


# ADVERSE WEATHER Risk Assessment

<b>ADVERSE WEATHER RISK ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>FOR: HEAT, SNOW/ICE, HIGH WINDS, LIGHTNING AND FLOODING</b>					
<b>Site Address/Location:</b>	Drake Primary School and Little Pirates Child Care Fairfields Thetford IP24 1JW					
<b>Assessment Date:</b> (refreshed from September 2022)	20/02/2025			<b>Lead Assessor(s):</b>		Sara Farish – Sustainability Lead Sam Chapman – site manager
<b>Authorised By:</b> <b>Review:</b>	Health and safety Governor Sam Chapman					
<b>Who Might Be Affected</b>	Employee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pupil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Member of Public/Third Party <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please note for extreme weather conditions, when families are unable to travel to school, pupils will be able to access learning through Google Classroom using a laptop, tablet or mobile phone device.</p> <p>We are able to provide laptops and tablets to families on request, however there could be circumstances when we are unable to if there is a sudden weather event.</p>						

Hazards Considered	How adults/ children could be harmed:	Current Control / Actions to reduce risk / Mitigation Measures:	Risk
			High = H Medium = M Low = L Comments
<b>HEAT</b> Hot weather and Extreme heat	<p>If sensible precautions are taken, children are unlikely to be seriously affected by hot conditions but staff should look out for signs of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.</p> <p><b>Symptoms of heat stress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children may seem out of character or show signs of discomfort and irritability (including those listed below for heat exhaustion).</li> <li>• These signs will worsen with physical activity.</li> <li>• For children and young people who use nappies, dark urine or dry nappies may indicate dehydration and the need for more fluids.</li> </ul> <p><b>Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tiredness</li> <li>• dizziness</li> <li>• headache</li> <li>• nausea</li> <li>• vomiting</li> <li>• excessive sweating and pale, clammy skin</li> </ul> <p><b>To cool a child suffering from heat exhaustion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• move the child to a cool area and encourage them to drink cool water</li> <li>• cool the child as rapidly as possible, for example, by sponging or spraying the child with cool water and placing cold packs around the neck and armpits, or wrapping the child in a cool, wet sheet and assist cooling with a fan</li> </ul> <p>If you are concerned about symptoms, or they are worsening, seek medical advice by contacting NHS 111.</p>	<p><b>For HOT weather</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose clothing (take jumpers, hoodies off).</li> <li>• Consider a reduction of time outside</li> <li>• Message families with reminders about water bottles, sun hats, suitable clothing/shoes and sunscreen with high sun protection factors to protect skin.</li> <li>• Minimise running around.</li> <li>• Minimise time in direct sun.</li> <li>• Provide and encourage children to drink more water than usual in hot weather.</li> </ul> <p><b>For EXTREME HOT weather</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep to shaded areas/ open some classrooms for children wanting to stay out of the sun/heat.</li> <li>• Consider if children can stay inside with doors and windows open.</li> <li>• Remind children/adults to drink water / refill water bottles.</li> <li>• Message families with reminders about water bottles, sun hats, suitable clothing/shoes and sunscreen with high sun protection factors to protect skin.</li> <li>• The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) recommends children should not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days (e.g PE and daily mile).</li> <li>• Keep out of the direct sun at the hottest time of the day, between 11am and 3pm.</li> </ul> <p><b>General advice and guidance for hot weather</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open classroom doors as well as windows to encourage cross ventilation in single sided classrooms.</li> <li>• Windows should be opened as early as possible in the morning before children arrive.</li> <li>• Windows should be closed when the outdoor air becomes warmer than the air indoors – this should help keep the heat out while allowing adequate ventilation.</li> </ul>	<p>L shade sails and additional shading to be considered.</p> <p>M Consider early finishing / allow parents to collect earlier</p>

