NYES | Health and Safety

Extreme Weather Response Plan: Heatwave & Cold Weather

Purpose

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, and visitors during periods of extreme heat or cold, and to maintain educational continuity where possible.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher: Overall decision-making and communication.
Site Manager: Monitoring temperatures, gritting, and building checks.
Admin Team: Parent/staff communications.
Teachers: Implement classroom-level adjustments and monitor pupil wellbeing.

Heatwave Response Plan

1. Triggers for Action

- Met Office Level 2 or higher Yellow health alert should put plan on alert for immediate review and to start to review risk with response activated at amber
- Indoor classroom temperatures exceeding 28°C, as recorded using calibrated indoor thermometers
- UKHSA Weather alerts - Weather health alerts | UKHSA data dashboard
- UKHSA or DfE guidance updates

2. Immediate Actions

- Hydration: Ensure all pupils and staff have access to drinking water. Encourage frequent hydration.
- Uniform: Relax uniform policy—allow light, loose-fitting clothing and sun hats.
- Sun Protection: Encourage use of sunscreen (SPF 30+), especially for outdoor activities.
- Ventilation: Open windows early in the morning; close when outside air becomes warmer than inside.
- Shading: Use blinds/curtains and relocate classes to cooler, shaded rooms.
- Activity Adjustment: Cancel or reschedule PE and outdoor activities during peak heat (11am–3pm).
- Fans: Use only if room temperature is below 35°C, as above this they may circulate hot air and be ineffective
- Communication: Notify parents and staff of measures via email/text/app.

3. Longer-Term Measures

- Tree planting and shaded outdoor areas
- Reflective window film or external shading
- Review of building insulation and ventilation systems
- Explore installation of air conditioning or evaporative cooling in high-risk areas.

Cold Weather Response Plan

1. Triggers for Action

- Forecasts of snow, ice, or temperatures below 0°C

- Yellow or higher Met Office weather warnings
- UKHSA Weather alerts - Weather health alerts | UKHSA data dashboard
- Local authority school closure guidance or public transport disruption
- Risk of heating failure or unsafe site conditions

2. Immediate Actions

- Site Safety: Grit paths, entrances, and playgrounds. Close off unsafe areas.
- Heating: Ensure that all occupied rooms, particularly classrooms, reach the statutory minimum temperature of 18°C within one hour of the official start of the school day.
- Clothing: Encourage warm clothing; relax uniform rules if needed.
- Transport: Liaise with local authorities and transport providers about delays or cancellations.
- Communication: Inform parents of closures or delayed starts by 7:30am via website, text, or app.

3. Educational Continuity

- Prepare remote learning plans in case of closure.
- *Ensure all pupils and staff have access to digital platforms and login credentials in advance*
- Ensure vulnerable pupils have access to warm spaces or support