



GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

Policy Title:	Adverse Weather – Information and Guidance for Students and Parents
Author:	Business Manager
Date of most recent review:	January 2019
School Mission Statement: Academic excellence within a strong community of equality and respect, where potential and opportunity are realised.	

Section 5: Adverse Weather – Information and Guidance for Students

When weather is extreme and the school is open, the school faces a number of 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 your parents by School Comms, 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 and playgrounds are out of bounds and students should go to appropriate wet weather venues on arrival to school.
- Students will remain inside at break and lunch time and should not to throw snowballs or slide on ice.
- Lunch time **may** be shortened to facilitate indoor supervision and consequently the school day **may** finish at 3.00pm. or earlier in the event of worsening weather
- Supervision will be provided for students unable to go home in Elmslie Conference Room (ECR) or for those who are waiting for the school buses in the Gallery (subway buses) or Raynham Canteen (Raynham Buses).

Please note:

- In the event of the school needing to close early in unforeseen circumstances (flood, no power, water etc.) a message will be put on the school website and sent by School Comms and students allowed to leave the site before the end of the day.
- Please ensure you have made contact with a responsible adult to alert them to the fact you are leaving school early. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that this has been done.
- If you are walking home, please go home with other members of your family or with friends; try not to go home on your own.

Break / Lunch time

- Wet weather routines apply and you **must** remain inside
- Students may go to the canteen / gallery / clubs. Once the canteen / gallery are full students must go to the appropriate venues and remain there.

Distance Learning

In the event of school (early) closures, students are able to support their learning at home by completing homework / coursework or accessing distance learning sites (My Maths; Sam Learning; GCSE Podcasts; departmental websites etc.). Students are expected to check their school email as class teachers may email them work to complete.

Students are expected to log on to their email accounts to check what work has been set by staff.

In the event of deteriorating weather or a need to change plans, intermittent ringing of the wet weather bell (but with pauses in between so it does not sound like a lockdown alert) will signal all staff / students to return to form rooms where messages will be communicated by email.

SECTION 6: Adverse Weather – School Comms Information for Parents

Context

Really bad weather is disruptive and can cause anxiety and stress. Understandably, many parents ring the School if snow starts falling heavily during the day. It can be frustrating trying to get through when all our outside lines are engaged by other parents calling for the same reason!

Decisions about closing the School or sending students home early are always difficult to make. We need to gather reliable information before making a judgement. We check weather reports, get advice from the bus companies and try to assess what is happening elsewhere in the area. Some buses may not be available. Operators have to decide whether running vehicles on particular routes in snow and ice is too high a risk. Drivers are rarely available at times other than scheduled School runs. That is why schools often take their lead from the bus companies when deciding what to do.

When weather is extreme and the school is open, the school faces a number of 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

Communication

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

School Comms

School Website – www.georgeabbot.surrey.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 Southern Counties Tel: 01483 734310 Email: scr.news@bbc.co.uk
- County Sound Tel: 01483 468701/702 Email: onair@964eagle.co.uk

General arrangements

In adverse weather conditions the following principles will apply:

- Students may wear mufti appropriate for cold weather

- The field and playgrounds are out of bounds and students should go to appropriate wet weather venues on arrival to school.
- Students will remain inside at break and lunch time and requested not to throw snowballs or slide on ice.
- The lunch time **may** be shortened to facilitate indoor supervision and consequently the school day **may** finish at 3.00pm or earlier in the event of worsening weather.
- Supervision will be provided for students unable to go home at the earlier time in Elmslie Conference Room (ECR).
- Students waiting for buses should wait either in the Gallery (Subway buses) or Raynham Canteen (Raynham buses).

Please note: In the event of the school needing to close early in unforeseen circumstances (flood, no power, water etc.) a message will be put on the school website and sent by School Comms and students allowed to leave the site. **We will ask them to make contact with a responsible adult to alert them to the fact they are leaving school, but will not formally check that this has been done.**

If for any reason you are unhappy with this arrangement, please contact your son / daughter's Head of Year in writing, and we will ensure they do not leave the premises early without your express consent.

Sample Timetables for days when there is significant snow or ice on the ground

If the decision is taken to start late, shorten the lunch hour and / or finish early etc, the following timetables (or similar) may apply. In extreme or worsening weather alternative arrangements may be made.

Example 1

On arrival	Students go to wet weather (snow) venues; teaching staff p1 join year group
8.30 – 8.35 Notices	At 8.30 am notices for the day will be given out by lead member of SLT . Depending on difficulties being experienced, students will be dismissed gradually at 8.35 am with subject teachers to period 1. Cover arranged for absent staff.
8.35 – 8.55	Registration / Assembly
8.55 – 1.30	Normal timetable
1.30 – 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 3.00	Period 5

Example 2

On arrival	Students go to wet weather (snow) venues; teaching staff p1 join year group
8.30	Allows time to check staff that have got in; identify where there are problems. Staff report to venue of year group they teach p1
9.00-9.30	Registration (See information below)
9.30-10.20	Period 1 (Arrangements made for those students still without staff)
10.20-11.10	Period 2 (No movement bell)
11.10-11.25	Break (Shortened)
11.25-12.15	Period 3 (No movement bell)
12.15-1.05	Period 4 (No movement bell)
1.05-1.35	Lunch (Shortened)
1.35-2.35	Period 5
2.40	End of school

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

With the new examination schedule, 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.

Site Safety

In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, students and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Students will also be reminded of this in assembly and asked to walk only on cleared pathways.

Distance Learning

In the event of school (early) closures, students are able to support their learning at home by completing homework / coursework or accessing distance learning sites (My Maths; Sam Learning; GCSE Podcasts; departmental websites etc.). Students are expected to check their school email as class teachers may email them work to complete.

After School clubs, activities and events

Depending on the weather, it may be possible for some after school / evening activities to take place. Clarification will be made via School Comms, the school website, and information given to students

How Parents can help

- Check the School website, School Comms, email and listen to Eagle Radio 96.4.
- 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 school work 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

Company		Route
Abellio	0207 788 8550	
Arriva	0344 800 4411	
Buses Excetera	01737 642225	
Edward Thomas & Son	01483 234649	E718, E720
Greenshades	01483 418012	
Newtons	01483 233402	E715, E716
Bicknell Coaches	01483 300030	E719
The Green Bus Company	0845 234 2222	PT6, PT7