

ADVERSE WEATHER AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES POLICY

St Bartholomew's Primary School

Date agreed by Governing Board	October 2026
Signature of Chair of Governors	*Gwilym Jones*
Date to be reviewed by Governing Board	October 2028

This version supersedes all previous versions of this policy

INTRODUCTION

The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher.

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 later become too hazardous to travel.

IN THE EVENT OF HEAVY SNOW BEFORE THE SCHOOL DAY STARTS

Actions for parents

When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:

- Checking the school website:

www.st-bartholomews.lewisham.sch.uk

- Checking Class Dojo for messages from the school

If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring or email info@st-bartholomews.lewisham.sch.uk to advise that they are likely to be late. If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

Actions for the school

The Headteacher and Premises Manager will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there. If they decide the school will close, we will update the school website accordingly and send a text message to staff and parents advising them of the closure and advising when work will be loaded onto Google Classroom.

It is important for parents to check the website and Class Dojo in case the text system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it. The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The school recognises that there may be cases where families are "cut off" due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live. In such cases parents should advise the headteacher of their particular circumstances so he can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day.

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The office will contact parents and ask that they pick their child/ren up from school as soon as possible.

The staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity. A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected. If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the headteacher.

Google Classroom

If the decision has been made to close the school, sufficient work will be uploaded onto Google Classroom for the children to access. This work will be acknowledged and uploaded by the class teacher daily, as mentioned in our remote learning policy.

IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME HOT CONDITIONS DURING SCHOOL DAY

- Pupils to wear hats when outside
- Parents to apply wear sun cream at home before pupil comes to school.
- Teachers should make a judgement as to the temperature of classrooms and make internal arrangements to teach in cooler areas where possible.
- Teachers should encourage pupils to drink water and ensure there are regular breaks for them to do so.
- Where possible, all doors and windows should be opened to provide a through breeze & class room

blinds should be drawn.

• Physical education lessons should be carefully planned to avoid sun exposure, unnecessary exertion and dehydration. In extreme weather, outdoor PE lessons should not last for more than 20 minutes when children should be brought indoors, given time to rest and drink water.

• Annual Sports' Day will be determined by preceding days' climate.

• Pupils with Asthma, breathing difficulties or other relevant health conditions should have their pumps and if necessary avoid physical activities

• Parents/carers and children must be encouraged to follow these procedures at home

• Staff must also ensure they drink water regularly and take precautions against the high temperatures

In rare cases, extreme heat can cause heatstroke.

Symptoms to look out for are:

• Cramp in arms, legs or stomach, feeling of mild confusion or weakness.

• If anyone has these symptoms, they should rest for several hours, keep cool and drink water or fruit juice.

• If symptoms get worse or don't go away medical advice should be sought. NHS Direct is available on 0845 4647. If you suspect a member of staff or pupil has become seriously ill, call an ambulance.

While waiting for the ambulance:

• If possible, move the person somewhere cooler.
• Increase ventilation by opening windows or using a fan.

• Cool them down as quickly as possible by loosening their clothes, sprinkling them with cold water or wrapping them in a damp sheet.

• If they are conscious, give them water or fruit juice to drink. Do not give them aspirin or paracetamol.