

Egerton Church of England Primary School

Together, we inspire, nurture and thrive



Perseverance **Compassion** **Respect** **Honesty** **Forgiveness** **Hope**

Severe Weather Procedures

Key Contact Personnel in School

Mrs Julia Walker

Headteacher

Mrs Sue Hubbard

SBM

Date written: November 2024

Date of next review: November 2026

School Vision

Egerton inspires joy in life by cherishing childhood within a rich and creative learning journey. Our Christian values influence all decisions enabling our community to flourish. We nurture everyone to reach their full potential as God intends, mind, body and soul.

Preparation:

- Salt supplies will be reviewed in September
- The staff mobile numbers will be kept updated
- All staff to consider alternative means of getting to work, such as car sharing

Decision on status of the school during Severe Weather:

The Headteacher will gather information from:

- Members of staff who live in the village - about local conditions, **at or before 7am.**
- Members of Senior Leadership Team.
- Members of staff who contact the Headteacher or SBM at home to let them know that it is likely that they will **not** be able to travel into the school or will have longer journeys than normal - **before 7.15am.**
- The BBC weather website 24 hour forecast for Ashford, Canterbury and Maidstone.
- Kent Police Travel advice website.
- Other local headteachers in TRA.
- The Headteacher will note advice from other public authorities including the Area Education Officer before making a final decision.

The Headteacher will make the decision about the school status by 7.30 wherever possible, the default decision being to stay open whenever safely possible.

The headteacher will take the following factors into account:

- Safety on site including the ratio of staff to pupils
- Maintaining a working temperature
- Providing as full an education as possible
- Provision to provided school meals
- The ability of parents to bring their children to school and to collect them at the end of the day
- Access to the school from the surrounding area, from where people travel from and the ability to park safely nearby, either for staff or parents when dropping off and collecting.
- A decision made as early as possible
- Whenever possible to keep the school open for childcare for working parents

If any extenuating circumstances prevail, a measured approach will be taken and the headteacher reserves the right, to modify how the school opens in order to take this into consideration.

It is the responsibility of individual members of staff to decide whether their journey is safe, considering whether an earlier start, a later start or a slower journey will help with this.

It is parents' responsibility to decide if car journeys are safe, or if the distance is short enough whether it is safer to walk to school.

The school's status will be decided by considering:

Staff available	Weather forecast for Ashford over the day	Status
At least two thirds of class teachers and three quarters of Education Support Staff; or more teachers if less support staff. Those on site must include at least one teacher member of SLT.	Stable or improving	Open all day or late opening with childcare available from 9am
	Deteriorating	Open with possible stated time of early closing
Less than two thirds of class teachers and three quarters of Education Support Staff; or an equivalent level; those on site must include at least one teacher member of SLT	Stable or improving	Open but closed to some age-groups or classes because of pupil age or staffing difficulties
	Deteriorating	Closed to all except the children of those parents who need to work outside the home. ("Childcare")
Less than two thirds of class teachers and three quarters of Education Support Staff; and no teacher member of the senior leadership team or school conditions too dangerous	Stable, improving or deteriorating	Closed

Due consideration should also be given to the fact that we can set up remote learning via class emails and/or the school website.

The decision will be communicated:

For parents, pupils and staff:

- All parents will be sent a text
- The school's own website, www.egerton.kent.sch.uk
- On the KCC website, www.kentclosures.co.uk
- By Radio – KMFM, BBC Radio Kent and Heart FM
- School Facebook/Instagram page

It is assumed that all staff will report for work unless told not to attempt their journey or that the school is closed to staff as well as pupils.

Extended School Services:

- The status of our Wrap around Care services will reflect that of the school. Although we may also consider different start and finish times depending on the severity of the weather, or closing it completely.

When the school is open in severe weather:

- The Headteacher will ensure that provision is in place to receive pupils at 8.40am, (**or by what time the school will open**).
- Where a decision is made to keep the school open it is expected that pupils remain on site for the normal school day.
- Only under exceptional circumstances would the school close early and then only when the headteacher is satisfied that a responsible adult can safely escort children home.

Absence during severe weather:**Pupil absence**

- If the school is open it is assumed that all pupils within walking distance will attend unless they are ill, in which case parents will inform the school before 9.30am
- All other pupils will be regarded as “attendance not required” and marked so if they are absent.

Staff absence

- If the school is closed to pupils and staff, payment is made as normal.
- If school is closed to pupils only, staff are expected to attend. If a member of staff does not attend advice about payment would be sought from the Schools’ Personnel Department.