

Fair Ways Schools (Swanwick, Fort Wallington and GLADE)

Adverse Weather Policy & Procedures

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Fair Ways Vision, Mission and Values (2024)

Our vision

To build a community that changes lives, makes a difference to society and leaves a legacy greater than ourselves and our contributions.

Our mission

To grow a compassionate, resilient, and trauma-informed community, that embraces learning, so that we improve the lives and outcomes of individuals.

Our values

Our values form the heart of the work we do, defined by Fair Ways people, for Fair Ways people. These are the values by which we operate, by which we are governed, and to which we are held accountable.

We therefore expect every individual within Fair Ways to *play their part*:

P ROFESSIONAL	A CCEPTING	R EFLECTIVE	T RANSSPARENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do what we say we will. We approach challenges with optimism and enthusiasm. We don't judge, we notice. We put the needs of the service before our own personal gains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We don't give up on people. We value all individuals and are willing to challenge them. We embrace each other's differences as much as our similarities. We accept responsibility for our actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We give feedback, we invite feedback, we listen to feedback. We look inward before we look outward. We learn as much from our mistakes as from our successes. We listen to each other, learn from each other and grow together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are always willing to explain why. We have the courage to be open and honest. We earn trust through our transparency. We live by our values even when no-one is watching.

1 Scope

- 1.1 This policy gives guidance to all stakeholders on what will happen at all Fair Ways education sites if there are adverse weather conditions which affect school sites and/or travel becomes difficult or dangerous. This policy is to be read in conjunction with Fair Ways H&S Adverse Weather Policy [DOCREF 44]

2 Policy Statement

- 2.1 During any winter period, there is always a possibility that severe weather will necessitate a closure of the school. It is the policy of Fair Ways to make every effort to remain open whenever possible, as long as it is safe to do so. This policy ensures the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, and ensures all stakeholders are clear about their roles and responsibilities in the event of school closure.

(Refer Appendix A : Flow chart of actions **before** school day / Appendix B: Flow chart of actions during school day and Appendix C: Hazard/Risk checklist)

3 School closure

- 3.1 A school site will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:
- A sufficient number of staff (1:1 ratio) are unable to come in to keep the school running safely.
 - Conditions onsite are dangerous. (Risk to person safety or threat to life)
 - Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated later to become, too hazardous for travel. (poor visual, ice and slip risk, road closure)

(Refer Appendix C: Hazard/Risk checklist)

- 3.2 The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher/Head of School in conjunction with the Executive Head.
(Appendix A : Flow chart of actions **before** school day/ Appendix B: Flow chart of actions **during** school day)

- 3.3 They will endeavour to make any decisions on the closure of the school by 7.30 am. The Headteacher/Head of School and Executive Head will ensure the following is undertaken before any decision is made to close the school:

- A suitable and sufficient risk assessment checklist has been undertaken relating to onsite conditions/travel conditions to ensure all safety issues have been considered and control measures implemented.
- Other options have been considered such as opening the school later in the day and closing earlier.

3.4 At 7.30am, if the decision is to close the school, The school will alert parents/carers to the closure of the school. Emails will be sent to all parents/carers that the school has an email address for. Parents /Carers will also be contacted via telephone before 8.15am. The school website should also be checked for updates, as well as local radio stations who announce a list of school closures in the region.

3.5 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day that causes concern for the students' welfare in relation to returning home, or continuing onsite, the school will communicate with all parents/carers to inform them that taxis will be arriving early for collection. Students will be supervised until they are collected.

