



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

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Document Control

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Owner:	Wirksworth Junior School
Author:	L. Grover
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Document History			
Issue	Date	Purpose	Author
1	March 13	Implement new policy	L. Grover
2	March 15	Scheduled review of policy	L. Grover
3	Feb 17	Scheduled review of policy	L. Grover
4	June 19	Scheduled review of policy	I. Webb
5	June 21	Review of policy	B Southam
6	April 23	Scheduled review of policy	I. Webb
7	June2026	Scheduled review of policy	I. Webb
8	July 2026	Include Hot Weather	R.Richards

Approval		
Meeting	Date	Chair
Resources Committee	05.03.13	S. Johnson
Resources Committee	03.03.15	N. Bennett
Resources Committee	21.02.17	J. McCarthy
Full Governors	27.04.23	E. Robnson
Resources committee	18.06.26	A. Tebbutt
Full Governors	09.07.26	W. Hyde

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open wherever possible.

The decision to close the school, either before or during the school day, 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 for travel.

If the school is to close:

- parents will be alerted to the closure by email and Class Dojo activated by the School Business Officer or Headteacher once the closure has been logged with the County Council. If parents are aware that they are in a poor mobile phone signal area, they should let the school know what alternative contact arrangements they have made. Additionally, in the interests of safeguarding, children will only be allowed home with their parents or carers, unless the school has been notified of alternative arrangements (e.g. child going home with the parent of another child).
- a message will be put on the front page of the school website as a banner message.

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. However, parents are expected to check the website and/or check their mobile phones when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

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. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances, parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. 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 into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

Please see the [Remote Communication and Online Learning policy](#) to read the expectations for staff and pupils during full day school closures.

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 email/Class Dojo/phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Extreme Cold Weather

In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted/gritted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt/grit wide pathways as follows:

- from the children's gate to the door next to Earth class, Saturn class and Medway.
- around the school building up to Top Block;
- from the front gate to the front door;
- Steps up to the gates
- Path leading up to the steps

Where necessary, essential pathways will be kept as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils **but open to staff**, the pathways will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, in order to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, classrooms will be open from 8.40am for children. At these times, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Headteacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

Extreme Hot Weather

During hot weather the school will introduce appropriate short-term measures e.g.

- Where staff and learners are outside, encourage use of sunscreens/sunblock with parents of younger pupils encouraged to ensure it is applied in advance of the school day.
- Timetabling sports days and other outdoor events or activities for earlier in the summer or spring term and including contingency days.
- Open windows to maximise ventilation during the cooler parts of the day, close curtains where this does not worsen ventilation or thermal absorption/conduction and use fans/air conditioning units where needed.
- Ensure easy access to drinking water for staff and learners with active encouragement to drink appropriately, both in and out of the classroom.

Solar UV Precautions

Sunhats/Clothing

Between April and September, we actively encourage parents to ensure pupils come to school with an appropriate, plain sun hat for use as required throughout the school day. We make available additional/spare sun hats for all outdoor activities if a parent is unable to provide one, or if a pupil has lost or forgotten their own.

- We encourage and educate pupils to wear their sun hat outdoors on bright/sunny days.
- Baseball caps are not recommended (they do not provide adequate shade for the neck and ears).
- We ensure pupils wear school and PE uniforms that keep shoulders covered.

Sunscreen

Between April and September, we actively remind parents/carers to ensure pupils bring appropriately protective sunscreen (spf 30+) for use as required throughout the school day. We make available additional sunscreen (spf 30+) for all outdoor activities in the event a parent/carers is unable to provide any, or a pupil has lost, forgotten, or run out of their own. This is made available for parents/carers to patch test upon request.

Parents/carers should notify school of any sun cream allergies when completing admission forms or if an allergy develops later on.

- We encourage primary school pupils to apply sunscreen on bright/sunny days before extended periods of outdoor activities such as lunch breaks, PE, other outdoor lessons and outdoor off-site activities.

A practical approach towards the application of sunscreen is necessary, with assistance provided only where necessary to younger or less able pupils, unless instructed otherwise by the parent/guardian.

Shade

We currently provide some shaded areas outdoors where pupils can congregate for outdoor activities. If this shaded area is limited, we look to provide additional shaded areas, as funding allows.

In the Headteacher's absence, the senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.