



St Barnabas CE Primary School

*Preparing for a positive future,
achieved through faith
"Let your light shine."*

Matthew 5:16

Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Policy Updated:	September 2022
Date reviewed and agreed by Governors:	November 2022
Date of next review:	September 2025
Headteacher:	Miss J Hodgkinson
Chair of Governors:	Dr C Kressel

Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

1. Introduction

- a. The school will remain open whenever possible.
- b. The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:
 - i. Insufficient staff are able to get into school to keep it running safely
 - ii. Conditions on site are dangerous or fall below acceptable environmental standards e.g. temperature fall due to lack of power etc.
 - iii. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to become too hazardous to travel.

2. In the event of heavy snow before start of the school day

a. Parents

- i. When school closure is a possibility, parents should find out whether the school is open by:
 1. Checking the school website
 2. Checking your own mobile phone for a Dojo or Twitter message from school
 3. DO NOT RING school as phone lines need to be open to take important calls regarding pupil / staff absences and to plan for emergencies.
- ii. If it is decided that school will remain open, but road conditions are difficult, parents should ring school to advise that they are likely to be late. These lates will be recorded as authorised.
- iii. When arriving in snow conditions, parent and children should enter by the main gate (the other gates will be locked) and will be directed to their classrooms by staff. On no account should parents park or drop off in the school car park unless registered disabled.
- iv. The school recognises that there may be cases where families are cut off by the snow due to particular geographical circumstances. In such cases, parents should advise the Headteacher of their particular difficulties so she can justify why the absence should be approved.
- v. If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

b. The School

- i. The Headteacher will decide whether the school will open or close in severe weather conditions.
- ii. The Headteacher will communicate with parents and staff accordingly.
- iii. The school fully appreciates that in bad weather, children may arrive later than usual. All children arriving late should report to the main office.
- iv. In situations where the school remains open with a skeleton staff, the curriculum and class sizes may be affected.

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v. Every attempt will be made to clear paths around the school in accordance with advice from Warrington health and safety team. This may mean that as footpaths are cleared in order of priority, areas such as playgrounds may not be cleared at all. Volunteer helpers to move snow from paths are most welcome and contact should be made via the school office to confirm arrangements.

3. In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

a. If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, the Headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

b. The office will contact parents by text to ask that they pick up their child/children from school as soon as possible. At this point, class sizes/curriculum may be affected.

c. Staff that live furthest from school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

d. A skeleton staff will remain in school until all the children have been collected.

e. If a parent rings requesting that they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has been made not to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher.