

Severe Weather Policy

SERENITY SCHOOL



Serenity School

Approved by:	COO	Date: September 2026
Last reviewed on:	September 2026	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible as long as it is safe to do so. The prime concern when making a decision to close the school will always be the safety of pupils and staff.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- An insufficient number of staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the school website www.serenityschool.org.uk
2. The school will alert parents to the closure using the Bromcom app, text messages and e-mail by 7:45am.

Please do not call the school asking if it will be closed. You will be notified as above, otherwise the school will be open.

3. The school will endeavour to keep parents informed during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. Parents are however expected to check the website, emails and Bromcom app when a closure is a possibility. Parents are also asked to check weather updates on the internet.
4. 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 they are likely to be delayed.
5. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where most children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

6. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.
7. In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by the Bromcom app, text message, e-mail or a phone call and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.
8. All parents/carers are urged to ensure that mobile phones are always switched on and audible in case we are trying to contact you.
9. In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this at school.
10. In icy conditions the school site manager will salt wide pathways around the main routes and walkways that children and parents use.
11. During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds, if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break and lunch times.

In the Headteacher's absence the Assistant Headteacher or Head of School will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to adverse weather conditions