



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

January 2016

Whaley Bridge Primary School - Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

Due to localised weather conditions it is not always possible to decide whether schools should be closed across a whole area. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher or the Deputy Head, in her absence, and the Chair of Governors.

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:

1. The closure will be recorded on the front page of the school's website. This can be found using www.whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk
2. A school text will be sent to parents and carers.
3. The media - High Peak Radio Station will announce school closures
4. 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 in the first instance, then phone if no response, and asked to collect their child.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents/carers 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/carers. However, parents/carers are expected to check the website, texts and/or tune into the radio station when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

Authorise/Unauthorised Attendance.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents/carers 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 when the majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents/carers should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify every individual case to formally authorise the absence. Parents/carers acting on the incorrect assumption that the school is closed, without gaining confirmation or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevent a child coming to school, risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised.