

We are an **ambitious** and **inclusive** Trust of schools
strengthening communities through excellent education.



School Closure Policy

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Ted Wragg Trust is an ambitious and inclusive trust of schools strengthening communities through excellent education. Our school closure procedures are designed to support planning for and dealing with emergencies, including significant public health incidents and severe weather. The Trust is committed to ensuring, as far as reasonably practicable, that all schools remain open and provide face-to-face education. However, the safety, health and welfare of students, staff and visitors is paramount.

This policy sets out the Trust's approach to temporary school closures or restricted opening in response to emergencies. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a clear framework for decision-making during emergency situations
- Ensure effective communication with parents, carers and staff
- Safeguard students and staff
- Minimise disruption to education where safe to do so

2.0 Definition

- 2.1 For the purpose of this document, The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust is referred to as **the Ted Wragg Trust or TWT** or **the Trust**. An emergency is any unexpected event that poses a risk to safety or welfare requiring temporary closure or restricted operation.

- 2.2 This policy has due regard to:

- Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings.
- Health and Safety at work Act 1974
- Keeping children safe in education

3.0 Emergency School Closure Procedures

- 3.1 The Headteacher (or designated senior leader) will decide whether or not to close school following a risk assessment. The presumption will always be to remain open where safe. Where possible decision will be taken by 7.30am.
- 3.2 Early closure during the school day may occur if safety is compromised.

4.0 Communications

- 4.1 Parents and carers will be informed via SMS message, email, website www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk and social media Facebook – Sidmouth College. We ask that parents/ carers ensure that the school have up to date contact details at all times – please email generaloffice@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk or use My Child At School (MCAS) to update your details with us.
- 4.2 Key staff will remain at the school with students until they are collected or in the case of secondary school students until parents/ carers have given permission to the school for students to make alternative arrangements for getting home. In the event that it is not safe to remain on the school site, students will be evacuated to another local site and will be supervised by school staff.

5.0 Safeguarding and student welfare

- 5.1 Safeguarding responsibilities remain fully in force during any closure or period of restricted operation.

- 5.2 Where a school closes during the school day:

- Students will not be sent home unless safe arrangements are confirmed
- Key staff will remain on site to supervise students until collected
- For secondary-aged students, parental permission may be accepted for alternative travel arrangements where appropriate.
- If remaining on site is unsafe, students may be moved to an alternative local location and supervised by school staff in line with the school's Emergency Plan.

5.3 Particular consideration will be given to:

- Vulnerable students
- Students with SEND or medical needs
- Students reliant on school transport