



Adverse Weather & School Closure Policy

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Introduction

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. In the event of adverse weather, i.e. snow, the school will make every effort to remain open.

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

- There are not sufficient numbers of staff to come in and keep the school running safely
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated to be, hazardous to travel.

Staff Attendance

As a broad principle, staff who live within 1 mile of the school would be expected to walk into school if driving conditions do not permit safe travel.

Staff who live further out are expected to make their best effort to attend school but no member of staff should travel if they feel there is a significant risk to their safety.

It is recognised that the risk of a member of staff's journey cannot be judged by distance but the type of roads that must be travelled upon.



Pupil Attendance

If the school is deemed open then there is a broad expectation that pupils should attend school.

The school recognises that there may be cases where families are unable to attend school due to the particular difficulties of the area in which they live. In such cases, parents should inform the school of these circumstances using the normal absence procedures. The Headteacher retains authority to authorise such absences.

Procedure for Closure

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.

In the eventuality of a 'closure', the school will remain open for children of critical workers as a childcare provision where possible. This will be staffed by members of staff who live within 1 mile of the school.

Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the usual school-parent email system, the school website and the Kent Closures website (www.kentclosures.co.uk)

Closure during the School Day

If there is adverse weather during the school day, the Headteacher will decide whether or not it is necessary to close the school.

The school office will contact parents via email and ask that they collect their children as soon as possible.

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

Staff who live within walking distance of the school will remain in school until all children have been collected. A first-aider must remain on site and a DSL must be contactable.

Educational Provision

Given the fact that most decisions about closure related to adverse weather are made at short notice, it will not be possible to provide an effective remote learning provision in these circumstances. Children should engage in Reading, SumDog, Times Table Rock Stars and Spelling practice.

With enough notice, i.e. the prior working day, activities will be set by the class teacher and made available for families who wish to complete these.

Childcare for Critical Workers

In order to support our families, the school will endeavour to provide a childcare facility for families who are unable to work from home and work in one of the following areas. The school will hold a register of these pupils who will be eligible to attend school in the event of a 'school closure'.

These pupils are also eligible to attend our After-School Club provision although parents are encouraged to keep this use to a minimum.

Health and Social Care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education & Childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals

Public Safety & National Security

This includes

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.