

**Extreme weather Policy**  
**September 2023**

**Responsibility:** Nicki Starling

**Review Date:** September 2025



## **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 or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

In the absence of the Head Teacher decisions regarding opening and closure will be made by the Deputy Head Teacher

## **In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts**

### ***Parents***

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.

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 she will send a WhatsApp message to staff and a ParentMail to parents and carers advising them of the closure. She will also post messages regarding the closure on the school website and PTA Facebook page. 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 area in which they live. In such cases parents should

advise the Head Teacher of their particular circumstances so she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

### ***In the event of heavy snowfall 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 using ParentMail and, if necessary telephone, and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

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

A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of 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 child must 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.

Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the 'wet break can take a break once lessons have resumed.

### ***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 child must be left unsupervised.

### ***Equality & Disability Access Implications***

If there were to be any child in school with a disability or mobility impairment 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.