



Blue Gate Fields Infant School

Adverse Weather Policy

Agreed by staff
Agreed by governors

October 2017

Review in October 2020

INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. We are aware that children are entitled to 190 days of schooling and some have an entitlement to free school meals, therefore, we will make every effort to ensure the school remains open. However, the safety and wellbeing of all children and school personnel remains our main priority.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors after careful consideration of a number of factors. 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. (Weather reports forecast severe weather throughout the day)
4. We are unable to provide school meals for the children.
5. The school heating system cannot produce and maintain sufficient heat.

If the school is to close we will inform parents via the school MIS on Scholar Pack. Parents are automatically included in the text message service providing their contact details are up-to-date. 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 very considerable difficulties upon parents.

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. 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 to school risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text messaging 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, staff and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even when cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. It remains the personal responsibility of

all staff, visitors and parents entering the school site to express caution and to take responsibility for their own health and safety and for that of any children under their supervision. If anyone believes that the school site is unsafe they are advised to not enter the site.

Before and after school opening parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In snow and icy conditions wide pathways will be created as follows;

- A) From the front gate to the KS1 playground and through the gate to the gate at King David Lane
- B) From the gate in King David Lane to the Early Years classrooms and Year 2 door

The school will salt particularly hazardous areas of the school site. Essential pathways will be maintained as safe as possible throughout the day.

All persons entering the school's buildings are asked to ensure they wipe their feet on the mats as they enter to reduce the slip hazards caused by the wet floors.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out-of-bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of the school day; and at the Head teacher's discretion, at playtimes and lunchtimes as well.

All staff will be made aware that the car park will not be cleared of ice and snow and that due care must be taken at all times. All staff should be extra vigilant for potential hazards.

Responsibilities in the event of a school closure

In the event of adverse weather conditions we will endeavour to do the following procedures:

- The Premises Manager will assess the school site and inform the Head teacher of the state of the site at 7am.
- The Head teacher will decide whether to close the site in consultation with the Premises Manager and the Chair of Governors.
- The Head teacher will inform the Office Manager who will inform all staff and parents via text message.
- The Premises Manager and Head teacher will display School Closure signs on the school site entrance gates.

If the school is able to open we will start at 10am to ensure staff can get into school and to give our premises staff time to clear pathways in the school grounds. Parents should be reminded that children need to be dressed warmly with wellies or rubber soled shoes to grip in the snow.

This policy on adverse weather conditions was approved by governors and signed by the chair of governors.

..... Chair of governors.

..... Date

This policy will be reviewed in October 2020 or sooner in the case of new information, changes or legislation.