Acre Hall Primary School
Extreme Weather and Academy Closure Plan

It is very rare that school will have to close due to extreme weather and parents/carers and pupils should assume that school 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 school. 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 pupils 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 pupils. A final decision to fully close school will only be taken after all reasonable alternatives have been considered.

In the event that school closure occurs whilst examinations are due to take place, every effort will be made to remain open for the examinations. Staff who can attend school 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 school's usual communication channels:

- Parent/carer text message/ Teacher2Parent App (parents/carers should ensure that their contact details are up to date)
- The school website – Acre Hall Primary School - Bright Futures Educational Trust
- Social media – @acrehallprimaryschool
- Local Authority website – Welcome to Trafford | Trafford Council

The school's telephone message and absence line will be updated where required.

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

Decision-making arrangements
The decision regarding school 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 pupils, staff and visitors will be the overriding consideration when making decisions about opening, partial opening, early closure or closure. The school will assess the impact of severe weather conditions on:

- The safety and accessibility of the school site
- Staffing levels
- Pupil attendance and supervision arrangements
- Transport arrangements
- Weather warnings and forecasts
- The needs of vulnerable pupils and those with additional needs

Where severe weather is forecast in advance, the school will make every effort to communicate confirmed arrangements before pupils leave at the end of the previous day. If conditions change overnight or during the day, the school 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 pupils.

Pupils will need to be collected in line with the school's usual collection arrangements.

Where possible, school transport arrangements will be adjusted to support SSC pupils 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 school is open but some staff and pupils may be unable to attend due to weather conditions. It may be that only certain year groups or groups of pupils are invited into school.

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

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

We will do our best to ensure the school 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, pupils 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 school early. As always, we will communicate this to parents/carers.

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

Other information

- During periods of cold weather, pupils should wear appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for the weather conditions, including additional layers where required.
- During periods of extreme heat, school may introduce additional measures including increased access to drinking water, adjusted activities, increased ventilation and adaptations for vulnerable pupils.
- Pupils 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 school if severe weather creates a specific concern regarding their child's ability to attend safely.
- Please only call school 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 can communicate with parents/carers.

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

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

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

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