



CASTILION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Engage, Enthuse, Empower



Reviewed	Agreed by Staff	Review Date	Committee responsible for review
September 2020	September 2020	When necessary	Learning and Achievement

FLOOD PLAN

Annex to school's emergency plan

FLOOD RISKS:

Tidal river flooding

Castilion is registered with the Environment Agency's Floodwatch Direct Warning Service. Any Flood Alert would be sent directly to the school by automated phone call, fax and e-mail.

The Environment Agency Information line number is 0845 988 1188

The risk of a flooding from this stretch of the Thames is very low since the flood defences (banks) are built up to the same level as the Thames Barrier. It should however be noted that if flooding did occur, the impact would be very high.

The Environment Agency suggests that:-

'This is an area that is unlikely to flood except in extreme conditions. The chance of flooding each year is 0.5% (1 in 200) or less. This takes into account the effect of any flood defences that may be in this area, whether or not these are currently illustrated on the Flood Map.

The nature of flooding of this stretch of the Thames is such that any serious flooding would be known well in advance and would take several hours to occur. It is also very unlikely to occur on the ground between the river and the school which is built up as part of the flood defences (see map below)

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea

Click on the map to see what is the Risk of Flooding at a particular location.

Flood Maps

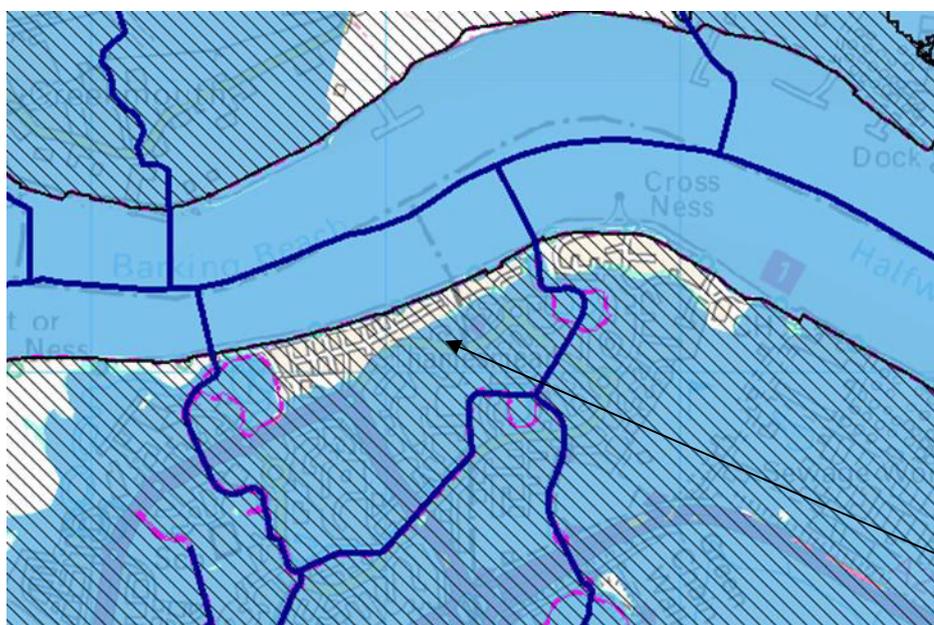
 Flooding from rivers or sea without defences

 Extent of extreme flood

 Flood defences

 Areas benefiting from flood defences

 Main rivers



There is a low risk of tidal river flooding in Bexley from the River Thames. This arises from:-

(a) increasing tide levels in the River from geological causes i.e. the general lowering of the ground level from the shrinking of London's clay stratum together with a gradual tilting of the British Isles land mass that is resulting in Scotland and the north-west of England rising whilst south-east England is sinking; Global warming and sea level rise are also contributing to increasing tide levels.

(b) Usually at times of spring tides the special threat caused by a surge tide, i.e. adverse weather conditions accompanied by a deep depression that moves eastwards and then south from the Atlantic into the North Sea. If this is heightened by northerly gales there is a general elevation of sea-levels resulting in a surge-tide effect into river estuaries.

The probability of this occurring is estimated as being low (level of protection is for a 1 in 1000 years event based on current 2030 sea level predictions) the impact it would have on parts of the borough is very high.

Tidal Defences

The Thames Barrier is owned and operated by the Environment Agency. It is sited at Woolwich Reach and comprises a structure of ten moveable gates supported between nine piers in the River and abutments on the north and south banks. Rising sector gates are used in the four main spans forming the primary navigation channels and also for the two secondary channels. The remaining four spans are provided with falling radial gates.

The Thames Barrier is a flood defence mechanism that protects London from tidal floods. It can shut off the river here, within 30 minutes, in the event of a dangerous tidal surge, protecting London to the West.

The Barrier was constructed along with improved river wall defences to its East. These protect the low lying areas of land adjacent to the river, including those in Bexley, to the same height as that provided by the Barrier.

