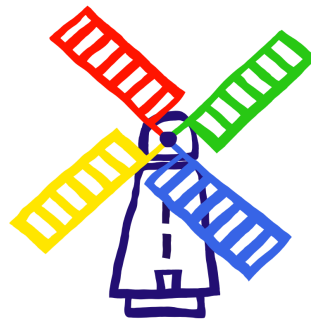


Adverse Weather Policy

Unity
Trust
Courage
Curiosity
Respect
Kindness

A community for learning. Raising expectations. Fulfilling high standards.



This Policy was amended on: **10th January 2024**

The policy is to be reviewed by: **December 2027**

Headteacher: **Mrs Gemma Hillier**

Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs Vicki Marshall**



1. Introduction

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

The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel

In the absence of the Headteacher decisions regarding opening and closure will be made by the Deputy Headteacher.

Staff are expected to attend for work at school, even if the school is closed to children, as long as it is safe for them to make their way there. Their work in school will be agreed by the senior management team. Where adverse weather conditions cause staff delays or difficulties in travelling to work, they should take all reasonable steps to make their way to school as soon as they possibly can, taking into account their personal safety. If staff are unable to get into work, they should telephone the Headteacher at the earliest possible opportunity to explain the situation and agree what to do. Staff should continue to monitor the weather conditions during the day to see if they can attend work later, for example the afternoon.

If staff are unable to travel to work, it is expected that they work from home which will be directed by the Headteacher. Staff can also read and research articles to develop their practice.

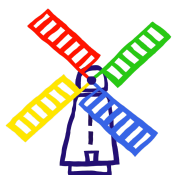
2. In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

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. Parents should enable their child to get to school by any safe means possible. If the child doesn't attend school, when the school is open, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, unless the Headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The School

The Headteacher 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 Headteacher decides the school will close, an email will be sent to all parents and staff by 7:45am. She will also post messages regarding the closure on the school website and Facebook page. The School fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual. The closure will be notified to Buckinghamshire Council by the Headteacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the Council website. The media will then broadcast details.

If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning the Headteacher will allow children into the main hall to wait for school to begin at 8.45am.

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

3. In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

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

The Office will contact parents via text, email and telephone if necessary, 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.

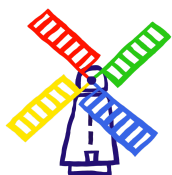
A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

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 Headteacher will decide how the absence will be recorded.

4. Wet Morning Breaks

The Headteacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a ‘wet’ break.

If a wet break is declared no children 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.



5. Wet Lunchtimes

The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher 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 must be left unsupervised.

6. 'Yellow' or 'Red' warnings from the Met Office

If a 'yellow warning' of adverse weather has been issued by the Met Office, the Headteacher will assess the school grounds in the morning and contact parents and carers if there is a risk to the health and safety of children and staff.

If a 'red warning' of very dangerous weather has been issued by the Met Office, it means there is a high level of certainty that the weather will be a risk to life as well as substantial disruption to travel & infrastructure. If the Headteacher decides the school will close, she will send an email to staff and parents advising them of the closure by 7:45am. She will also post messages regarding the closure on the school website and Facebook page. The School fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual. If there are warnings of high winds children will be restricted by coned areas or will remain indoors until further notice.

7. On-site safety

In the event of snow or ice, the main paths will be cleared and salted. Parents, children, staff and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared, may remain dangerous.

The areas to be cleared and salted are:

- Along the pavement from the front gate to the main staff & visitor entrance and main pupil entry gates near the caretaker's bungalow.
- The area of the playground outside the caretaker's bungalow leading to the KS1 entrance door.
- The path and steps leading from the playground to the KS2 entrance door.

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. The car park will be cleared of ice and snow but staff should be aware that due care must be taken at all times. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and icy weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During adverse weather conditions, parts of the outdoor playground may be restricted in use for the children. This will be risk assessed by the Headteacher. In the Headteacher's absence the Deputy



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Headteacher will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

8. 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.