

Leigh Academy Rainham

Extreme Weather Site Closure Policy

Version	1
Policy Status	
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1. Introductory Statement

On rare occasions, particularly in winter, the weather can be so severe that getting to and from Leigh Academy Rainham becomes hazardous. The Academy's intention is to always remain open as we do not wish to disrupt students' learning; we also appreciate the difficulties school closure causes to working families. However, safety is our number one priority and we will always act in the best interests of students and staff. The decision to open or close the Academy will take into account the weather conditions at the time of making the decision, local forecasts, potential impact on public transport and accessibility of surrounding roads.

In the event of overnight extreme weather conditions affecting the opening of the Academy, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal and Premises staff will make a full assessment of the site and a notice will be posted as early as possible, on the Academy's website. In addition, all families will be contacted wherever possible by text message about Academy closures. It is vital that we have the correct mobile number and it is parents/carers responsibility to notify the Academy of any change of contact details.

If any students arrive at the Academy unaware of the closure a member of staff will be here to help. Students will be able to contact their families to make arrangements to return home. The Academy will close only in extreme circumstances.

PLEASE ASSUME THE ACADEMY IS OPEN IF THE ACADEMY WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA DO NOT ANNOUNCE OTHERWISE.

2. Decision Making and Closing Procedures

2.1 Remaining Open

The decision to open will be made with the intention that the Academy could remain open all day and further weather forecasts will be taken into account.

Provision in place on each site to ensure safety:

- Salt/ grit
- Clearance equipment

It is acknowledged that it would not be practical to clear whole sites, so paths and access routes will be a priority.

- A consideration to the start time of the academy day may be taken to ensure all staff and parents can make safe journeys to the academy

2.2 Closing the Site

- The Principal will initiate the telephone tree with the Principal's PA being contacted as a priority to send communication via Parent mail to parents and a text to all staff.
- The Principal would update LAT (Academies Director) and Kent School Closures website

- The Business Manager would update LAT (Estates Director and Deputy Estates Director)

2.3 Closing the Site for a Further Day

A decision about the academy opening the following day will be made as early as possible and ideally the night before, so communication can take place in advance.

- It will be the responsibility of all teachers to set further work on Google Classrooms that students can complete at home.

2.4 Closing the Site During the Academy Day

If for health and safety reasons the site is deemed unsafe to stay open it is expected all staff and students will be required to leave the site swiftly and safely by the following procedures. If the site is required to fully shut, all staff will also be required to leave so will not be able to stay and supervise students. Therefore all families need to have ensured students know where to go and what to do in such an event.

- All parents will be immediately notified by text and email that the site needs to be closed and that students will be asked to leave site with immediate effect. In this communication we will make it clear if the pick up point is accessible or not for any children being collected. This will also be communicated on social media.
- Students will be safely escorted off site by staff in a staggered dismissal.
- As per the Academy Site Closure Consent Agreement on MCAS it is expected that all students will know where they are being collected / walking to once escorted safely to the gates.

3. Remote Learning

Although the physical site may be closed it is expected that students will continue to engage in their learning via their Chromebooks and Google Classrooms. All teachers will be expected to both set work on Google Classrooms and deliver live lessons where possible as per a normal teaching day. Students will be expected to follow their normal timetable, access any live lessons and complete this work for any days that the Academy site is shut. For attendance purposes students will be marked as being educated offsite based on their engagement with and completion of work set.

It is expected that parents / carers support the Academy in ensuring that their children have a place to work for the day and understand that they are expected to access their learning as normal.