


Hillside High School

Hillside
High School

*Excellence in the Heart
of the Community*



Extreme Weather Policy March 2026

School:	Hillside High School
School Link:	Amanda Ryan
Date of Governing Body Review:	March 2026
Next Review Due:	May 2027
Signed:	
Chair:	Mr Mike Cunliffe
Principal:	Amanda Ryan

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Extreme Weather Policy

Policy Aim/Summary:

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'parent' includes adults who are in a parenting role, for example, step-parents, foster-parents, adoptive parents, guardians and carers. Also, the terms 'child/pupil' and 'children/pupils' are interchangeable.

The aim of this policy is to set out procedures in the event of extreme weather such as snow, storms or flooding. The extreme weather policy exists to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors.

In the event of extreme weather, the Caretaker on site should liaise with the Principal to make an appropriate assessment of risk and appropriate plan as soon as possible.

High Winds / Storms

In the event of high winds / storms at the start of the day pupils will be welcomed straight in to school from the back yard. Breaks and Lunches will be taken in the Dining Room and LRC (Wet break procedure).

Snow/Ice

Caretakers will have gritted paths (following gritting plan) and cleared snow as much as possible. It may be necessary to not open the Southport Road entrance to ensure the main path and Stuart Road entrance is clear. In the event of a heavy snow fall and the back yard becoming too difficult to clear, pupils should enter school through the main front doors. Breaks and Lunches will be taken in the Dining Room and LRC (Wet break procedure). Messages will be sent via class charts app and social media.

Heat wave

In the event of prolonged periods of high temperatures, caretakers will take measures to keep the building as cool as possible – closing blinds – ventilating rooms. The Principal may take the short-term decision to allow pupils to leave blazers at home. Pupils will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school to avoid dehydration and apply sunscreen before attending. Messages will be sent via the Class Charts app and on social media.

School Closure

In determining whether it is necessary to close the school owing to extreme weather conditions, the Principal will take advice from the Trust.

A school closure will be publicised in the following ways and usually from 7am on the morning of the closure.

- School website home page www.hillsidehigh.co.uk
- Class Charts Parent App and social media
- Staff text and email
- A recorded message on the school main phone number: 0151 525 2630
- Local radio:

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- Hits Radio 96.7 (96.7 FM, DAB & online)
- Capital Liverpool (107.6 FM, DAB & online)
- BBC Radio Merseyside (95.8 FM, DAB & online)

All staff should make every effort to get to school in the case of bad weather unless they have been notified of a school closure.

Should weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, the Principal will make a decision as to whether the school should close. If it is decided to close the school, the parents and carers will be informed by text message or telephone and the pupils will be sent home. The closure of the school will be announced on the school website and social media. Facilities at the school will remain open for those pupils who cannot return home until their parents or carers arrive either at the school or their home.

Staff and parents should ensure that all contact details (home, work and mobile numbers) are up to date so that we can contact you if necessary. Please keep the school informed of any change in details either in writing or by email to admin@hillsidehigh.co.uk

A school closure is highly unlikely and will be avoided wherever possible. There is no need for parents to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open. Unless announced as above, school is open!

Setting of pupil work

In the event of a school closure teachers should set work for pupils for that day on Class Charts, using remote resources such as Sparx, GCSE Pod, Seneca and Language Gym. Parents and pupils will be informed via the Class Charts app. In the unlikely event that school is closed for subsequent days, wherever possible live remote teaching should commence.

Local Radio - Contact Details

Hits Radio Liverpool (formerly Radio City 96.7)

Website: www.planetradio.co.uk/hits-radio/liverpool/
news@hitsradio.co.uk - News desk
0333 2020800 – Studio calls

Capital Liverpool (formerly Juice FM)

Website: www.capitalfm.com/liverpool
0333 2002000 - Global Customer Support
020 7766 6000 - Switchboard

BBC Radio Merseyside 95.8

Website: www.bbc.co.uk/radiomerseyside
0151 709 9333 - Studio Phone Number/on air
0151 708 6161 - News desk
0151 708 5500 - main switch board
0800032133 – WhatsApp (start message with mersyside)

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Local Governing Body.