Managing Extreme Weather Policy.

Date of review: March 2026

Signed by:

	Headteacher	Date:	March 2026
Joyce Botham	Chair of governors	Date:	March 2026

At **Stockton-on-the-Forest Primary School** we have an extreme weather policy in place to ensure our school is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the school such as floods, snow and heat waves.

If any of these impact on the ability of the school to open or operate, we will contact parents via Email/Tapestry and telephone.

We will not take children outdoors where we judge that weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

Flood
In the case of a flood, we will follow our Critical incident policy to enable all children and staff to be safe and plan for continuity of care.

Snow or other severe weather
If high snowfall, or another severe weather condition such as dense fog, is threatened during a school day then the manager will decide whether to close the school. This decision will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the school day, we will contact all parents to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow or other severe weather, we will contact all available off duty staff and/or supply staff and group the children differently until they are able to arrive. If we are unable to maintain statutory ratio requirements after all options have been explored, we will contact Ofsted to inform them of this issue, recording all details in our incident file. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then we will take the decision to close the school.

Heat wave
We are committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the dangers of too much sun and UV rays as severe sunburn in childhood can lead to the development of malignant melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer) in later life.

Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun and find the right balance to protect children from sunburn by following the NHS guidance. The benefits are discussed with parents and their wishes followed with regard to clothing, hats and sun cream.

We follow guidance from the weather and UV level reports and use the following procedures to keep children safe and healthy in the sun:

- Children must have a clearly labelled sun hat which will be worn at all times whilst outside in sunny weather. This hat will preferably be of legionnaires design to provide additional protection i.e. with an extended back and side to shield children's neck and ears from the sun
- Parents are encouraged to send labelled sun cream into school with their children.
- Parents are requested to supply light-weight cotton clothing for their children suitable for the sun, with long sleeves and long legs

- Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun (UV levels); children will not be allowed in direct sunlight between 11.00am – 3.00pm on hot days from March to October, following NHS sun safety advice
- Shaded areas are provided and children are encouraged to ensure children are able to go out in hot weather, cool down or escape the sun should they wish to or need to
- Children are encouraged to drink water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days and this will be accessible both indoors and out
- Children are made aware of the need for sun hats, sun cream and the need to drink more fluids during their time in the sun