

Adverse Weather Policy



Mission Statement

As a Catholic School, we come together to celebrate our love of God and each other.

Through prayer we follow Jesus' example of love, forgiveness and truth.

We are a safe and happy community where every individual is supported

and encouraged to achieve their targets.

We believe, that with God, everything is in our reach.

In keeping with our Mission Statement, the Governors of St Francis R.C. Primary School have agreed the following policy.

Aim

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 who will then inform the Chair of Governors of the decision.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

Procedures

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Manchester City County Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the MCC website:
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure using the Groupcall Text service activated by the School Business Manager once the closure has been logged with the County Council. 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 when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.
3. The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents 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 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.
4. 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 un-authorised absence.
5. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.
6. 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 phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.
7. 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 assembly.

8. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.
9. In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.
10. During significant adverse weather conditions, the School Hall will be open from 8.30am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children at 8.45am. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over.
11. During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.
12. In the case of very bad weather, although the decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher, staff are requested to contact the Headteacher if they are unable to travel to the school/or require information on school closure.
13. In the event of deteriorating weather conditions during the day, the Headteacher will make the decision as to which staff need to leave the school early, if possible, if they live in areas where conditions are becoming very serious or less accessible in poor weather.
14. In the Head Teacher's absence the Senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body January 2013

Reviewed by SLT annually

Signed

(Chair)