

Severe Weather Policy

This policy outlines what happens in the event of severe weather events:

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever safe to do so.

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:

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

If the school is to close:

The closure will be recorded on the West Berkshire Council School Closures website:
<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=30347>

The closure will be broadcast by the following radio stations and their websites:

BBC Radio Berkshire
The Breeze
Heart

The procedure:

If a temporary closure is required, the Headteacher will:

- Inform West Berkshire School Closures' Team
- Inform all parents of the closure via the school texting service
- Inform all staff of the closure via the school texting service

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions. We appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty of what is happening 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.

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 phone and the school will endeavour to arrange transport for those pupils who use it. A closure during the school day will only occur in the most extreme of situations. We would always try to ensure that pupils remain on school site until the end of the school day unless it is unsafe to do so.

In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted, although everyone should be aware that all paths will remain dangerous and particular care will need to be taken.

In icy conditions the site team will salt wide pathways on key routes to and from entrances and exits.

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 pathways will still be maintained during snow and icy weather on a daily basis by the site team (if it is safe for them to get into school), so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

Rights Respecting Schools

This policy adheres to the principles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) specifically articles: 3.

Last review: 25 January 2018

Next review: January 2021