3.6 In the event of closure, student absence is counted as authorised absence.

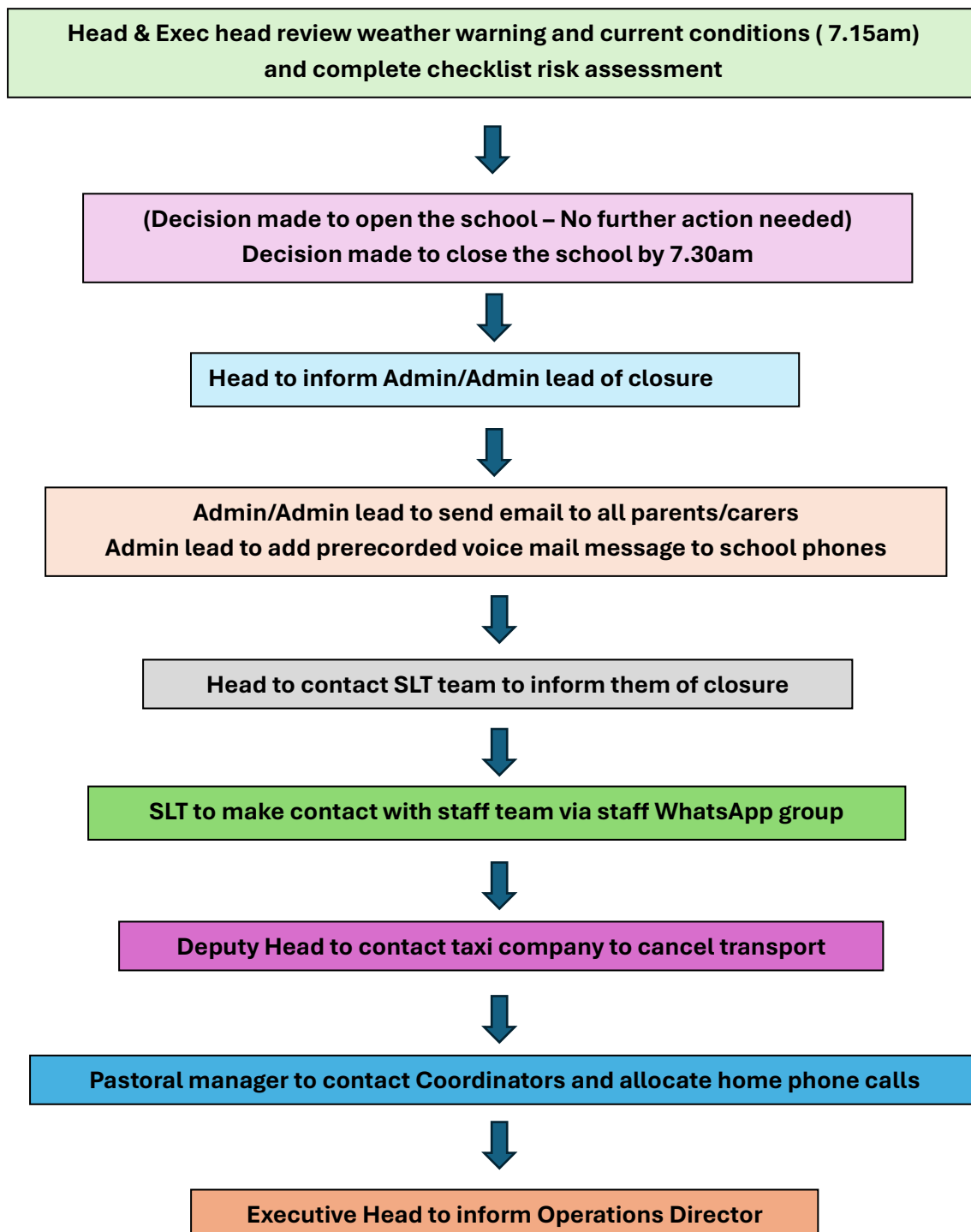
3.7 School recognises that some Parents/carers may decide to keep their child at home due to adverse weather, even if the school is open and functional. Where a parent /carer chooses to do this, we ask that they inform the school by 8.45am. This will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.

4 Associated Documentation & legislation

- H&S Adverse Weather Policy [DOCREF 44]

