



**KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

Educational excellence for our City

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**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

Educational excellence for our City

24th June 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write to inform you of our decision to 'soft close' at 12.40 tomorrow (Thursday, 25th June).

This has not been a straightforward decision as I feel that in some regards the safest place for children in extreme weather is in school.

We have put in place a wide range of measures to try to maintain education this week, which has included;

- 1) Ensuring first-aiders have a greater capacity to support pupils
- 2) Re-rooming classes from the warmest classrooms.
- 3) Purchase of hundreds of additional ice-packs to support first aiders in supporting pupils suffering from the heat.
- 4) Reinforced guidance to staff around heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- 5) Cancelled some activities such as PE clubs and cooking lessons.
- 6) Put a school-wide risk assessment in place.
- 7) Minimised the time in which electrical devices such as screens are on and taken other steps to cool the building.

However, despite the measures taken and the efforts of staff, I am forced to conclude that as this building stores the heat from successive days of exceptional temperatures it is not fair on pupils to expect them to continue in lessons in light of tomorrow's further anticipated rise in temperatures and the balance of probability is that temperatures will reach at least the mid-30s in even our coolest classrooms in the course of the hottest part of the day tomorrow afternoon.

A further factor in my decision is our awareness that most local primary schools and many nurseries have put similar measures in place already, which means that I have become less confident that we can maintain safe staffing levels as staff who are parents of primary age children need to collect and supervise their own children.

Going forward, I will be in discussion with governors around the potential to spend the significant sums required for the installation of air conditioning in areas of the school and the possible future introduction of a summer uniform.

I apologise both to those parents who feel we should have closed earlier in the week and those parents who feel strongly that we should remain open throughout extreme weather conditions.

I will supervise any pupils whose parents/carers wish to remain in school from 12.40 to 5pm tomorrow.

If you wish your child to stay in school, please inform them and email enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org.

Kind Regards

Mr Neil Jones
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones