

GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Policy Title:	Adverse Weather – Information and Guidance for Students and Parents	
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Adverse Weather snow and ice - Information and Guidance for Students

When weather is extreme and the school is open, the school faces several challenges:

- Staff and students arriving at school and on time; ensuring all classes are supervised.
- Health and safety on the school site; snow and ice can be hazardous and movement between buildings brings a significant amount of water into the school which can result in slips.
- Supervision of students at break and lunch time when being outside is too cold or unsafe.

The school will endeavour to communicate up to date information with parents via MCAS Parent Portal, the School website, Twitter or local radio. However, in principle when **there is snow on the ground**:

- Students may wear mufti appropriate for cold weather.
- The field is out of bounds and students should go to their appropriate playground on arrival to school. Should conditions prevent this, the year group team will direct students to an inside venue.
- Students should not throw snowballs or slide on ice. Additional duty staff will be deployed for all breaktimes.
- The school day may in the event of worsening weather finish earlier than 3.15pm.
- If students are unable to go home, supervision will be provided in either USIC or the Gallery.

Please note:

- In the event of the school needing to close early due to unforeseen circumstances (flood, no power, water etc.) a message will be put on the school website and sent via MCAS Parent Portal and students allowed to leave the site before the end of the day.
- The students would be dismissed at the instruction of the Headteacher by a class teacher and no students may leave the site unless this has happened.
- If students are walking home, they are encouraged to do so with others in case of an accident.

Adverse Weather Heat - Information and Guidance for Students and Staff

There is no legal maximum temperature that schools must adhere to. We will work to the framework of guidance offered by agencies such as the Met Office and local Authority. Where a period of hot weather is anticipated we will:

- Ensure blinds are pulled down at the beginning of the school day
- Ensure windows are open at the beginning of the school day to allow for air circulation
- Close windows as temperatures rise throughout the day
- Relocate students and teachers to alternative cooler classrooms
- Ensure there is LED lighting in all classrooms
- Allow the children to seek shade during break time
- Ensure there is access to drinking water both internally and externally
- Allow students to wear PE Kit if temperatures are high
- Review the physical education program if temperatures are high

Classroom temperatures will be monitored and if extreme across all the buildings, the school may publicise an early closure to avoid the hottest part of the day.

Please note:

- In the event of the school needing to close early, a message will be put on the school website and sent via MCAS Parent Portal and students allowed to leave the site before the end of the day.
- The students would be dismissed at the instruction of the Headteacher by a class teacher and no students may leave the site unless this has happened.

Distance Learning

In the event of school (early) closures, students can support their learning at home by completing work set on the SLE (Student Learning Environment).

Students are expected to check their school email and Bromcom, where details of work set will be shared. If the closure is for an extended period, we would resume teaching via Teams.

In the event of deteriorating weather or a need to change plans, The Headteacher will communicate with staff via an all staff email.

Communication

The school will use the methods below to inform parents about changes to the school day in the event of adverse weather conditions:

- MCAS Parent Portal
- School Website: <u>www.georgeabbot.surrey.</u>sch.uk
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/gabbot news
- County Council:http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-closures
- In addition, the following will be notified for their broadcasts:
 - BBC Radio Surrey Tel: 01483 734712 Email: surrey@bbc.co.uk

Please note: Students will be asked to contact a responsible adult to alert them to the fact they are leaving school, but George Abbot will not formally check that this has been done.

Attendance/Punctuality

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

Examinations

It is highly unlikely that any examinations will be affected by severe weather. However, in any event where examinations might be disrupted, the school will post appropriate information on the school website inline with the Exam Contingency policy.

Site Safety

If snow is forecast, where possible the site team will salt main pathways before finishing their shift the previous day.

Two of the George Abbot caretakers live on site and will know in advance of their 7.00am start time if heavy snow has fallen. They should contact the Premises Supervisor, The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher via to offer an opinion as to how much snow has fallen; this should be before 6.30am. The Headteacher will arrive early to assess the situation and in agreement with the Premises Team decide if school should open.

In the event of snow, some pathways will have been cleared and salted by 07.30am; as the site is so large, it will not be possible to clear and salt all the pathways and playgrounds before students and staff arrive. Staff should be on duty on all the gates directing students to their appropriate playground. Students will also be reminded in Tutor time to only walk on cleared pathways.

The site team will start clearing and salting at Elmslie and Raynham gates working towards the main buildings, then the external and internal paths and service road. Playgrounds may need to remain closed throughout the bad weather.

Extra-curricular clubs, activities, and events

Depending on the weather, it is unlikely that after school/evening activities will take place. Clarification will be made via Schoolcomms, the school website, and information given to students.

How Parents can help

- Check the School website, Schoolcomms, and listen to BBC Radio Surrey 104.6 FM.
- Plan ahead advise your child what to do in a bad weather emergency.
- Only call the school if you really have to calls in prevent calls out!
- Encourage your child/children to carry out the identified schoolwork at home/check school email for work set.

Transport companies

Note: This list is not exhaustive, and parents should make sure they ring the appropriate company. George Abbot School bears no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

Dedicated School Buses

Newtons - 01483 233403

Public Bus Companies which serve the school:

Compass - 01903 690025 White Bus - 01344 882612