

Gower House School Extreme Winter Weather Policy

It is important to be prepared for extreme weather conditions so that parents and staff will know what procedures will be in operations.

Severe weather conditions will occur infrequently, usually being snow, dangerous ice, storm force wind or dense fog.

1. School does not close in such conditions even if other schools in the area are closed. School will close only if a specific danger threatens personal safety. For example, a partly fallen tree overhanging the drive or playground. Under no other circumstances should the school be stated to be closed. The decision to close the school will only be made by the headteacher.

2. Staff are strongly encouraged to make their way to school if at all possible. Obviously, it is accepted that this may not be possible in some cases, particularly if roads and public transport are disrupted.

3. Senior members of staff will greet parents and children at the school gates to discuss the prevailing conditions with parents/carers, who will be asked to consider how and when they will be able to return to collect their children.

4. Senior staff will assess how much of the normal timetable it is possible for them to implement. It is expected that sports activities, playtime and outings will be cancelled. Staff should not make unilateral decisions, but should consult their department head to ensure consistency.

5. There will be no afterschool care.

6. If weather conditions are forecast to worsen rapidly during what began as a normal day, the headmaster will request staff to telephone parents/carers to suggest that children are collected early before the conditions deteriorate further.

7. The headmaster and senior staff will monitor the situation and the weather forecast and will adapt procedures accordingly. It is important that staff who are not aware of the overall situation do not act alone without consulting senior staff in what may be rapidly changing and unfamiliar circumstances.

Date:

Signed:

