Bright Futures
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
The best *for* everyone, the best *from* everyone

<Academy Name>
Extreme Weather and Academy Closure Plan

It is very rare that the Academy will have to close due to extreme weather and parents/carers and students should assume that the Academy remains open unless they receive official communication confirming otherwise.

This plan applies to periods of extreme weather, including heavy snow, ice, flooding, storms, high winds and extreme heat, where these conditions may affect the safe operation of the Academy. This plan also applies where severe weather leads to the loss of essential services, including heating, electricity or water supplies.

Our priority is to remain open for all students where it is safe and practical to do so. If this is not possible, then we will consider whether we can remain partially open to selected year groups or groups of students. A final decision to fully close the Academy will only be taken after all reasonable alternatives have been considered.

In the event that Academy closure occurs whilst examinations are due to take place, every effort will be made to remain open for the examinations. Staff who are able to attend the Academy will be asked to assist in this process wherever possible.

Communication arrangements

Any decision regarding closure, partial opening, early closure or changes to normal arrangements will be communicated through the Academy's usual communication channels:

- Parent/carer text message (parents/carers should ensure that their contact details are up to date)
- The Academy website – <Insert Academy website link here>
- Social media – <Insert Academy social media handles here>
- Local Authority website – <Insert link here>

The Academy telephone message and absence line will be updated where required.

Parents/carers should wait for official communication from the Academy and avoid contacting the Academy unless necessary, as staff will be managing arrangements and supporting students.

Decision-making arrangements

The decision regarding Academy opening, partial opening, early closure or closure will be made by the Principal, following consultation with the Trust CEO/Director of Education. Where possible, decisions will be communicated by 7:30am. However, rapidly changing weather conditions may mean that decisions need to be made later.

The safety of students, staff and visitors will be the overriding consideration when making decisions about opening, partial opening, early closure or closure. The Academy will assess the impact of severe weather conditions on:

- The safety and accessibility of the Academy site
- Staffing levels
- Student attendance and supervision arrangements
- Transport arrangements
- Weather warnings and forecasts
- The needs of vulnerable students and those with additional needs

Where severe weather is forecast in advance, the Academy will make every effort to communicate confirmed arrangements before students leave at the end of the previous day. If conditions change overnight or during the day, the Academy will review arrangements and communicate any updates as soon as possible.

Early closure
Should severe weather conditions during the school day necessitate an early finish, appropriate arrangements will be put in place to support the safe dismissal of students.

Primary students will need to be collected in line with the Academy's usual collection arrangements. Secondary students may be permitted to leave independently where this is consistent with normal Academy arrangements and applicable parental consent requirements.

Where possible, Academy transport arrangements will be adjusted to support students travelling home. Any changes to the end of day arrangements will be communicated by parent/carer text, the website and social media.

Partial opening
This is where the Academy is open but some staff and students may be unable to attend due to weather conditions. It may be that only certain year groups or groups of students are invited into the Academy.

Parents/carers should consider local conditions carefully when travelling to the Academy and ensure that journeys are undertaken safely. Students should take particular care when travelling to and from the Academy and moving around the Academy site.

Arrangements for partial opening will depend on the nature and severity of the weather conditions affecting the Academy.

We will do our best to ensure the Academy site remains safe and accessible, but this is not always possible. Reasonable flexibility regarding arrival times may be applied where weather conditions disrupt transport or travel arrangements.

At the end of the day, students should travel home as usual unless alternative arrangements have been communicated, but there will be no after school clubs or staff meetings unless specifically communicated otherwise. It may be that, in certain cases, we close the Academy early. As always, we will communicate this to parents/carers.

The Academy will consider safeguarding implications when making decisions about partial opening or closure, including arrangements for vulnerable students and those with additional needs.

Other information

- During periods of cold weather, students should wear appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions, including additional layers where required.
- During periods of extreme heat, the Academy may introduce additional measures including increased access to drinking water, adjusted activities, increased ventilation and adaptations for vulnerable students.
- Students will be expected to follow all safety instructions issued during periods of extreme weather, including arrangements introduced during snow and icy conditions.
- Parents/carers should contact the Academy if severe weather creates a specific concern regarding their child's ability to attend safely.
- Please only call the Academy to report absences unless your query is urgent. Staff will be busy managing arrangements during periods of severe weather.

Keeping contact details up to date

It is essential that we have up-to-date contact details so that we are able to communicate with parents/carers.

If you know that we do not have your current details, please contact the Academy as soon as possible to update them.

During periods of snow and ice, the Academy will take reasonable steps to maintain safe access routes on the Academy site, including gritting or treating areas where necessary. However, conditions may remain hazardous, and everyone should take appropriate care.

The Academy is responsible for managing risks within the Academy site. Areas outside the Academy site remain the responsibility of the relevant highway authority or landowner.

Should the Academy need to close, arrangements for remote learning or other educational provision will be communicated to students and families through the Academy's usual communication channels as soon as reasonably practicable.