

Alsop High School



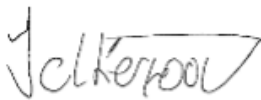
Adverse Weather Policy

Version Number	1.0
Date policy last reviewed	6/10/2025
Policy Type	Mandatory
Owner	Trust Facilities Manager
Approved By	Executive Principal and Trust Facilities Manager
Approval Date	6/10/2025
Next Review Date	6/10/2026

Review Date and Summary of Changes

Date of review	Summary of changes
6/10/2025	Initial New Adverse Weather Policy
6/10/2026	Review Date

Signed by:



Executive
Principal

Date: 19/10/25



Trust Facilities
Manager

Date: 6/10/2025

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Statement of Intent

It is the aim of Alsop High School to ensure the school remains open during adverse weather conditions, when practicably possible during flooding, high wind, ice and snow, providing that this can be done in a safe manner.

Alsop High School intends to, wherever possible, make the decision to close the school before the teaching day commences, rather than defer the decision and delay the opening of the school.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Make the appropriate procedures clear, in relation to operating the school during adverse weather conditions
- Make clear the grounds for a school closure due to adverse weather conditions
- Advise and inform staff and parents of the systems and procedures in place in the event of a school closure due to adverse weather conditions

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- UKHSA (2023) 'Looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves: for teachers and professionals'
- UKHSA (2023) 'Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during cold weather: teachers and other educational professionals'
- UKHSA (2023) 'Adverse Weather and Health Plan'
- DfE (2023) 'Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following trust/school policies:

- First Aid Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- School Uniform Policy
- Exam Contingency Policy

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Executive Principal is responsible for:

- Deciding whether the school will close due to adverse weather
- Informing parents and staff of any closure
- Deciding whether pupils should be kept indoors during break times and reporting this decision to staff at the earliest opportunity
- Deciding which and how many entrances will be used in and out of school. If there are any closed paths/gates the signage will be clearly shown to direct the parents, pupils and visitors.
- Ensuring the site team has checked the snow clearing equipment and rock salt supply levels
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis

The site Supervisor is responsible for:

- Adhering to the risk assessment that covers adverse weather and gritting/clearing
- Ensuring gritting/clearing is carried out in line with the procedures outlined in this policy
- Ensuring all equipment is maintained and stored properly, notifying the headteacher of any damages
- Ensuring the school has an adequate supply of rock salt

Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to the requirements of this policy
- Reporting any concerns relevant to this policy to the headteacher/site team
- The safety of pupils, colleagues and themselves
- Wearing appropriate footwear and clothing during periods of adverse weather
- Liaising with one another before the end of the day to discuss an exit plan for pupils, this includes special circumstances for pupils with any injuries that may need help.

Parents/visitors/contractors are responsible for:

- Only using the designated and cleared areas whilst on the school premises
- Keeping all their contact information up-to-date
- Ensuring they and their children wear the appropriate footwear and clothing for adverse weather

3. Decision to Close

The decision to close the school will be made by the Executive Principal

The Site Supervisor and the Chair of Governors/IEC/CEO will be consulted when making a decision about school closure.

In the absence of the Executive Principal, the Head of School will assume the responsibility of the headteacher in relation to the Adverse Weather Policy.

The school will be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Conditions on site are considered to be unsafe and are likely to present danger to users of the site.
- Staff numbers are insufficient for the school to operate safely.

In the event of school closure:

- The Executive Principal will inform staff via email/ phone when appropriate and parents via Bromcom
- The Executive Principal will post an update on the school website/ social media via the School Office and Operations manager or MIS and data manager
- The Site Supervisor will display 'closure' signs on the school's entrance gates
- If parents ring school directly, they will be informed of the school closure

In the event of the school having to close during the day, parents will be contacted via Bromcom or telephone, using the number provided on the emergency contacts list to inform them that school is closing.

A closure of the school during the day and an early release of staff will only be considered in extreme circumstances.

4. Remaining Open In Adverse Weather Conditions

When deciding whether the school will remain open, risks will be assessed in line with the Snow and Ice Risk Assessment.

If the school remains open when there has been snowfall or the site is icy, access to the site for pedestrians will be restricted to the pedestrian gates only.

The Site Supervisor will place signs to warn users of the increased hazards on site.

All pathways, wherever practicable, will have been cleared and gritted before pupils arrive on the premises, following the procedures in section 5.

At the Executive Principal's discretion, during periods of adverse weather conditions, the main yard may be out-of-bounds to pupils and parents.

All persons entering the school buildings are asked to ensure they wipe their feet thoroughly, in order to reduce slip hazards.

5. Procedures for Gritting/Clearing

The first phase of gritting/clearing will prioritise those areas which are most used by pupils and staff. This includes the main entrance of the school, as well as the following areas:

- footpaths leading to the front entrance and the entrances to the rear of school and side
- These will be marked on the Gritting/Clearing Plan.

The second phase of gritting/clearing will include areas that are not covered by phase one but are likely to be used. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Pathways around the rear of school
- Main Yard
- These will be marked on the Gritting/Clearing Plan.

The Executive Principal decides which areas of the school are designated 'first phase' and 'second phase' for gritting/clearing. These will be clearly shown on the site plan.

The maintenance Team ensures that the correct areas have been gritted/cleared and are safe for pupils, staff and visitors.

People are to stick to the clearly visible paths that have been gritted/cleared. See gritting/clearing plan.

The maintenance Team ensures that the relevant equipment is used during gritting/clearing. Any damaged equipment is reported to the Executive Principal so that it can be replaced.

The supply of rock salt is monitored – if supplies are low, the Site Supervisor will arrange for stocks to be replenished.

Health and Safety

The school has a duty of care to anyone accessing the site and surrounding grounds.

The school will be responsible for taking all reasonably practicable measures given the circumstances, to ensure the health and safety of pupils, staff, visitors and parents entering the school site.

The Executive Principal is responsible for ensuring safety on the school site, in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Staff, visitors and parents have the personal responsibility to express caution and take responsibility for their own health and safety whilst on the school grounds. For example, to wear appropriate footwear.

Individuals must take responsibility for the health and safety of any children under their supervision.

If anyone believes that the site is unsafe after the Snow and Ice Risk Assessment has been completed, it is advised that they do not enter the school grounds and inform either the Executive Principal or Site Supervisor so the safety can be reassessed.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, the Site Supervisor will assess the school site and inform the Executive Principal for any potential hazards due to the adverse weather conditions.

Closing the school is a reasonable decision if pupils or staff are at risk of serious injury due to the weather conditions.

When roads are impassable, the health and safety issue is overridden by the practical issue of access.

6. Limited Staff Numbers

During periods of adverse weather conditions, staff members are expected to make all reasonable efforts to attend work, whether this means they will be late or not.

It is at the discretion of staff members as to whether they are able to attend work in adverse weather conditions. However, every effort should be made for staff to come into work.

Staff members are required to consider local weather conditions, distance, availability of public transport and fitness to walk when making their decision.

Staff members are required to phone the Vice Principal via the absence line between 6.45 and 7.15 and alert their Line Manager to discuss if having difficulties attending work due to adverse weather.

In order to comply with health and safety regulations, different age groups may be brought together to be taught under the supervision of the available teachers and support staff:

The school will continue to strive to provide high-quality education in the given circumstances.

7. Exam Disruption

If the school must close, or if a child misses an exam due to adverse weather conditions, the school will make alternative arrangements with the relevant awarding body as per the Exam Contingency Policy.

The school takes full responsibility for informing parents and pupils of any agreed changes concerning exams in adverse weather conditions. This includes:

- using alternative venues
- exam results being generated by the awarding body, based on other assessments in the same subject
- the opportunity for the pupil to sit any missed exam later in the year

8. Emergency Plan

In the case of an emergency relating to adverse weather, the school will follow their planned emergency procedure.

