

## Denefield School warm weather guidance

This document acts as a guide to likely response to unseasonal or extreme warm weather. It may not cover every eventuality, and our actions may fall outside of those suggested in this guide.

### When we mention temperature we mean, Met Office predicted temperature in degrees Celsius/ Centigrade at midday in the local area.

We will also look at any Amber or Red warnings issued by the Met Office – see appendix 1 for explanation.

Below is a list of the stages and temperature thresholds, with the activities we will undertake and the advice we will give to students, parents and staff. We will look to predict action by midday on the Friday of the preceding week, to allow people to plan. If there is a substantial change during the week, away from the predicted temperatures, we will advise all interested parties as soon as is practicable.

Stage 1	Between 25 and 28 degrees.
Our site team will open doors and windows on arrival at school. Colleagues may wish to use fans or air conditioning <sup>1</sup> in classrooms and offices. Students will be advised in tutor period to keep hydrated and wear sunscreen. Regular messaging to staff of symptoms of heat stress and dehydration. Teachers advised not to wear ties. Parents asked to ensure students bring water and sunscreen.	
Stage 2	Between 29 and 34 degrees.
All measures above, plus students advised to wear tailored shorts and school polo shirts, and staff allowed to wear smart shorts or alternative light, smart clothing. Only moderate (indoor if possible) exercise in PE lessons. Students advised to bring secondary water bottle and a sun hat. Indoor/ undercover break areas to be made available.	
Stage 3	Between 35 and 39 degrees.
All measures above, plus adjusted school day from 8.30am to 12.50pm as per end of term, with shortened tutor period and shortened periods 1-4 (no period 5) and with no physical PE. Minimising heat through turning off any unnecessary electrical equipment, lights, preparing food in technology that does not use the ovens, not carrying out experiments that use Bunsen burners etc.	
Stage 4	40 degrees+
School closes and students work online	

All of this will be communicated in advance to staff, students, parents and carers and will be available on our website.

We appreciate that weather patterns are changing, and the likelihood of severe weather is increasing. As a result, the school is investigating alterations to the physical environment, which will assist in managing the extreme weather incidents.

These are:

- Additional water fountains around site
- Additional canopies and covers.

We made use of the following advice when creating this guide:

[Joint union heatwave guide.pdf \(ucu.org.uk\)](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucp/understanding-heatwaves/heatwave-guide)

[Looking after children and those in early years settings during heatwaves: for teachers and professionals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/looking-after-children-and-those-in-early-years-settings-during-heatwaves-for-teachers-and-professionals)

[What is a heatwave? - Met Office](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/forecast/seasonal-outlooks/what-is-a-heatwave)

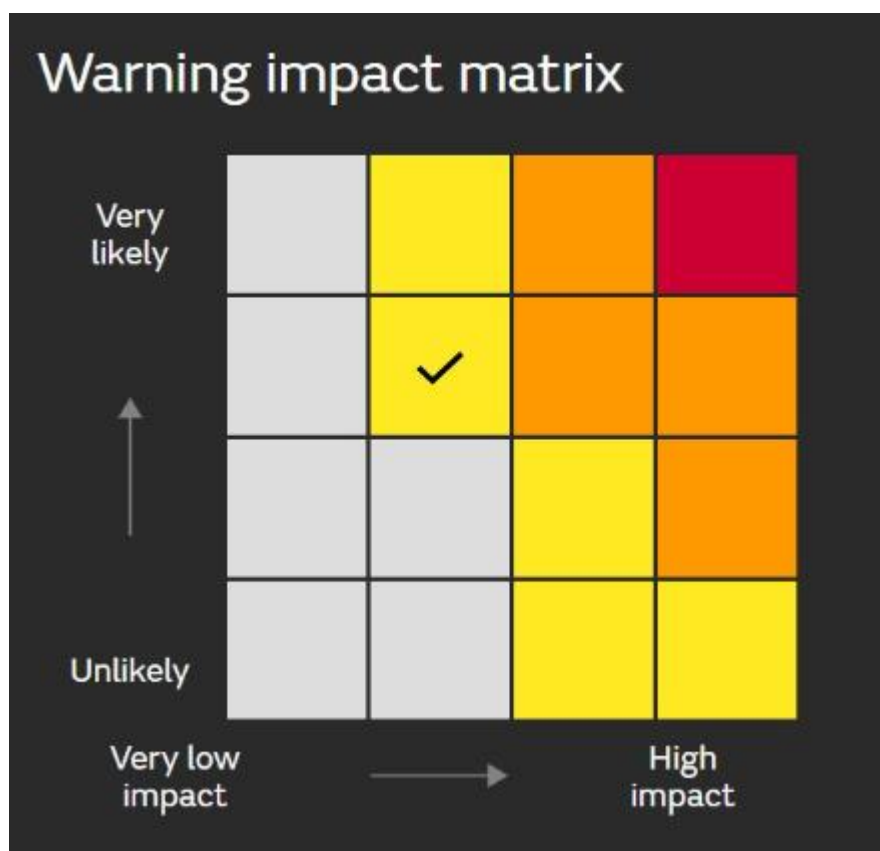
## Appendix 1 – Met office weather warnings

The Met Office issues weather warnings, when severe weather has the potential to bring impacts to the UK. These warnings are given a colour (yellow, amber or red) depending on a combination of both the impact the weather may have and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

Yellow and Amber warnings represent a range of impact levels and likelihoods. This means it is important to read each warning to know what level of impact you can expect for your chosen warning area – and how likely those impacts are to occur.

These impacts can include damage to property, travel delays and cancellations, loss of water supplies, power cuts and, in the most severe cases, bring a danger to life.

We show this combination of impact and likelihood in a matrix, which can be seen in the Further Details section of our warnings. To understand how likely we think the forecast impacts are, always check the matrix to see which box has been ticked.



**Yellow Warning:** Yellow warnings can be issued for a range of weather situations. Many are issued when it is likely that the weather will cause some low level impacts, including some disruption to travel in a few places. Many people may be able to continue with their daily routine, but there will

be some that will be directly impacted and so it is important to assess if you could be affected. Other yellow warnings are issued when the weather could bring much more severe impacts to the majority of people but the certainty of those impacts occurring is much lower. It is important to read the content of yellow warnings to determine which weather situation is being covered by the yellow warning.

**Amber Warning:** There is an increased likelihood of impacts from severe weather, which could potentially disrupt your plans. This means there is the possibility of travel delays, road and rail closures, power cuts and the potential risk to life and property. You should think about changing your plans and taking action to protect yourself and your property. You may want to consider the impact of the weather on your family and your community and whether there is anything you need to do ahead of the severe weather to minimise the impact.

**Red Warning:** Dangerous weather is expected and, if you haven't already done so, you should take action now to keep yourself and others safe from the impact of the severe weather. It is very likely that there will be a risk to life, with substantial disruption to travel, energy supplies and possibly widespread damage to property and infrastructure. You should avoid travelling, where possible, and follow the advice of the emergency services and local authorities.