



Weather & Closure Policies

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This policy applies to all divisions of Sudbury Christian Academy (SCA), including its Early Learning Centre (ELC), its elementary (JK-8) division, and its secondary (9-12) division.
- 1.2. While Sudbury Christian Academy is an independent school operating in Greater Sudbury, it will often implement measures similar to those of the four public school boards operating in the region for similar reasons -- student health & safety first and foremost among them.
- 1.3. Nevertheless, SCA reserves the right to make independent decisions with respect to weather and closure in circumstances which do not impact SCA in the same way as they do the four public school boards.

2. COLD WEATHER POLICIES

2.1. Early Learning Centre (ELC)

- 2.1.1. The ELC is required by the *Child Care and Early Years Act* to have two one-hour outdoor play times -- one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The following exceptions apply:
- 2.1.2. Extreme **cold** restrictions (typically in winter months) are as follows:
 - 2.1.2.1. **Infants** will remain indoors if temperatures drop below -15°C with wind chill according to Environment Canada
 - 2.1.2.2. **Toddlers** will remain indoors if temperatures drop below -20°C with wind chill according to Environment Canada; the ELC educators on duty may also make a discretionary choice based on wind direction and sunshine when temperatures are between -15°C to -20°C
 - 2.1.2.3. **Preschoolers** will remain indoors if temperatures drop below -20°C with wind chill according to Environment Canada; the ELC educators on duty may also make a discretionary choice based on wind direction and sunshine when temperatures are between -18°C to -20°C

2.2. Elementary (JK-8) Division

- 2.2.1. In the event that the temperature falls below -25°C with the wind chill factor according to Environment Canada, JK-8 students will be kept inside for recess and before- and after-school supervision.
- 2.2.2. As long as the temperature with the wind chill factor remains at -20°C or above according to Environment Canada, JK-8 students will remain outside for recess and before- and after-school supervision.
- 2.2.3. Due to localized variances in wind speed, the JK-8 supervisor on duty may make a discretionary choice when the temperature with wind chill according to Environment Canada is in the -21°C to -25°C range.
- 2.2.4. Field trips (e.g. Winter Fun Day, ski trips) may be exempt from cold weather restrictions at the discretion of the school administration.

3. EXTREME HEAT POLICIES

3.1. Extreme **heat** restrictions (typically in summer months) are as follows:

- 3.1.1. **Infants** will remain indoors if temperatures rise above 30°C with humidex according to Environment Canada; the ELC educators on duty may also make a discretionary choice based on availability of shade and water when temperatures are between 25°C to 30°C
- 3.1.2. **Toddler and Preschool** will remain indoors if temperatures rise above 35°C with humidex according to Environment Canada; the ELC educators on duty may also make a discretionary choice based on availability of shade and water when temperatures are between 30°C to 35°C
- 3.1.3. **School Age** programs (including the elementary division) will remain indoors if temperatures rise above 35°C with humidex according to Environment Canada; the ELC educators on duty may also make a discretionary choice based on availability of shade and water when temperatures are between 30°C to 35°C
- 3.1.4. When reports of poor air quality are issued, the ELC Manager will closely monitor via the weather network the air quality. If the air quality index reading is 7 or higher, all children will remain indoors.

4. CLOSURE DUE TO WEATHER

- 4.1. If the public school boards cancel buses due to road conditions but keep schools open, then SCA will remain open, but will strongly advise all parents/guardians to remain home and off the roads. Student safety is our top priority. All tests and assignments scheduled for that day will be postponed, and there will be no academic penalties for student lateness or absence. (Note: Uniforms are still required for students who choose to attend, and teachers may assign supplemental work as needed for academic improvement or reinforcement.)
- 4.2. If the public school boards close their schools due to severe weather — a very rare event — then SCA will also close for the day, and advise all parents/guardians, faculty, and staff accordingly. Student safety is our top priority. If the public school boards close schools midday, then SCA will contact parents/guardians to pick up their children as soon as possible so staff may be dismissed before weather conditions worsen.
- 4.3. If the police have closed highway 69, 17, or 144 between Sudbury and the nearest centre *due to dangerous road conditions*, then the school reserves the right to close for the day.
- 4.4. If the public school bus consortium cancels buses solely due to cold temperatures (and not due to road conditions caused by snow or ice), then the school day at SCA will proceed unaffected.

5. CLOSURE DUE TO EMERGENCY

- 5.1. The school may be forced to close for the day (or for a longer period of time) due to other types of emergencies which threaten to impede the safe operation of a school, including but not limited to the following:
 - 5.1.1. Power outage lasting longer than one hour (which might impact the building's fire, safety, and security systems)
 - 5.1.2. Loss of water/sewer service to/from the building
 - 5.1.3. Vale warning sirens, regardless of level or reason for alarm
 - 5.1.4. Closure of roads leading to the building (which might prevent staff and parents from accessing the building)
 - 5.1.5. Communicable disease epidemic or pandemic affecting the City of Greater Sudbury

- 5.2. The school will make every effort to communicate emergency closure with the families of students, primarily through phone and email notification.
- 5.3. Students will be supervised in accordance with required ratios until the last child is picked up.

6. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. Administration

- 6.1.1. Only the Head of Schools or designate (authorized in writing) may announce a weather advisory or school closure.

6.2. Faculty & Staff

- 6.2.1. All scheduled staff are required to report to work unless notified otherwise in writing by the head of the division or the Head of Schools.
- 6.2.2. Scheduled staff members who choose not to report to work due to weather conditions or emergencies must immediately notify the head of their division; absence will constitute an unpaid day.