There are three possible risks to the defences in place:

- Failure of the Thames Barrier or associated barriers
- Breach of the embankment
- Overtopping caused by a surge tide of unprecedented proportion.

Surface water

Surface water flooding, as a result of rainwater not being able to drain away at the rate at which it is accumulating, can occur anywhere in Bexley. Clearly flatter and low lying places are the most vulnerable, but these areas are not limited to river corridors or floodplains. The cause can be either a blocked drain or very high intensity rainfall of the type most usually associated with thunderstorms. Both causes are relatively unpredictable and so may result in flooding with little or no warning.

Flooding may also result from high river levels preventing the discharge of drains. Flood water depths are rarely great, other than in local depressions or unless associated with river flooding. Local circumstances may give rise to significant water velocities. Surface water flooding, unless unaccompanied by fluvial or tidal flooding, is only likely to trigger a major incident when widespread occurrence causes significant traffic disruption or strains the response capability.

Registered with the environment agency flood warnings service

- At school – Yes (via telephone recorded message, email and fax)
- Off site – Yes, Head Teacher Mr S Pepperrell (via text to mobile telephone)

The flood warning service

The Environment Agency provides a flood warning service throughout England and Wales in areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea.

Using the latest available technology, staff monitor rainfall, river levels and sea conditions 24 hours a day and use this information to forecast the possibility of flooding. If flooding is forecast, they issue warnings using a set of three different warning types.



There are three types of alert: –

1. Flood Alert – flooding is possible
2. Flood Warning – flooding expected – take action
3. Severe Flood Warning – severe flooding with danger to life and severe disruption

How are warnings issued?

- **Direct to school** – The school is registered to receive warnings by phone, text (to Head Teacher), email and fax. (Floodline on 0845 988 1188).
- **On flood warnings website** – to view up-to-date information about flood warnings in force, monitor the river or sea levels in the area and check out the latest flood risk forecast for the area.
- **By calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188** - to listen to recorded information on the latest warnings and predictions or speak to an operator for more general information 24 hours a day. Operators can also provide a quickdial number which gives faster access to information for the area.
- **Through the media** - Warnings on television and in radio broadcasts. The latest warnings can be viewed on BBC Ceefax page 419 and Digital Ceefax page 405.
- **Flood Wardens** - in some areas Flood Wardens are there to alert and support their local community when a flood warning is issued. These are set up on a voluntary basis at a local level.
- **Sirens/loudhailers** – No sirens or loudhailers are available in the area.
- Notice of closure posted on the school website and on the Bexley website
- E/mails and texts sent via parent mail.

The Strategy links to the school's overall emergency plan.

If an exceptional event occurred and the school was in session when a flood warning was given, the school would:

- Liaise with the emergency services who would have up to the minute information.
- Call the Emergency Planning Team at Bexley Council to send a Local Community Liaison Officer to direct proceedings. While the Team may be able to offer support and advice they will not be able to direct proceedings. The 24 hour contact number is 020 8303 7777. The phone numbers given are not 24 hour/365.

Emergency Planning and Business Continuity

Bexley Civic offices

020 3045 4624

07966 900761

In the event of prolonged school closure following flooding or other incident, the school would need to liaise with the local authority (and possibly with other local schools) to arrange the short term ongoing education of the children. Any incident causing prolonged closure is addressed by their business continuity plan.

Exercise and testing schedule

The flood plan will be tested annually in December. This exercise will involve testing emergency evacuation procedures.

Safe evacuation:

This will be dependent on the nature of the risk. In some cases evacuation is the best option. Safe exit routes to safe places are desirable. However the onset of an emergency situation is frequently indeterminable and the need for alternative access to safety also needs to be considered. In the case of flooding this could be access to the upper floors of a building.

If deemed necessary after advice, move anyone on site to a high position. Part of the building is 2 storey. The upper floor has capacity for all of the children and staff.

Flood Warnings may include information on times of expected flooding. From this it may be determined to close the school. If in doubt it is advisable to seek directions from the Emergency Services and the Local Authority.

If evacuating consideration should be given suitable evacuation routes for the disabled or other groups with special needs if applicable.

Contact should be made with the Local Authority and all procedures should be followed as per the School Emergency Management Plan.

Actions if evacuation impractical (higher floor, access to flat roof, nearby taller building):

Contact should be made with the Local Authority and all procedures should be followed as per the School Emergency Management Plan.

Person(s) responsible for attendance records/ contact details (to be taken in event of evacuation):

Office Staff to be responsible for ensuring attendance records are available along with emergency evacuation box containing all contact details.

Policy if parents arrive on site and want to take children:

Head Teacher's instructions to be followed dependant on circumstances.

Any other factors:

Notice of school closure will be posted on the school website and on the Bexley website.

Emails and texts will be sent to parents.

Signed: Head Teacher

Date:

Signed: Chair of Governors

Date: