



ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY

September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2027



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Introduction

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

The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher. 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 uninhabitable or are anticipated to later in the day become too hazardous to travel.

In the absence of the Head Teacher decisions regarding opening and closure may be made by the Assistant Head Teacher.

Site Safety

In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even when cleared do remain dangerous, and that care should be taken.

In the event of heavy snow before the school day starts

Parents

If it is decided that the school will open, but the roads conditions are difficult, parents should ring the school to advise that they are likely to be late. Children should come to school in suitable clothing: warm waterproof coats, hats, gloves and suitable footwear trainers/wellies. They can change into their school shoes later.

If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Head Teacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The school

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

If the Head Teacher decides the school will close, a text message will be sent to parents advising them of the closure by 7.30am (wherever possible). The closure will also be listed on the councils website. The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

Exceptional Circumstances

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



In such cases parents should advise the Head teacher of their particular circumstances, so the Head Teacher can justify why the absence should be authorised.

In the event of heavy snow during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Head Teacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The office will contact parents by text message and, if necessary, telephone, and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible. No children will be allowed to leave school early without permission from their parent/carer. All children will be kept safe in school until we have been able to contact a parent/carer and received permission to allow them to go home.

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

Skeleton staff will remain in school until all the children have been collected.

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, the Head Teacher will decide how the absence will be recorded.

Wet Morning Breaks

The Head Teacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' break.

If a wet break is declared no children will be left unsupervised. Teaching Staff will remain in the classroom to supervise break with all the children remaining in their own classes.

Wet Lunchtimes

The Head Teacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' lunchtime.

If a wet lunchtime is declared the Lunchtime Supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff if necessary. No children will be left unsupervised and will have activities to do in their class.

Wet weather procedure – before or after school

Before school children are to assemble where possible under the canopy until the school gates open. If weather is deemed severe the Headteacher may open gates to let children into school earlier.

After school, teachers and teaching assistants will assist children to their designated areas for collection, avoiding potential hazards/puddles. Staff will provide necessary care for the children, ensuring they are (if possible) under a shelter and aid them in moving them onto their waiting parents. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children have the appropriate clothing for their journey to and from school.



If a child has a particular medical condition, in consultation with the Headteacher, special arrangements can be made to off-set any negative, medical impacts of severe weather.

Extreme Heat

In the event of very hot weather, parents will be advised to send their children with sun hats, plenty of drink and have had sun protection applied before the child arrives in school.

During playtimes and lunchtimes, children will be encouraged to use shaded areas of the playground to allow for protection. During outdoor lessons, such as P.E., if conditions deem too excessive, children will be brought back into shaded areas or return to the classroom. Children will again be encouraged to taking in plenty of fluids. If temperatures deem too excessive, children will remain indoors rather than going outside.

Early Years Curriculum

As part of the Early Years curriculum, the Department of Education have produced a statutory framework document for the learning and development for children under 5. Part of this framework states that all schools **must** provide children access to a daily outdoor play area.

EYFS staff must ensure all children are well equipped for outdoor & messy play. All children are provided with outdoor puddle suits which are worn over as many layers of clothing as necessary to ensure children are kept dry and warm, whilst outside. On Fresh Air Friday's parents provide suitable outdoor footwear and warm clothes for underneath their puddle suits.

The activities enable children to explore the natural world around them, whilst improving health & fitness.

In some weather conditions (rain, snow/ice, high temperatures) we will use sheltered outdoor areas, if safe to do so. If parents would prefer their children to stay inside due to ill health, staff must be notified when the child arrives at school.

Please refer to the Early Years Curriculum for further details

Equality & Disability Access Implications

If there were to be any child in school with a disability or mobility impairment, special consideration will be given to their specific needs and any potential impact of the weather conditions on their ability to get to school and/or around the school site.

