Thrunscoe Primary Academy

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the academy to make every effort to remain open whenever possible as long as it is safe to do so.

The decision to close the academy either before or during the academy day will be made by the headteacher. The academy will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.
- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the academy running safely.
- Following advice from the police or the local authority.

Closure of the academy will be notified in the following ways:

- A message will be sent to all staff and parents via Arbor
- The closure will be displayed on the academy's website: www.thrunscoeacademy.co.uk
- The closure will be notified to North East Lincolnshire Council by the business manager and displayed on their website: www.nelincs.gov.uk
- The closure will be notified to BBC Radio Humberside, Lincs FM and Compass FM who will broadcast details. (applicable to closure due to snow)
- In the event of the academy having to close during the school day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted via Arbor, text message, email or phone and asked to collect their child/children. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

The Academy will endeavour to remain open whenever possible.
In the event of extreme heat, the Academy will:

- Increase ventilation
- Adjust start/finish times if necessary to avoid the hottest part of the day
- Relax uniform rules
- Make sure pupils and staff have access to drinking water and shade
- Adjust the timetable to avoid physical lessons and activities

In the event of a storms the Academy will:

- Secure or remove loose outdoor equipment before pupils and staff arrive
- Clear fallen trees, damaged fencing or debris from site

In the event of snow and ice the Academy will:

- Encourage pupils to bring coats, hats and gloves
  (see Parent and Carer information for further cold weather measures)

In the event of a flood the Academy will:

- Change access routes and/or close paths around the school site if paths or entrances become flooded

- Check drainage and flood-prone areas of the site if flood alerts are issued
- If deemed necessary the Academy will endeavour to put flood-resistance devices in place, designed to keep floodwater out

In the event of staff shortages, the Academy will give consideration to the following:

- Combining classes
- Using other school staff to provide cover or supervision
- Rearrange the curriculum to work around staff shortages or available space

Staff procedures

When a decision is made to close the academy, there is no expectation for staff to come into the academy, however staff should use the time to undertake appropriate work related activities at home.

If the academy is open, staff should make all reasonable efforts to get into work. This includes assessing the availability of public transport or considering the feasibility of walking to work if they live relatively close and are fit and able to do so. There is no expectation that staff will walk miles in severe conditions.

If there are severe weather warnings in the area in which staff live and people are being advised not to travel, teachers affected will need to contact the headteacher to discuss the situation. Support staff should contact the academy office for advice.

It may be that the academy is open but some staff and pupils are unable to get to the academy. The headteacher will assess the staff to pupil ratio to ensure the academy can operate safely and it may be necessary to advise that some groups of pupils remain at home.

After an academy closure, staff will not be required to give up leave, PPA time or lunch breaks. However, teachers should, as always, act professionally to do everything they can during lessons to ensure pupils cover all the work they need to do and may have missed during the closure.

Parent and Carer Information

The academy will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed of the situation during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website, Arbor and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The academy appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the academy to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed.

The academy recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into academy. In such instances parents should inform the academy of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the academy has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence.

Parents acting on the assumption that the academy would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the academy of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into academy risk their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

When the academy is officially closed, registers are marked as a forced closure.

In the event of snow, when the academy is open, some pathways will be cleared and gritted. Access routes across the playground to key stage 2 classrooms, main pathways to classrooms, the staff car park and main entrance to the building will be prioritised.
Parents, children and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

Essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

Before and after academy opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the academy playground. During significant adverse weather conditions, classrooms will open early so that pupils do not have to wait outside.

In the headteacher's absence the senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Policy date: October 2026

Approved by the Resources Committee of the Governing Body on: 12th November 2026

Review date: November 2029