



WEATHER AWARENESS POLICY FOR LEIGHTON ACADEMY

Policy lead:	Mrs S Thompson
Approval date:	23.01.25
Next review date:	23.01.28
Approval needed by:	LGB

Leighton Academy is part of The Learning Partnership.

Sun Awareness

During warmer weather school will adopt appropriate measures to control exposure to the sun for both staff and young people. Control measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:-

- Parents must dress their children in appropriate clothing that gives protection from the sun during the summer months. This would include an appropriate hat (that offers protection to the neck as well as face), long-sleeved loose-fitting tops and long trousers.
- Parents are encouraged to apply waterproof sunscreen which gives complete protection (of the highest factor available) to all exposed areas of the skin prior to sending young people to school and providing a supply for use during the day as necessary by the young person. **(For younger children or those who may struggle to apply sunscreen this should ideally be of the spray-type which staff can spray on and pupils can rub-in, thereby reducing the need for physical contact).**

This should be labelled with the young person's name and not shared with others.

- School may create shaded areas in the external parts of the school that can be used by pupils and staff during break times.
- School will try to plan external activities (e.g. short duration trips, external lessons and sports days / sporting activities) for times when the sun is likely to be at its lowest strength (and the temperature at its lowest) e.g. at the start of the day rather than late morning or in the afternoon.
- Giving consideration to postponing or cancelling events such as those above in periods of excessive sun and high temperatures.
- For off-site trips which are residential or last all day young people should be encouraged to bring and apply their own sunscreen and be reminded to do this at appropriate intervals.
- Parents must inform the school regarding this any health issues/concerns such as:
 - a) The child is fair skinned and prone to burning and
 - b) There is a family history of skin cancer especially melanomas.
- In extreme heat young people may remain indoors if no shade is available e.g. during breaks / lunchtime (assuming adequate supervision is available).
- Parents may be contacted to collect their children from school earlier, where health warnings have been issued and/or advised to do so by the council.
- Pupils and staff should have regular access to drinks, especially drinking water.

For further information on sun safety please follow the link below:

[Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Snow Procedures

When it snows parents can assume school will be open when it is safe to do so in all but the very worst conditions. If school cannot stay open, parents will be sent an email and a text message.

The following control measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Parents and staff should only attempt to travel to school if they are content the conditions are safe to do so. If a parent cannot get their child to school or the parent decides the conditions are not safe to travel, their child's absence will be authorised during the period of the snow policy.
- School cannot guarantee the usual start time to the day and will email a class at a time if/when it is safe for them to enter school with their full staff team.
- Children who arrive late to school during a snow policy period will not be recorded as being late.
- During extreme snow conditions there will be no before/after school club, as the school cannot guarantee staff cover.
- Parents must ensure their children are dressed for being in the snow as school will allow outdoor play as much as possible.
- Every measure will be taken to ensure the footpaths are cleared, however school is not able to guarantee all pathways will be gritted or cleared. If parents deem the school site unsafe they can decide whether or not to enter the school area or leave their children with the school.
- School may decide to email parents to pick up their child early if the weather deteriorates.

School will decide when the snow procedure comes into operation and when it ends; this will be announced on social media and by email. At the end of a snow procedure period, all the usual lateness and attendance rules will re-apply immediately.

In the event of SNOW – School Access Plan

A path will be gritted around the site, close to the classroom external doors and parents will be advised to stay to this path. If the path is assessed by the site maintenance officer/SLT to be inaccessible ALL pupils will be asked to enter the building by walking down the pedestrian drive straight to the main school entrance, where staff will greet you.

The pedestrian walkway and staff car park will be gritted, but we urge all parents and pupils to still exercise caution when walking into and from school.

The pedestrian walkway is a much safer route for pedestrians in the snow and ice as the children are kept away from cars slipping on the ice. The main car park gates are always monitored/ 'closed' during school drop off and pick-up times to reduce the temptation to use the driveway as a shortcut into school.

School gates will be monitored by staff from 8.50am until 9.00am then 3.00pm till 3.30pm during drop off and pick up times.

If the car park gates are open to allow staff or large deliveries to enter/ leave please do not give in to temptation to walk through them. This is for your safety.

All pupils are encouraged to walk to school whenever possible. Any parents who need to drop off or pick up using a car are reminded that the school car park is for staff and visitors only not for parents. Thank you.

What can you do to help?

- Do not use the car park as a cut through when walking to school if it is open for staff or deliveries to enter, use the main pedestrian walkway.
- All other cars travelling to school to use the parking spaces on the main road or in the surrounding pedestrian areas.
- Warm clothing- gloves, hats, scarves, wellies and a change of shoes and clothes.
- Only use the pedestrian walkway for dropping off and picking up, staying on the gritted pathways and if told to by school not using the side gates and dropping off/ collecting via the main school entrance where school office is (this is to reduce the distance you and your child need to get safely into school).
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping Leighton Academy to remain open during periods of severe snow/ ice.