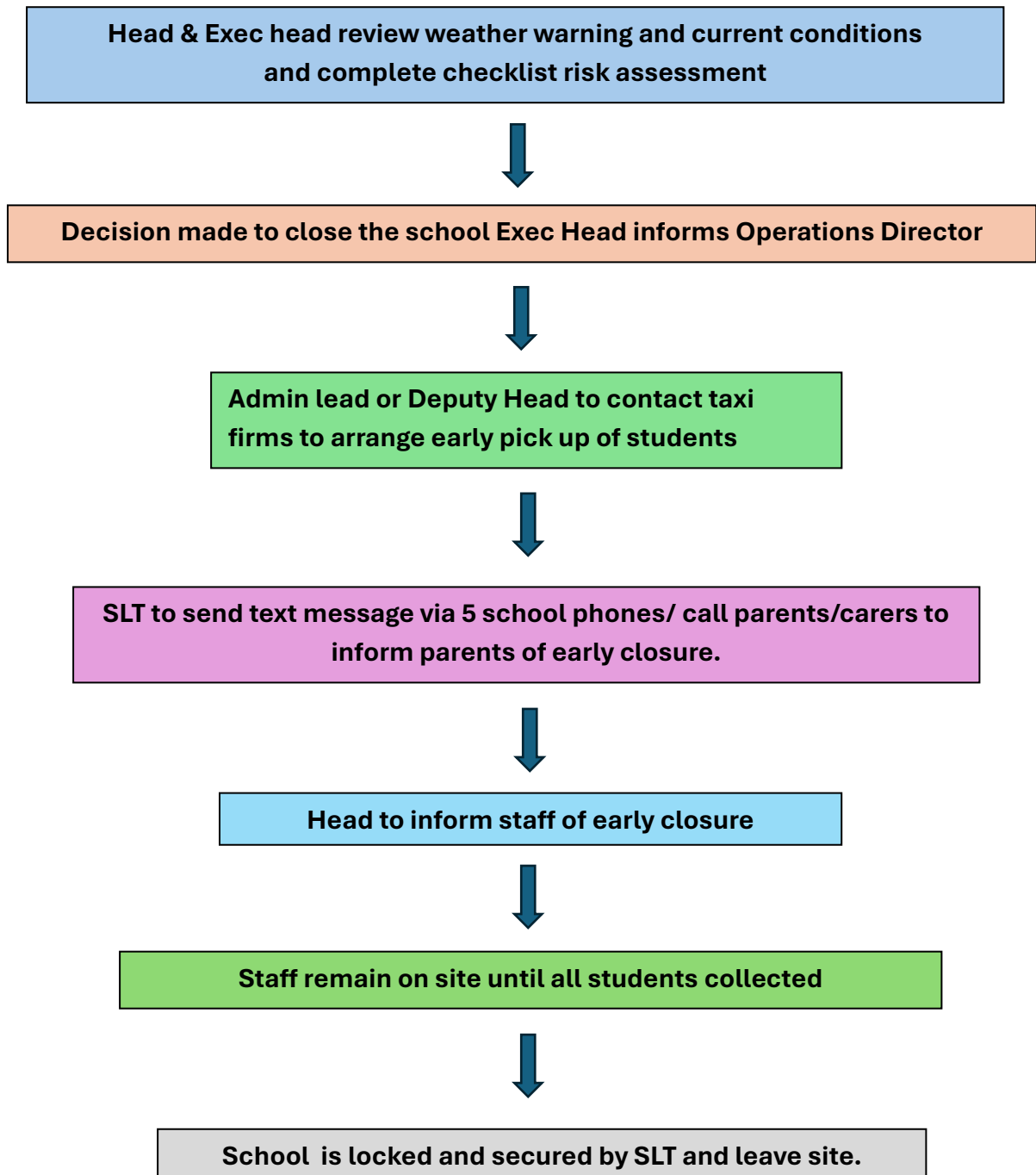
Appendix A : Flow chart of actions before school day begins

Adverse Weather Flow Chart Actions – Before School Day



Appendix B : Flow Chart Actions during school day

Adverse Weather Flow Chart Actions – During School



Appendix C: Hazard/Risk Checklist

Hazard/Risk (highlight which risk you are assessing)	Who might be harmed	Control measure	Can this be rectified before opening school Y/N	Based on hazard and control please note - Open or Close school (O or C) Any C dictates closure
Tripping/falling due to slippery wet surfaces	Students Staff	Salt spread Grit		
Heating failure	Students Staff	Additional heaters available		
Falling debris (ex. tree branches due to wind)	Students Staff	-Areas roped off -Minimise time outside		
Traffic accidents due to poor driving conditions	Students Staff Transport	Restrict car travel		
Insufficient staff members (due to inability to reach the school) to supervise students	Students Staff	Ask multi-site to cover		
Loss of water (taps or toilets)	Students Staff	-Maintenance to attend site -specific timeframe known		
Power failure	Students Staff	-Maintenance to attend site -specific timeframe known		
Severe snowy weather approaching during the day	Students Staff Transport	Early closure		
If weather continued, could we safely get student's home?	Students Staff Transport	Early closure		
Extreme heat	Students Staff	-Indoor working -Sun cream/hats -Ability to go to swimming pool inside		
Air conditioning failure	Students Staff	Maintenance to attend site -specific timeframe known		
Flooding makes school site or access unsafe.	Students Staff	Water is able to be pumped away by council or maintenance		
Weather makes student travel dangerous or poses a significant risk.	Students	Online learning to take place.		