



Stocksfield Avenue Primary School

Adverse Weather Policy

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 CEO of SMART Multi Academy Trust based on the advice of the Head Teacher. 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 on site are considered to be, or are anticipated to later become, too hazardous for travel.
- 4) Roads leading to the site are dangerous.

If the school is to close:

- 1) Parents will be alerted to the closure by text, activated by the school, once the closure has been logged with the City Council.
- 2) The closure will also be informed to parents via Facebook, Twitter and the school website – www.stocksfield.newcastle.sch.uk
- 3) Updates will be advised to parents by text and posted on the school website, Facebook and Twitter

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 closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavor 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. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevent the child coming into school, risk their child being registered as unauthorised absence.

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

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 and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. The school will do its utmost to ensure the site is a safe environment and where possible parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Everybody is responsible for ensuring they take extra care in adverse weather conditions. Children will also be reminded of this in school.

As this is a large site we salt and clear the routes in the following order:

1. From the front car park gate to the front door
2. The gate from Benwell Hill Road
3. The gate from St Cuthbert's Road (St Cuthbert's Green end)
4. The gate from St Cuthbert's Road (Benwell Hill Road end)

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as a 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 icy weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent buildup of ice and snow.

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 deems it necessary, at break times as well. In addition, the car park may have to be closed to vehicles at the start and end of the school day to ensure the safety of children and carers during their arrival and departure from school.

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: October 2019

Next Review due: October 2020

Approved by Governors: 14th November 2019

SMART Multi Academy Trust is an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England with company number 10257723. The company's registered office is: Wyndham Primary School, Montagu Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4SB.