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	<p><b>Symptoms of heat stroke may include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confusion or lack of coordination</li> <li>• seizures (fits)</li> <li>• loss of consciousness</li> <li>• high body temperature – a temperature of or above 40°C (104°F)</li> <li>• red, hot skin that can be sweaty or dry</li> <li>• fast heartbeat</li> <li>• fast shallow breathing</li> <li>• diarrhoea</li> </ul> <p>If heat stroke is suspected, call 999 and then cool the child down whilst awaiting medical assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor blinds or curtains can be closed where possible but should not block ventilation, our CO2 monitors must be used to keep a check on ventilation.</li> <li>• Electric lighting should be kept to a minimum and equipment should not be left in 'standby mode', as this generates heat. Mechanical fans can be used to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35°C – at temperatures above 35°C fans may not prevent heat-related illness and could worsen dehydration.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SNOW / ICE</b> Storage / carrying of salt/grit  Gritting</p>	<p>Spillage of grit Excess grit may cause slippage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salt/grit to be stored by the site manager in a locked outdoor storage fenced area, next to the bin store.</li> <li>• Clearly identifiable (yellow storage tub). Protective clothing to be worn when handling eg gloves.</li> <li>• Manual handling / wheelbarrow.</li> <li>• Excess salt/grit should be avoided.</li> <li>• Site manager to identify areas where extra care is needed ie red playground, paths, walkways, gated entrances</li> <li>• A clear route should be made</li> </ul>	L
<p><b>SNOW / ICE</b> Snow clearance Slips, trips, falls due to snow / ice Communication</p>	<p>Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Use appropriate tools, snow shovel Poor visibility Equipment hazards (put away) Compacted snow/ice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Message to parents on icy days, signalling the route to take into school.</li> <li>• Space identified to deposit snow eg to the side of the playground.</li> <li>• Always clear snow before gritting. Ideally a 1m wide clearance ie for pushchairs, wheelchairs.</li> <li>• Snow/ice should not be brushed- this could create black ice.</li> <li>• Red playground freeze - different school entrances are used during this time.</li> <li>• Staff / adults / children / visitors to be vigilant about snow / ice.</li> </ul>	L

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider staying inside.</li> <li>• HT and site team to make the call to go out or not at playtime. Additional staff to supervise.</li> <li>• Snow/ice can melt mid-morning on our playground, usually clear by late morning/lunchtime onwards.</li> <li>• Regular checks throughout the day.</li> <li>• Staff to instruct pupils about snow/ice and how to conduct themselves for theirs and others safety.</li> </ul>	
<b>(HIGH) WINDS</b> Injury to children/adults By objects being blown into them	Being blown over Equipment blown over or into children/adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider staying inside at playtimes / lunchtimes / daily mile/ forest school / cancel outdoor activities</li> <li>• Fasten coats to prevent being blown over.</li> <li>• HT and site team to make the call to go out or not at playtime.</li> </ul>	L
<b>(VERY HIGH) WINDS</b> Damage prevention to school building	Secure objects, drains, doors, guttering. Ensure bin store is closed eg gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check and secure particular areas e.g. gates, bin store</li> <li>• Preventative checks day before weather forecast of high winds e.g. check fences, items likely to be blown over.</li> <li>• Close classroom windows.</li> </ul>	L Tree survey to maintain safety of trees from falling, causing damage onto roof / windows
<b>LIGHTNING</b> Direct strike	Death or injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightning rods on buildings..</li> <li>• Any forecast of lightning, stay indoors / cancel any outdoor activities / PE / outdoor learning /daily mile/ forest school.</li> <li>• Forecast check- UK lightning map check.</li> </ul>	L Lightning conductor survey carried out
<b>LIGHTNING</b> Damage to school building	Direct strike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay indoors</li> <li>• Forecast check- UK lightning map check</li> </ul>	L Due to chance of a direct strike

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<b>FLOODING</b> Flash flooding	Drowning Pupils become cold/ hyperthermia. Children unable to get to school on time due to roads flooding / traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are aware of flooding on the Thetford roads when there is heavy rain. Button Island floods seasonally. Children can be late for school when there is heavy rain, due to traffic.</li> <li>Red playground floods when there is heavy rain - different school entrances are used during this time.</li> <li>Do not attempt to walk, wade, drive, or even swim, through floodwater.</li> <li>Avoid all contact with floodwater – it may be contaminated.</li> <li>Keep a close eye on local news reports, radio, and television for flood warnings. Stay updated with the <a href="#">Environment Agency's "Flooding Updates"</a></li> <li>Use established communication channels to inform parents about possible evacuations and closures.</li> <li>Electrical items should be unplugged and, where possible, removed to a place of safety such as an upper storey or a high shelf.</li> </ul>	L
<b>Additional Notes</b>			
Condition & maintenance surveys - by site team			