



**Styal Primary School**



# Managing Access in High Winds Policy

Styal Primary School in conjunction  
with Quarry Bank Mill

November 2023

## Decision Making Process on High Winds and Closure of the School

The following staff are involved in the decision-making process during high winds and/or closure of the school

- Headteacher
- Deputy headteacher
- General Manager of Quarry Bank Mill
- Lead Ranger and / or Duty Ranger of Quarry Bank Mill

A proactive approach to wind speeds/ gusts must be taken. The system is based on predicted maximum **gust** speeds.

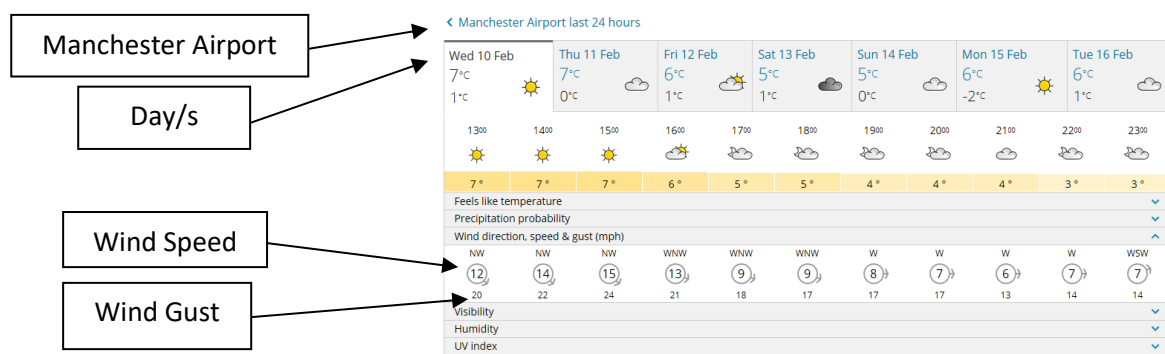
The ideal situation is to close the school in advance of predicted high winds and stop people entering the school site rather than try to move people off the school premises during high winds.

The QBM team check speeds/ gusts to determine if warning signs or closure of the school premises is necessary.

Wind speed and gusts are taken from the official MET Office website.

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

The 7-day weather forecast for **Manchester Airport** is checked. See figure 1 below.



### Wind/ Gusts Speeds for Warning Signs

**Warning Signs** are placed out across the estate once **wind speeds/ gusts** are predicted to be between 40mph and 49mph inclusive.

### Safety Measures in School

Once the QBM team have identified that the wind speeds/ gusts will reach 40 to 49mph they will inform the headteacher that the Warning Signs will go up in the designated

areas around the estate. The headteacher will also be informed when it falls below 40mph and the signs are being taken down.

Staff and children will still be able to access the school grounds and buildings but with extra safety measures in place:

- A tree inspection / school site inspection will be carried out between 8.00am and 8.15am. This will be done by the headteacher and school caretaker.
- Parents will be emailed and notified that the school is safe to be open by 8.20am. The headteacher / deputy headteacher will also place a note on the school's website by 8.20am
- Children will be allowed access to school from 8.45am rather than 8.50am
- Key Stage 1 dinner choices will be completed in the classroom with the teacher rather than on the picnic benches on the playground
- Children will stay inside at playtime and dinnertime
- Snacks will be collected from the kitchen by adults – no children
- Dinners will be eaten in classrooms – dinners collected and taken over by midday assistants
- There will be no outdoor sports events, outdoor events and outdoor PE whilst winds are between 40 – 49mph
- Children will not access Forest School

### **Wind/ Gusts Speeds for Closure of the School**

The school will close once **wind speeds/ gusts** are predicted to be 50mph and above. This wind speed was selected for closure as there is a higher probability of trees and branches failing.

### **Closure of the Property Procedure**

Once the QBM team have identified that the wind speeds/ gusts will reach 50mph+ they will inform the headteacher of Styal Primary School. Once it has been confirmed that the school will close, the headteacher / deputy headteacher will email all parents to inform. There will also be a notice placed on the school's website. The headteacher will inform the local authority of the school closure.

### **Procedure for Re-opening of the School**

Once the wind speeds/ gusts have dropped below 50mph a post storm inspection will take place. This will be done by the headteacher and the school's caretaker. Any windblown damage must be dealt with as appropriate and QBM rangers informed if necessary. Once the school's site has been declared safe to open, the headteacher / deputy headteacher will email all parents to inform. There will also be information on the school's website.

### **Closure during School Hours**

If the wind speeds/ gusts reach 50mph or above for a short period of time i.e. 1hr, once staff and children have already arrived on site, during normal working hours, the headteacher with the QBM team will decide the appropriate action to take for staff and children. Children and staff will follow the safety rules of remaining inside (see previous list). Headteacher and the school caretaker must assess the school grounds before allowing the children home.

### Terminology of Signage

**Closure signs:** FOOTPATH CLOSED DUE TO HIGH WINDS. Please do not proceed beyond this point we apologise for any inconvenience.

**Warning signs** – HIGH WINDS WARNING. Please be advised a storm warning has been issued for this area. Trees are liable to shed branches.

### Emergency Services Contact Details

See table 2 below for emergency contact details.

Emergency Service	Number
Ambulance, Fire, Police	999
Local Fire Brigade	01625 524066
Cheshire East Road Emergency	0300 123 5020 0300 123 5025 (out of hours)
Environment Agency	0800 80 70 60 (24hr)
Mercia Tree Care (Darren Evens)	07949274143 01270 624 738

Table 2: Emergency contact details.

### Signatures

<b>Date of this Review</b>	<b>November 2023</b>
<b>Completed by</b>	<b>Louise Boardman with advice from Colin Gorner</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>2.5.22</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Lee Walsh- Chair of Governors</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>November 2023</b>

