



ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

1.2 The decision to close the school will be made by the Principal. 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 to travel.

2.0 In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

2.1 Parents

2.1.1 When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:

- Checking Class DOJO
- Check for a text message from School
- Check for any updates on the school website
- Check X (formerly Twitter)
- Check Facebook Page

2.1.2 If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring the school to advise that they are likely to be late.

2.1.3 If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Principal is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. (see para. 2.3.2)

2.2 The School

2.2.1 The Principal will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

2.2.2 If the Principal decides the school will close he/she will inform SLT, COG and the CEO accordingly and the chain of emergency communication will commence. (See Appendix 1) It is important for Parents to undertake the action at 2.1 above in case the text system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it.

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2.2.3 The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

2.2.5 If there are extreme weather conditions in the morning, the Principal will provide indoor spaces for parents and their children to wait for school to begin at 8.40am. Whilst waiting in the indoor spaces, all parents must supervise their own children.

2.3 Exceptional Circumstances

2.3.1 The School recognises that there may be cases where families are “cut off” due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live.

2.3.2 In such cases parents should advise the Principal of their particular circumstances so he can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

3.0 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

3.1 If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, the Principal will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

3.2 The School Office will contact parents and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

3.3 The Staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

3.4 A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

3.5 If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Principal.

4.0 Adverse Weather - Morning Breaks

4.1 The Principal will decide if the weather is such that an indoor break will be required.

4.2 If an indoor break is declared, children must not be left unsupervised. One member of staff (Teacher or Teaching Assistant) should remain in the classroom to supervise break with all children remaining in their own classes.

4.3 Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the indoor break, can take a break once lessons have resumed.

5.0 Adverse Weather - Lunchtimes

5.1 The Principal will decide if the weather is such that an indoor break will be required.

5.2 If an indoor lunchtime is declared, the Midday Supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff. No children must be left unsupervised.

6.0 Equality Implications

There are none associated with this policy.

7.0 Appendix 1

Emergency Communications Flowchart

