



Wind Policy

July 2025

Next Review: July 2026

Introduction

This policy aims to identify necessary control measures to minimise risks associated with high winds on school grounds, ensuring the safety of pupils, staff, visitors, and the integrity of school property, with particular attention to tree safety. This policy applies to all staff, pupils, visitors, and contractors while on school premises, particularly during and after periods of forecasted or experienced high winds.

Definitions

- High Wind: Wind speeds exceeding 40 mph or as forecasted by the UK Met Office with a wind warning issued for the Newcastle upon Tyne area.
- Tree Safety Inspection: Regular visual checks and professional arboriculture assessments of trees on school grounds.

Responsibilities

Head Teacher / Senior Leadership Team (SLT):

- Ensure policy implementation and staff awareness.
- Coordinate response actions during high wind events.

Facilities Manager:

- Conduct pre- and post-wind event site inspections, focusing on tree conditions.
- Liaise with arboriculture experts for assessments and urgent tree maintenance.

Teaching Staff:

- Follow instructions regarding pupil safety during wind events, including changes to outdoor activities.

All Staff:

- Report any observed hazards such as fallen branches or unstable trees immediately to the facilities manager or head teacher.

Risk Assessment and Control Measures

a) Before High Wind Events

- Monitor weather forecasts daily via reliable sources (e.g., UK Met Office).
- Advise staff to cancel or relocate outdoor activities if high wind warnings are issued.
- Secure outdoor equipment and loose items that could become projectiles.
- Conduct regular tree inspections at least twice per year and after storms, carried out by a qualified arborist.
- Remove or prune any dead, damaged, or weakened branches identified during inspections.

b) During High Wind Events

- Restrict access to vulnerable outdoor areas, especially under or near trees.

- Keep pupils indoors or in sheltered areas until the wind subsides.
- Ensure all staff are aware of emergency procedures should a wind-related incident occur.

c) After High Wind Events

- Conduct immediate site inspection focusing on:
 - Fallen branches or debris.
 - Signs of tree damage or instability.
 - Blocked paths or hazards in play areas.
- Remove debris safely and report any significant damage to the head teacher and arrange urgent arboriculture assessment if necessary.
- Communicate to parents and staff any temporary restrictions or changes in access to outdoor areas.

Training and Communication

- Provide training for staff on the Wind Policy and emergency procedures annually.
- Display wind safety information and reminders in staff rooms and communal areas.

Record Keeping

- Maintain records of all tree inspections, maintenance, and incident reports related to wind damage.
- Document actions taken during and after wind events for continual improvement.

Katie Morren
July 2025