

Extreme Weather Protocol

Uffculme School will always try to remain open wherever possible and a decision to close the school will only be made if we cannot keep the site safe or the travel routes to and from school are a cause for concern.

However in the event of extreme weather which threatens the safety of staff and students and a decision to close the school is made, the following protocols will apply.

Closure before the start of the school day due to severe weather:

If we decide to close the school before school starts we will inform you in the following ways:

1. A message will appear on the school's website www.uffculmeschool.net, FaceBook pages and Twitter account by 7:15am each day (although we will aim to be sooner) and we will update the website and Twitter with information, as far as possible, during the day.
2. We will also notify Devon County Council (<https://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure/>), Radio Devon and Heart FM.

Please do not check the school website before 7.00am as in the past the volume of traffic has caused the site to crash meaning that we have been unable to get a message on.

School open but certain bus routes not running:

There are occasions when the school is open but some of the bus companies are unable to operate their routes. Unfortunately they do not always tell us this is the case before children leave for the bus stop. The Devon County Council website does however carry information on which bus services are not running and we will update our website as soon as we have that information.

If a bus service is not running, students should try and find alternative transport to school if possible. If not possible, they should return home and let the school know as soon as possible that their bus has not run. If a bus has not run in the morning, it is highly unlikely the route will be restored in the afternoon. Occasionally the bus companies take the decision to collect students early because of concerns about deteriorating weather. In this case we will let you know by text or email and via our website and Twitter as soon as possible.

Closure during the school day:

Our priority is to keep all students calm and safe, therefore, please follow these instructions so we can keep the children clam and reassured that they are safe. Please DO NOT phone/text your child/ren if you are worried about deteriorating weather as it causes them alarm and other children to panic. However if you wish to collect your child because of concerns about the safety of your journey home, please telephone the school and we will get a message to him/her that you are on your way

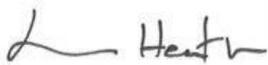
If for any reason weather forces us to close during the school day we will inform you in the following ways:

1. We will put information on our website and Twitter. Those parents who have given us their email addresses and text contacts, we will send you a message. This message will direct you to the school website which is where we will put all advice/instructions. Again, please do not text or phone your child at this point as it will cause panic and over-excitement.
2. Normally the school buses will arrive early to ensure that students who catch the bus are able to get home. This is at the bus company's discretion and we usually have a call from them telling us they will arrive early. We will let you know if this is the case. Pupils who catch the service buses will need to make alternative arrangements however.
3. Students who are being collected by car will be supervised until you arrive. If you have made arrangements for your child to go home with a friend, please let us know.
4. If it becomes clear, in the unlikely event of extreme and dangerous weather, that we are forced to close we will post this on the website and Twitter and text/email all parents for whom we have these details. However, we will provide a safe place for students to wait.

Everything reasonably possible will be done to ensure children's safety and well-being.

If you do not receive information from the school to the contrary, please assume that school will be open as usual.

In times of adverse weather, students are permitted to wear suitable footwear eg wellington boots.



Lorraine Heath
Headteacher