



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Approved by:	Local Governing Body
Date:	Out of committee
Minute no:	28.02.24
Version:	V3
Review cycle:	Every 3 years/as required
Publication:	Internal & public

Introduction

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

The decision to close the school will be made by the headteacher in collaboration with the heads from the other academy schools and the CEO. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely due to travel conditions.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous.
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

The headteacher will attempt to make the decision as early as possible in good faith.

In the event of heavy snow before the school day starts

When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:-

- Checking the school website
- Checking for texts from the school
- Checking the DCC Website to see if is in the list of the schools that are closed.

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.

If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised 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 he/she will update the DCC website accordingly and send a text message to staff and parents advising them of the closure.

The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning, the headteacher can allow parents to bring their children into the main hall to wait for school to begin.

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 that absences can be authorised.

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 school office will contact parents 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, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the headteacher.

High winds/storm conditions

Risk assessments will be carried out in unusual weather conditions to ensure the safety of all on site. Particular consideration will be given to Forest School activities or other activities which may occur under trees.

Wet breaks

The headteacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' break.

All children will be appropriately supervised during these times.

Wet lunchtimes

The 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. No children will be left unsupervised.

Equality implications

All access considerations will be made with regard to any pupils/staff with mobility issues.