



Adverse Weather Policy

Date Agreed by Governors: February 2024

Review Date: Spring 2027

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with The Chair of Governors. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel

If the school is to close:

1. Advice will be published on the school website and via the school app.

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and we will intend to reopen as soon as we can.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child's absence being marked as un-authorised.

Where the school is officially closed this will be marked as an enforced closure, so this will not have any effect on pupils' attendance figure.

In the event of the school having to close to during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before the start of the school day and at home time, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- 1) To the main office
- 2) To the main entrance for the Reception classes
- 3) To the entrances for the Y1/Y2 children
- 4) To the entrances for Y3/4/5/6

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

During significant adverse weather conditions teachers will open classrooms doors as close to 8.40am for KS2, and 8:45 for KS1/EY, as possible to allow pupil and parents to take shelter. Parents may be required to supervise until the staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Headteacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.