



## Welford on Avon Primary School

### Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following weather conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site or approach to site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.
4. Prolonged and excessive snow fall resulting in travel to school not being possible or safe
5. Excessive and prolonged rainfall/flooding resulting in travel to school not being possible or safe

#### **Before the start of the school day:**

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Warwickshire County Council Website by the Head Teacher.

- This information will be displayed to the public via the WCC website: [www.warwickshire.gov/schoolclosures](http://www.warwickshire.gov/schoolclosures).
- Parents can click on list of currently closed schools. This page needs to be refreshed regularly.
- In addition parents can sign up for free school closure text alerts to their mobile phone via this website.
- This registration needs to be refreshed every August.
- The Headteacher will endeavour to make this decision before 7.45am
- Parents will be sent a school text
- School twitter account and Instagram accounts will also share this 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 make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts 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 so as 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.

### **Closure during the school day.**

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 text, email and if necessary 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. Supervision will be available for the children for as long as necessary until they have been collected. No child will be sent with another parent unless parental consent has been approved via the telephone.

In the extreme event of the school site needing to be closed, any remaining children will be escorted by staff to the Welford Memorial Village hall.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. 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.**

### **Bad Weather Clothing**

Parents are advised to ensure their child is dressed appropriately during spells of adverse weather. Children should be wearing warm and waterproof clothes and sturdy shoes. Children can bring a change of footwear for indoors.

### **School Lunches**

During periods of adverse weather our catering service may have difficulty providing hot dinners. Parents will be informed as early as possible via email and text message that they will have to provide their child with a packed lunch.

In icy conditions the caretaker and/or delegated staff will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) from the front gate to the Office front door
- B) from the front gate to the Junior cloakroom door
- C) from the front gate to the Infant cloakroom door
- D) from the front gate to the Nursery door
- E) from the front gate to the Reception class door

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

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

**Staff shortage at the start of the day**

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School Hall will be open from 8.40am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

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

Approved by Governors

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