



Adverse Weather Policy

Great Barton C of E Primary Academy

Adverse Weather Policy

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Date Approved by Governors –

Review Frequency – Bi-annually



Reviewed By -

Signature

Date-

Comments-

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This policy covers:

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts
- 1.3 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day
- 1.4 Wet Break
- 1.5 Equality Implications

1.1 Introduction

This policy outlines the procedure during adverse weather conditions for both school and parents.

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

The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher. 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 to travel.

1.2 In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

Parents

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

- Checking the Suffolk County Council website to see if Great Barton is in the list of the schools that are closed.
- Checking Twitter
- Listening to BBC Radio Suffolk (104.2/103.60 FM) and Heart (96.6 FM).

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 Head Teacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. (see below)

The School

The Head Teacher 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 Head Teacher decides the school will close he/she will update the Suffolk County Council website accordingly and send a text message or email to staff and parents advising them of the closure. It will also be posted on Twitter and the school website. It is important for parents to check the Suffolk County Council website and/or listen to the local radio as outlined above in case the text/email system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it.

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

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 Head Teacher of their particular circumstances so he/she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

1.3 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Head Teacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The school office staff 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 Head Teacher.

1.4 Wet Break

The Head Teacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a “wet” play.

If a wet break is declared no children must be left unsupervised. The usual “wet” play time procedures will apply.

Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the “wet” play can take a break once lessons have resumed.

1.5 Equality Implications

There are none associated with this policy.