Also High School's emergency plan will contain:

- information on where to find parent contact details
- staff contact details for out-of-hours emergencies
- details of which staff members have agreed to perform certain tasks during an emergency

All nominated staff will be trained to:

- contact and liaise with emergency services
- provide first aid
- move pupils to a safe place
- calm and comfort pupils
- contact parents
- deal with any media interest

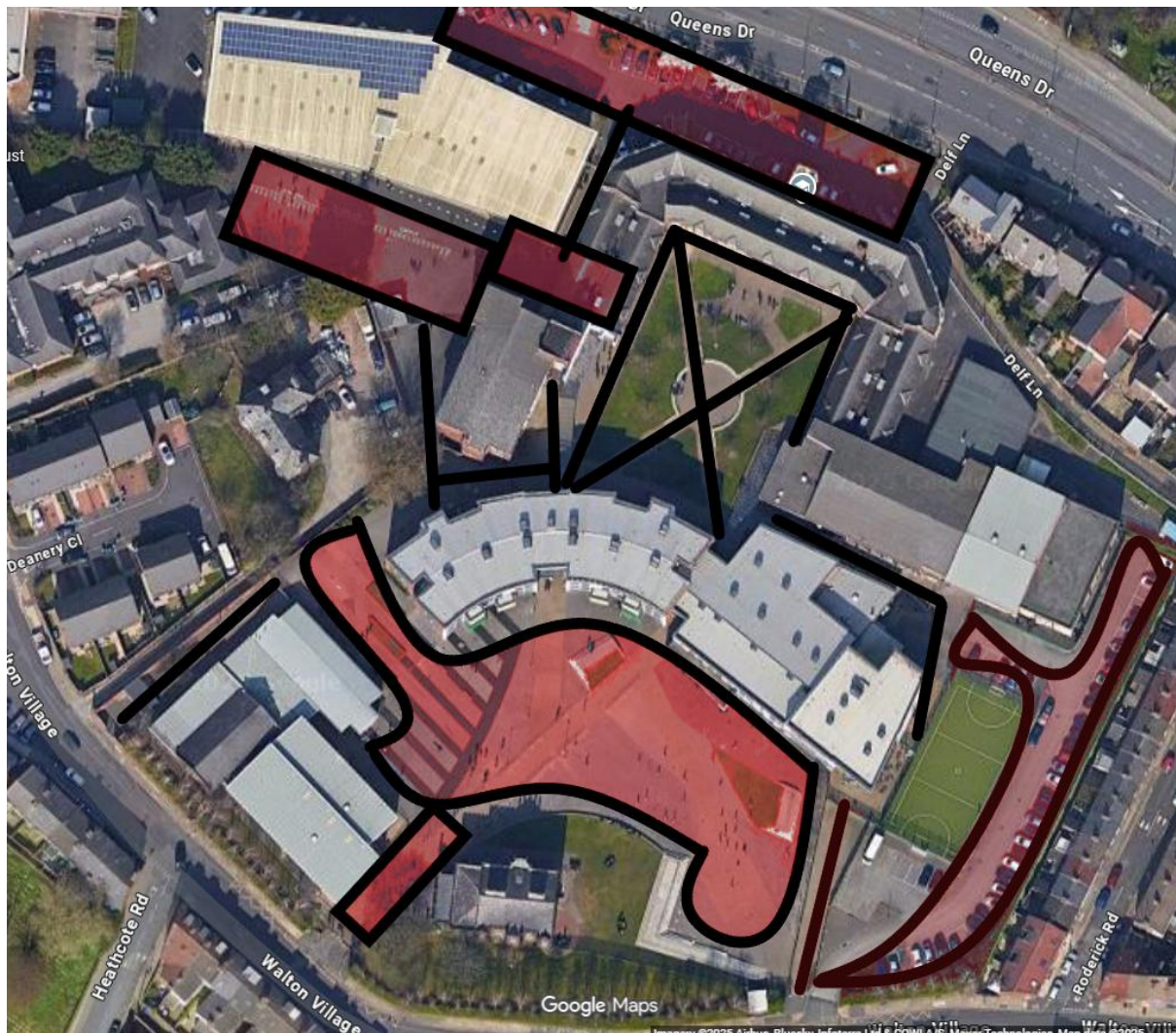
Each member of staff will have access to a copy of the emergency plan through Sharepoint.

All parents will be sent a Bromcom message/receive a phone call home informing them of their responsibilities, e.g. Make arrangements for their child to make it home safely.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Principal annually. The next review of this policy is shown on the first page of this policy document.

Appendix 1 - Gritting Plan



Areas shaded in red are gritted by an outsourced company who attend automatically when the temperature drops towards freezing point.

The single black lines indicate the paths/areas that the gritting vehicle can not get to. In this case the site maintenance team will grit these areas.

There is no history of any major flooding in the school grounds, nor is there a history of falling roof tile/debris.