



Severe Weather Policy **2025**

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.

Completed by: F Delaney
Last Updated: 13/03/2025
Agreed by Governors: 19/03/25
Next Updated: Spring 2026

1.0 Purpose

In slippery conditions when there is ice or snow on the ground, all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure safe access and egress for children, parents, staff, visitors and other users of the school.

In extreme conditions, when the school cannot be brought into a safe condition, the Head Teacher may make a decision to close the school. Using the school text messaging service a message will be sent out to all parents to inform them that the school is closed for the day and an update will follow.

Although we recognise that snow can be fun for children, snowball fights will not be allowed on the playground, nor will children be allowed to make slides near the paths.

To help keep the inside of the school dry and safe during icy/snowy weather, children will be asked to change their shoes on such days when they come in from the outside.

A pathway will be cleared and gritted from the main gate to the entrances. We will maintain adequate stocks of grit/salt and ensure that suitable snow-shifting tools are available.

2.0 Action to be taken by school in the event of severe weather

2.1 Severe weather warnings

The school Website will be updated as often as appropriate with severe weather warnings. A text message will be sent to all nominated parents in the event of a school closure.

2.2 Gritting

The grit for the premises will be ordered before the danger of freezing is upon us. Pedestrian and vehicular routes on the school property are gritted as necessary and play areas are made safe. A record of when and where grit was distributed is kept, in case of insurance claims following accidents on site.

2.3 Safety around school

Safety of pupils and staff at school is paramount. If snow is making porches or corridor's abnormally wet, the floor is to be mopped regularly. The storage of boots, umbrellas etc. should not block corridors or fire exits, or pose a trip hazard. Outdoor climbing equipment/playground equipment will not be used in such weather.

2.4 School Closure

A decision to close the school will be taken by the Head Teacher in consideration of the individual circumstances at our own school. This will include not only the severity of the local weather, but roads and pathways which may make access

particularly difficult, the ability of staff to get to school, and the availability of bus service.

As most primary school pupils do not travel home alone, and/or are not expected to arrive home to an empty house it is not normally acceptable to close a primary school before the end of the school day. If, in exceptional circumstances, this should prove necessary, all children must be handed over to appropriate adults (e.g their parents or parents of their friends) unless parents expressly agree that they may travel home alone. This would involve trying to contact every child's home, a task best avoided if possible.

3.0 Advising of school closures:

The Adviser (Barbara Yates) and the Head of Sefton Education will be advised of the decision to close the school as soon as it is made. This information will also be posted on the LA website www.sefton.gov.uk and on the first page of the school website.

We will also advise at least one of the local radio stations, which are:

REAL Radio

City FM

Radio Merseyside

Juice FM

In the event of a school closure all nominated mobile phone numbers of Parents will be sent a text detailing the closure.

Notices will be placed at all entrances to the school site advising of the closure and directing parents to the school website for regular updates.