



Knowledge · Virtue · Aspiration

## SNOW & ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY

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 in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

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 school's Website [www.greenfieldsprimary.school](http://www.greenfieldsprimary.school) by the Admin Team. This information will also be sent out to all parents via the **Teachers2Parents** text service used by the school.



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 keep themselves aware of the text message 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 on 0121 772 4567 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 unauthorised 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 text message in the first instance and then by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/children. **Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.**

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 school. Before and after school parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground. In icy conditions the Caretaker will salt pathways and steps where necessary. Essential pathways will be kept as clear as possible throughout the day.

Children should come to school in boots or wellingtons in bad weather and bring a pair of light shoes to change in to. In snowy weather for health & safety reasons we do not allow sliding or throwing of snowballs because if children fall or get covered in snow they are then wet and uncomfortable throughout the day. Where possible, if children have suitable footwear, they go outside to enjoy the snow for at least a part of lunchtime and playtimes.

In the Head Teacher's absence the School Business Manager on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Snow & Adverse Weather Conditions Policy.