

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents

### Severe Weather Arrangements

1. Valence School will endeavour to remain open during all weather conditions. The only exception to this would be if we had a major failure with heating, or with the electricity or water supply or inadequate staffing. In such an event emergency arrangements would be made and you would be notified accordingly.

### 2. BOARDING STUDENTS

(a) For students who board on a weekly basis we will endeavour to ensure that transport is provided in the event of severe weather on a Friday to transport them home earlier than normal. You will be notified and no child will be sent home to an empty house.

(b) If severe weather occurs at a weekend or just before students are due to return to School after a holiday you should:

(i) If you live in the Kent area listen to BBC Radio Kent, Heart FM or KMFM Radio who will broadcast any special information about Valence School;

(ii) contact the School before allowing your child to leave home in the normal transport.

This is particularly important, for example, if there is severe snow inland but rain on the coast;

(iii) be confident that the transport will be able to reach the School, taking into account the distance to travel and local weather conditions in the Westerham area.

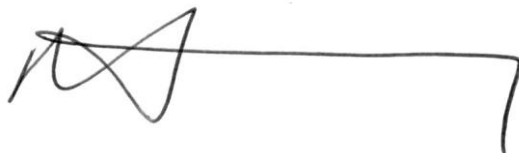
(c) If it is not possible to transport students home on a Friday from Valence School or we are aware of severe weather in children's home areas which may prevent them from reaching home, arrangements will be made for them to be accommodated at School for the weekend. You will be informed by telephone.

3. DAY STUDENTS

- (a) If severe weather occurs, or is forecast, tune into BBC Radio Kent, Heart or KMFM Radio who will announce any special information about Valence School.
- (b) Do not allow your child to board transport unless you are sure that he/she can reach the School.
- (c) If you are in any doubt please telephone the school to check.  
PLEASE NOTE THAT WE MAY NEED TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL FOR DAY STUDENTS TO ENSURE THAT OUR STAFFING LEVELS CAN BE SUSTAINED FOR BOARDERS WHO HAVE TO REMAIN AT SCHOOL.
- (d) If severe weather sets in during the day we will try to arrange for children to be transported home early. We will only send a child home if we know there will be someone who is able to look after him/her.

4. ALL STUDENTS

- (a) Our main concern in making arrangements to cope with severe weather will be the welfare of the children. We have contingency plans in place to ensure that sufficient staff and food are available in the event of the school being cut off by snow.
- (b) We will use the Mobile Number given to us by Parents to send out up to date information by TEXT.
- (c) If you have access to the internet, please check the Kent School Closures website at [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk)
- (d) Please ensure that you tune into the appropriate local radio station as requested:  
HEART RADIO  
BBC RADIO KENT  
KMFM RADIO
- (e) Check the School website for information at [www.valenceschool.com](http://www.valenceschool.com)
- (f) Please make sure that we have your current telephone number and an emergency contact number. Parents living outside of Kent will always be contacted by telephone if any severe weather arrangements affecting their children are being made.
- (g) If you are in any doubt about what to do in the event of severe weather please telephone the School.



**Roland J. Gooding**