of rock salt and grit, sufficient for keeping paths clear of ice in wintry weather. Only those routes that must be used by pedestrians to enter and leave the school, move between buildings, and any fire escape routes that have been affected will be treated. Barriers or signposts will be used to warn people not to use any treacherous routes that have not been treated.

In the event of school closure due to heavy snowfall or flooding the school will use the following means to communicate to parents:

- School website – www.warnhamschool.org.uk
- Parentmail
- Local radio
- West Sussex County Council website

During periods of cold weather all children will be encouraged to wear appropriate clothing when outside.

Hot Weather

The Met Office also provides a Heat Health Watch service from 1 June to 15 September. Alerts are published on the Met Office website.

During periods of extreme heat the school will:

- Check that windows can be shaded, particularly those that receive the full glare from the sun at the hottest time of day.
- Ensure windows can be safely opened to provide additional ventilation.
- Ensure that any air-conditioning systems are serviced and functioning correctly and that building occupants know how to optimise their effectiveness by keeping doors and windows shut.
- Consider providing electric fans in areas with poor ventilation, high levels of heat producing equipment, and where particularly vulnerable people may be present.
- Ensure there is sufficient provision of drinking water to all staff, students and visitors.
- Provide shaded areas where students and staff can shelter from the sun during outdoor breaks from lessons.
- Make sure any freezers and refrigerators used to store food are operating correctly; fit thermostats and monitor them regularly.
- Encourage use of hats and sun block of at least factor 15 for outdoor activities.
- Avoid outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day (11.00am to 3.00pm).
- Ensure all staff are aware of the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and first aid providers know how to treat suspected cases.

Sun Protection in School

During periods of hot weather children should come to school with sunscreen already applied. It is now possible to purchase suntan lotion that provides 8 hours of protection following one application reducing the need for lotion to be applied in school.

There may be occasions, particularly if a child is very young or has special needs, where a member of staff may be required to apply lotion in school. In such cases, staff will apply the sun cream when another adult is present, and at least one of the adults present will have been DBS checked.

Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke

Signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- thirst
- dizziness, weak and uncoordinated movements
- excessive sweating or sometimes no sweating at all
- body temperature is normal
- pulse may be normal or a little raised
- leg cramps
- Oedematous / swollen legs
- irritability
- headache
- nausea or vomiting

Treatment for suspected heat exhaustion:

- rest the person in a cool place
- encourage plenty of fluids to be taken
- cool the person down as quickly as possible by spraying them with cool water (use plant sprayers) and use a fan to speed up evaporation of water (keep repeating the process)
- monitor the person's temperature
- contact NHS Direct to seek advice about the person's condition
- do not give paracetamol or aspirin without seeking advice

Signs and Symptoms of Heat Stroke

As for heat exhaustion, plus:

- altered mental state including hallucinations, confusion, disorientation or coma
- intense thirst
- rapid and shallow breathing
- convulsions and loss of consciousness

Treatment for suspected heat stroke

Where heat stroke is suspected or there is uncertainty over the seriousness of the condition of any person affected by heat, an ambulance will be summoned and the treatment described for heat exhaustion will be commenced.

Maximum Classroom Temperatures

Guidance published by the Department for Education states:

- Heat stress and dehydration can be serious problems at temperatures above 35°C, so this should be regarded as the maximum reasonable temperature for prolonged periods of time in a school classroom. Healthy children should be able to cope with the uncomfortably hot conditions up to this temperature, provided they are given generous supplies of cool water to drink.
- More sensitive children may experience problems at much lower temperatures and school staff need to watch for signs of heat stress at temperatures above 28°C.