

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

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 is one which is never taken lightly and is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Every school has a unique set of circumstances from the layout of the site, accessibility and staff's living arrangements in relation to their proximity to the school.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply;

- **Insufficient staff are able to get to school to keep it running safely; (DBS checked, first aid trained etc)**
- **Conditions on site are dangerous; driveways, roadways, the car park and pathways are hazardous or there are issues with heating on site etc**
- **Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel, for children, parents, visitors and staff alike**

If the school is to close;

The closure will be recorded in a variety of ways. Should the conditions around the school be a concern in the morning or there is the likelihood of insufficient staff being able to reach the school safely, (including the caretaker), the Headteacher / School Business Manager will contact the Local Authority as soon as possible to state the school will be closed. This information will then be passed directly onto the local radio stations and appear on the Derbyshire County Council Website. Information will also be posted on the school's website;

Parents who have ensured we have the most up to date contact numbers and are registered with 'Parent Pay' will receive a text message and / or email directly to their mobile phones or computers. This will be activated by the school secretary, once the closure has been agreed.

The school will make all practical efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during periods of adverse weather as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty of the situation places very 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. This helps to keep the phone lines as clear as possible for any outgoing calls which need to be made by the school.

The school also appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive to school later than normal. If the school is closed or closes through the day due to anticipated adverse weather, all children's absence will be officially authorised. However, if parents do not bring children into school due to not being able to travel in because of snow or ice, we request that you telephone the school and inform us of the situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each individual case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence with the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school will be closed without gaining confirmation or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents their child coming to school, risk the child being registered as having an unauthorised absence.

SNOW PLAN

ACCESS

In the event of adverse weather, the main gates on Firfield Avenue will be the only entrance to and from the school. No access via the Sawley Road site will be possible. This is to ensure the caretaker is able to clear a pathway onto the site and across the playground to all three main blocks. Signs will be placed to identify the cleared pathways.

Even when cleared and gritted, parents, children and visitors must remain aware that pathways do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assemblies. Whilst the Headteacher has overall responsibility for Health and Safety, personal responsibility by staff, parents, children and visitors to exercise caution when entering / exiting the site is requested.

BEGINNING / END OF THE DAY

Before school, parents are asked to keep to the gritted pathways and send children into school immediately on arrival. This applies to parents dropping children off at the school's Breakfast Club too. Children will be able to gain access to their classrooms from 8:40 am. We would ask that parents do not wait around on site, but leave as quickly as possible. We would also politely ask that parents do not come into the school building with their children as this makes all entrances and exits congested. If you have a message, please pass this onto the office staff on leaving the site using the main entrance to the Administration office only.

At the end of the day, children will be released to parents on the playground as usual. However, please ensure children vacate the site as soon as the school day finishes at 3:30pm.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In the event of adverse weather, all staff-run clubs after school will be cancelled. The WRAP club may still run and this will be for parents involved to contact the school office or the WRAP club mobile on **07879 291217**. However on occasions whereby the weather is turning, or is anticipated to turn treacherous, the WRAP club facility may also be cancelled to allow the caretaker to secure the site at 3.30pm and prepare the pathways.

PARTIAL CLOSURE

If the school is able to partially open, details of which classes will be operating as usual will be posted in the ways as previously mentioned. However, if less than 50% of the classes can open, then the whole school will be closed. This is based upon the number of qualified teachers or HLTAs able to get into school and planning on a ratio of 1:30 in Key Stage 1 and 1:32, (the governor agreed) class size for KS2. This also includes all PPA time / Management time being void in events of adverse weather to ensure as many staff as possible are available to teach. This in itself can be difficult for parents who may then have children in several classes which may include some which are open and some which are closed. In this incidence, the school cannot take in the additional children whose classes may be closed but do expect children in those classes open to be in school, unless it is too treacherous for children and parents to travel into school.

LATE OPENING

In some situations, it may be that school can open later during the morning when the caretaker has been able to secure the clearing and gritting of the pathways and sufficient staff can make it safely into school. In incidences such as these, information to this effect will be posted as previously via Parent Pay, the school website and local radio stations. If this option is available, then school will open no later than 10.00am due to catering arrangements and preparation.

DAYTIME SNOW CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE AREA

Should children need to leave school early due to worsening conditions, a message will be sent out via the local radio stations, Parent Pay text and where necessary, a phone call to the individual parents. Such an early release would only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. For staff living some considerable distance away from the school, it is at the Headteacher's discretion as to whether to allow these staff members to leave before the end of the day, ensuring that the classes can be covered until 3:30pm by another member of the school staff.

In the absence of the Headteacher, the Assistant Headteachers or other members of the School's Leadership team will be responsible for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

DATE: June 2020 REVIEW: June 2022