

# *School Policy*



**St Mark's**  
School Bath

<b>School Policy Title:</b>	Severe Weather Policy 2016 - 17
<b>Person Responsible:</b>	Mr B Ash
<b>Committee Responsible:</b>	Finance and Premises
<b>Approval Date:</b>	12.10.16
<b>Review Date:</b>	October 2017

WISDOM

AMBITION

INTEGRITY

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

From time to time schools have to deal with an environmental emergency such as snow, flood, power cuts, lack of hot water or running water and fuel shortages, which affect the running of the school. We will obviously endeavor to keep St Mark's School open wherever possible and will only decide to close the school as a last resort based on the Health and Safety implications for students and staff.

The decision, to close or partially close a school, lies with the Headteacher, wherever possible, in consultation with the chair of governors, as it will need to be justified to parents to whom it may cause considerable problems. The decision will be based on access to essential services, and transport safety.

Some parents may telephone Education Services for information so we will need full information about the need for closure, in order to explain it to them. We therefore have implemented the following measures in the event of a possible closure.

### **School Website**

Where the decision is taken to close the school during the day, students will not be sent home unless the Headteacher is confident of their ability to make the journey safely, gain access to their homes and be safe there. Parents will be notified in advance via telephone/text message and the website will be updated accordingly.

Where public transport is used, possible delays should also be taken into account.

In the event of a severe weather forecast overnight or out of normal school hours, we will post a warning notice on the school website. We will update this notice by 7.30am the following day and confirm whether school is open or closed.

The school website will be updated as soon as feasibly possible and always by 7.30am, so it is advised that you also check [www.st-marks.org.uk](http://www.st-marks.org.uk) for up to date information.

### **Bath and North East Somerset Council**

Bath and North East Somerset provide a web based means of communicating our school opening and closing information to our parents, students and staff in the event of severe weather.

The online system is designed to:

- Display our current status (Open, Closed, Closed – Restricted Opening etc)
- Inform you of any additional information (i.e. particularly dangerous access roads etc)

When information is updated on the system, it becomes available to view by parents/students/radio stations. Local radio stations will report this information in their regular bulletins.

This webpage is updated by us directly which guarantees that you are viewing the most recent information available. Please remember to refresh your screen regularly, as the page will not refresh itself. The page can be viewed by going to: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/severeweather>

### **Text Message**

The school operates a very effective text messaging service to parents. In the event of a school closure, you may receive a text message from a member of SLT. Please do not respond or reply to this message directly as they are not monitored.

Please try to avoid contacting the school directly, as all information will be available via the link above.

We shall only close the school as a last resort so assume firstly that we shall be open.