

THE EDUCATION VILLAGE ACADEMY TRUST



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Values and Ethos

Our values and ethos are inclusive and child centred. Our Trust is founded on the principles of inclusivity, diversity and fairness, and they are fundamental to our delivery of exceptional learning experiences.

EVAT stands for:

- **E**xcellence and high standards
 - a can-do culture and no-excuses ethos
- **V**alues driven with a deep sense of purpose
 - putting children and young people first
 - behaving ethically
- **A**mbitious and aspiration for all
 - irrespective of background or barriers – being truly inclusive
- **T**eamwork
 - we do more, better and faster, together

We are a village. We collaborate, with our learners, their families and our communities, to provide exceptional education so that all the children and young people we serve achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our Ethos is to:

- Create a nurturing and friendly atmosphere and provide an environment where everyone feels valued for who they are
- Bring out the best in every child and young person and meet the full range of their individual needs
- Provide different and unique experiences, challenges and activities
- Show tolerance and respect for each other
- Prepare our children and young people for lifelong learning
- Improve the life chances of every child and young person we serve.

This policy, and its associated procedures and protocols, are based on these key principles.

EVAT Version Control Document

Version:	Date:	Policy Owner:	Amendments made by:	Details of amendments made:	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
V1.1	09.09.2016	Mike Butler	Wendy Turpin	Name change and format.	Alana Mackenzie	-
V1.2	11.10.2017	Mike Butler	Wendy Turpin	Change to telephone number, reference to DCEO deleting.	Mike Butler	-
V1.3	18.01.2018	Mike Butler	Cathy Knights	Updating to streamline chain of command	Mike Butler	ELT
V1.4	19.04.2018	Mike Butler	Cathy Knights	Minor amend to advice to staff about attendance	Mike Butler	ELT
V1.5	29.03.2022	Mike Butler	Mike Butler	Reviewed against School Bus model and renamed	-	-
V2.0	13.05.2022	Mike Butler	Wendy Turpin	Final Version	ELT	26.04.22
V2.1	09.03.2023	Mike Butler	Stephanie Blake	Minor amend to job roles and contact details	-	-

Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Policy Owner: **Mike Butler**

The scheduled review date for this policy is: **Every 3 years**

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N.B. Where reference is made to an 'Academy' or a 'School', the intention is that the policy is universal and applies to both. Any reference to Principal may also include Executive Principal, Head of School or another member of ELT or SLT.

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY – SCHOOL CLOSURE (Parent/carer information)

In the event of extremely inclement weather, such as when heavy falls of snow or extremely icy conditions develop overnight and continue into the next day, parents should follow the advice below about the possibility of school closure.

Whenever possible, the schools within The Education Village Academy Trust (Haughton Academy, Beaumont Hill Academy, Springfield Academy, Gurney Pease Academy and Marchbank Free School) will remain open.

However, we have to consider the safety of all of our children and staff, some of whom travel a great distance into school each day.

Should the need arise, in severe weather a decision about whether to close school(s) will be made as early as possible by the Chief Executive or Chief Operating Officer of the Trust in conjunction with the Executive Principal/Principal(s)/Head of School. In some instances, we may decide upon partial closure e.g. in order to protect examination year groups or vulnerable children. Relevant information will be shared via:

- Text messaging service
- The Education Village Academy Trust website (see each individual school pages) www.educationvillage.org.uk
- Darlington Borough Council website www.darlington.gov.uk
- Local radio - BBC Tees News, Capital Radio, TFM
- School App, Facebook or Frog (where applicable)
- Northern Echo <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/>

We ask all parents to listen to one of the above radio stations and check the other sources of information listed above if heavy snow is falling or has fallen overnight, or if there is other adverse weather and there have been school closures announced. All relevant information will appear on the individual school websites. Please do not telephone the school before 8.30am. If you do arrive at school, please do not leave your children without confirming that the school is to remain open.

Once the school is open for the day, we will usually remain open until the end of the normal school day, though Academy Leaders will continue to monitor conditions throughout the day. If heavy snow falls during the day or weather conditions worsen significantly otherwise, and you are concerned about getting your child home, you are welcome to collect your child earlier. Please do not telephone in these circumstances; just call in to school to collect your child.

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY – SCHOOL CLOSURE (Staff information)

In the event of adverse inclement weather, such as when heavy falls of snow develop overnight and continue into the next day or adverse icy conditions prevail, staff should follow the advice below about the possibility of school/academy closure.

Whenever possible, the school/academies within the Trust will remain open. However, we have to consider the safety of all of our children and staff, some of whom travel a great distance into school each day.

Should the need arise, in severe weather a decision will be made by the Chief Executive or Chief Operating Officer of the Trust in conjunction with the Executive Principal/Principal(s)/Head of School, as early as possible, if any of the schools in the Education Village Academy Trust will close. In some instances, we may decide upon partial closure e.g. in order to protect examination year groups or vulnerable children. Relevant information will be shared via:

- Text messaging service
- The Education Village Academy Trust website (see each individual school pages) www.educationvillage.org.uk
- Darlington Borough Council website www.darlington.gov.uk
- Local radio - BBC Tees News, Capital Radio, TFM School App (where applicable)
- Northern Echo <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/>

All relevant information will appear on the **individual** academy websites.

Unless otherwise instructed, it is the Trust's expectation that staff should make all efforts to attend school and report to the student reception (EV-based staff) or Principal or Head of School (non EV-based staff) on arrival. Any EV staff unable to travel to school, please contact the Trust Support Team on the main telephone number 01325 254000. Non-EV based staff should contact their Principal.

Once the school/academy is open for the day, it will usually remain open until the end of the normal school day. The Executive Leadership Team will monitor the weather throughout the day for the EV site. Non-EV based Principals/Heads of School will monitor the weather in their areas.

Decision-making process during adverse weather conditions:

The decision to close any or all of the Academies will be made by the Chief Executive or Chief Operating Officer of the Trust in conjunction with the Executive Principal/Principal(s)/Head of School:

1. The Health & Safety Manager attends site as early as possible and consults with the MITIE Contract Manager and advises the CEO/COO regarding the condition of the EV site and weather forecasts
2. Non-EV Principal(s)/Head(s) of School attend their sites as early as possible and liaise with their Building Maintenance Officers and the Health & Safety Manager
3. Once a decision is made, it is communicated as appropriate through the following means:

If the school is to close (or partially close):

- An email will be sent by the CEO, COO or Executive Support Officer to the Adverse Weather Group (the group includes the Executive Principal, Principals, Head of School and their deputies, People Team, H&S Manager, MITIE, Academy Office Managers and the EV Attendance Officer).

- Executive Support Officer uploads instructions/information to the Trust website
- Principals (or delegates) upload instructions/information to their Academy website
- Principal messages to staff and parents as soon as possible informing that the school is to be closed via relevant communication.
- Executive Support Officer informs the Local Authority on **07584 543908** as soon as possible, providing details of the nature of the closure and the estimated duration
- The LA informs relevant local authority services, such as school transport team, transport operators, school crossings, and the Communications Team, who will post details of the closure on the DBC website and Facebook page

Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010)

In preparing or amending this policy, the author has given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty; that is, they have considered any potential impact on people who share certain protected characteristics. These protected characteristics are defined as: race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment