

Adverse Weather Policy

CHRIST CHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Statement of intent

It is the aim of Christ Church CE Primary School to ensure the school remains open during adverse weather conditions, when practically possible, providing that this can be done in a safe way.

Christ Church CE Primary School intends to, wherever possible, make the decision to close the school before the teaching day commences, rather than defer the decision and delay the opening of the school.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To make the appropriate procedures clear, in relation to operating the school during adverse weather conditions.
- To make clear the grounds for a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.
- To advise and inform staff and parents/carers of the systems and procedures in place in the event of a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.

Signed by:

_____ **Headteacher** Date: _____

_____ Chair of governors Date: _____

Decision to close

- 1.1. The decision to close the school will be made by the headteacher.
- 1.2. The site manager and the chair of governors will be consulted when making a decision about school closure.
- 1.3. In the absence of the headteacher, the deputy headteacher will assume the responsibility of the headteacher in relation to the Adverse Weather Policy.
- 1.4. The school will be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:
 - Conditions on site are considered to be unsafe and are likely to give rise to danger to users of the site.
 - Staff numbers are insufficient for the school to be operated safely.
- 1.5. In the event of school closure:
 - The headteacher will inform staff and parents/carers via text message.
 - The headteacher or ICT leader will post an update on the school website.
 - The site manager will display 'closure' signs on the entrance gates.
- 1.6. In the event of the school having to close during the day, parents/carers will be contacted via text message or telephone, using the number provided on the emergency contacts list, and asked to collect their child from the school.
- 1.7. A closure of the school during the day and an early release of staff will only be contemplated in extreme circumstances.

2. Remaining open in adverse weather conditions

- 2.1. If the school remains open when there has been snowfall or the site is icy, access to the site for pedestrians will be restricted to the pedestrian gates only.
- 2.2. The site manager will place health and safety caution signs to warn users of the increased hazards on site.
- 2.3. All pathways, wherever practically possible, will have been cleared and gritted.
- 2.4. A notice will be erected to display that vehicles and pedestrians entering the school grounds do so at their own risk.
- 2.5. During periods of adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out-of-bounds to pupils and parents/carers, at the headteacher's discretion.

2.6. All persons entering the school's buildings are asked to ensure they wipe their feet thoroughly, in order to reduce slip hazards.

3. Health and safety

3.1. Christ Church CE Primary School has a duty of care to anyone accessing the site and surrounding grounds.

3.2. The headteacher is responsible for ensuring safety on the school site, in accordance with the school's Health and Safety policies and procedures.

3.3. Staff, visitors and parents/carers have the personal responsibility to express caution and take responsibility for their own health and safety whilst accessing the school grounds.

- Individuals must take responsibility for the health and safety of any children under their supervision.
- If anyone believes that the site is unsafe, it is advised that they do not enter the grounds.

3.4. In the event of adverse weather conditions, the site manager will assess the school site and inform the headteacher at 7.00am of the state of site.

3.5. A risk assessment of the site will be conducted in order to assess any potential hazards due to the weather conditions.

3.6. Closing the school is a reasonable decision if pupils or staff are at risk of serious injury due to the weather conditions.

3.7. When roads are impassable, the health and safety issue is overridden by the practical issue of access.

4. Limited staff numbers

4.1. During periods of adverse weather conditions, the school will be flexible with teaching when subject to reduced staff numbers.

4.2. In order to comply with health and safety regulations, different age groups may be brought together to be taught under the supervision of the available teachers and support staff.

- No maximum class size limits are set out.
- However, a limit of 30 pupils per class will apply if the majority of children will reach the age of five, six or seven in that school year.

4.3. School will continue to strive to provide high quality education in the given circumstances.

5. Attendance statistics

- 5.1. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is registered as authorised.
- 5.2. When a pupil cannot attend due to adverse weather conditions, the pupil will be marked in the register as having an authorised absence and will therefore not affect the school's attendance statistics.
- 5.3. If the headteacher believes the pupil could have safely made it to school but did not attend, the pupil will be marked in the register as having an unauthorised absence.
- 5.4. Parents/carers acting on the assumption that the school would be closed, without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevent the child coming into school, risk their child's absence being registered as an unauthorised absence.

6. Emergency plan

- 6.1. In the case of an emergency, the school will follow their planned emergency procedure, in accordance with the First Aid Policy.
- 6.2. Christ Church CE School's emergency plan will contain:
 - Information on where to find parent contact details.
 - Staff contact details for out-of-hours emergencies.
 - Details of which staff members have agreed to perform certain tasks during an emergency.
- 6.3. All nominated staff will be trained to:
 - Contact and liaise with emergency services.
 - Provide first aid.
 - Move children to a safe place.
 - Calm and comfort children.
 - Contact parents/carers.
 - Deal with any media interest.
- 6.4. Each member of staff will have a copy of the emergency plan.
- 6.5. Paper copies of the plan will be kept at nominated staff members' homes in case of out-of-hours emergencies.
- 6.6. All parents/carers will be sent a letter informing them of their responsibilities, e.g. duty to collect children.