

# Shavington Primary School



## Snow and Adverse Weather Policy

Written by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher for Shavington Primary School

Reviewed: December 2024

Next review: December 2025

Reviewed February 2023

Written March 2009

Reviewed February 2023  
Written March 2009

## **Adverse Weather Principles**

---

During the winter months there are occasions when we can experience adverse weather conditions.

At Shavington Primary School:

- The safety of pupils and staff is our most important priority
- The children continuing their learning is a priority
- School would always aim to be open and staff will always aim to be here as normal
- Children need to be taught how to dress, walk, and play safely in snowy and icy conditions

However, on occasion, and always as a last resort, the school may need to close. This may be as a result of some or all of the following situations:

1. Staff are unable to get to school during the day due to adverse road conditions which will cause unsafe staff to pupil ratios
2. The heating system in the building fails and cannot be repaired before 10am
3. The school site and surrounding approaches are deemed too hazardous by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

If school is open, there may be adjustments made to the organisation of the school day to keep children safe.

## **Precautions in the event of ice/snow/extremely cold weather**

---

- We will publish a gritting route online
- Playgrounds will not be routinely gritted so that children can explore
- The gritting plan will take into consideration places where people need to accumulate and will ensure that people are kept moving. This will help to keep the gritted area to a minimum
- The gritting route will be displayed at key points on entry to the site
- Snow will be cleared as much as possible from the gritting routes by the Site Management Team

Reviewed February 2023

Written March 2009

- The Site Management Team will grit the published routes in the morning. If necessary, they will grit in the afternoon as well
- Parents will be reminded of the need for children to wrap up warm and to stay to gritted paths for entry and exit
- Vulnerable children will receive a welfare phone call if they are unable to attend

## **Procedures for closing school during adverse weather conditions**

Each day during adverse weather, the school website and Facebook page will be updated to give information on whether the school is open or closed.

The decision of whether to close will be made by the Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team and Site Management Team, in consultation with the CEO of the Trust by 7am at the very latest.

In cold weather, parents/carers/children/staff are reminded to follow the gritted pathways which are marked on the gritting plan displayed on the school fence and on the school website.

In the case of a school closure, learning will be provided online for all children.

### **At the start of the school day:**

- Parents will be informed of whether the school is closed via Arbor, Facebook, and the school website
- The Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team will contact the local radio station (Hits Radio Staffordshire and Cheshire) using the agreed process. Please note, the radio announcements only list the schools that are closed
- Parents are asked to note that it may not be possible for staff to answer the telephone and we would ask that you do not phone school but instead check the described methods of communication above
- The Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team will contact Cheshire East Council to inform them of a closure and will ensure that the closure is added to the council's website

Reviewed February 2023

Written March 2009

### **During the school day:**

- Once a decision has been made to open the school, it will only close during the day if the heating breaks down or if running water becomes unavailable
- If the weather becomes severe during the day, parents may contact the school if they feel they would like to collect their child early for safety reasons (e.g. travelling long distances or collecting other children from other schools). Parents will be advised that children can be collected from 1.30pm onwards
- The school will remain open until the end of the school day. If parents are delayed due to adverse weather conditions, they should contact the school to give an anticipated arrival time
- Children will be supervised until a parent/carer is able to collect them
- Parents must consider their own safety, traffic congestion, and the safety of others in these circumstances and understand that their children will be cared for until it is possible for them to be collected

### **Attendance**

~~If the school is closed, there will not be any absence recorded in the registers. On occasions when the school is open but the weather makes travelling to school difficult, pupils' attendance will be recorded as L. However, if the school is satisfied that the reason for the absence is that the child could not get in because of the adverse weather that absence will be authorised as C~~

- Check mark for when schools are closed and enter here
- 

### **Adjustments during the school day**

---

In order to keep children safe, it may be necessary to adjust the organisation of the school day or restrict outdoor access during winter weather.

- Parents/carers will be asked to ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for the weather. In colder weather this should include a change of footwear, gloves, a hat, a scarf, and a warm waterproof coat (all named). A spare pair of socks is also helpful

Reviewed February 2023

Written March 2009

- Children who have appropriate clothing will be able to go and play in the snow if the Senior Leadership Team allow it
- Dynamic risk assessments will be used to ensure that children can play out in the snow and icy weather. Where circumstances deem it necessary, a playground may be closed
- If the temperature drops below zero or if there is a wind chill factor below zero, staff may take the decision to keep children inside or may shorten a playtime. Wherever possible, it is preferred that children enjoy fresh air and exercise and so play outside
- During snowy weather we will encourage children to build snowmen on the field rather than the playgrounds
- We encourage exploration and building safely with snow