# TABLETOP EXERCISE - SEVERE WEATHER

## Summary

This tabletop exercise aims to test the response of staff when faced with the decision to close the school during adverse weather.

Accompanying news bulletins and discussion points can be used for delivery of these injects.

This exercise is designed to last approximately one hour.

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| Approximate timings | Activity |
| 5 minutes | Introduction to exercise |
| 5 minutes | Inject 1 - News bulletins and discussion points |
| 15 minutes | Group discussion |
| 5 minutes | Inject 2 - News bulletins and discussion points |
| 15 minutes | Group discussion |
| 15 minutes | Debrief |

## Inject 1

Scenario time

Sunday, 1pm.

News bulletin

“The country was last night blanketed by heavy snow, with many regions receiving as many as six inches of snow overnight. Accompanying this, an area of high pressure has followed behind the snow clouds, leading to clear skies and causing temperatures to plummet.

Motoring organisations and the police are warning of treacherous driving conditions. Gritting of roads is being undertaken but due to the preceding extensive cold snap, it is believed many salt stocks may be low. Additionally, some areas where the heaviest snow fall has occurred are without power and electricity companies are struggling to reconnect supplies in the current weather conditions.”

Information

Weather conditions over the weekend have been poor and many properties in the neighbourhood have lost electricity supply; fortunately the school has not been affected.

Heavy snow is forecast from 10pm onwards. However, if the weather is not as bad as feared the school should be able to open tomorrow as usual.

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| * What arrangements should staff make today in order to prepare for a possible school closure tomorrow? * When would the decision to close the school actually be taken? * If the school does have to close, how will parents/carers and pupils be informed? Who else would need to be notified and are the necessary contact details available? * Are any other actions required? |

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## Inject 2

Scenario time

Monday, 7am.

News bulletin

“With the severe weather the country has been experiencing there has been much disruption to many transport services and businesses. In many counties, hundreds of schools have taken the decision to close. The school has had its closure prolonged due to a burst pipe as a result of the freezing temperatures. This has caused severe flooding, with damage to equipment and loss of pupils’ work.”

Information

A significant amount of snow fell overnight but the site manager/caretaker has managed to arrive at school; only to find that freezing temperatures have caused a water pipe to burst. The water supply has been isolated but not before a significant proportion of the school has flooded. The school office and two classrooms have been particularly badly affected.

The school is likely to be closed for at least a couple of days.

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| * What support is needed to recover from damage caused by the flooding? * Could pupils’ work be recovered? What reassurance needs to be provided to pupils whose work has been damaged? * How will the school keep staff, parents/carers, pupils, the local authority and the media informed of developments? * How will pupil and staff absence be recorded? * Are any other actions required? |