



SNOW And BAD WEATHER POLICY

Single Equality Entitlement. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Single Equality Policy. The general equality duty requires that, in the exercise of their functions, schools must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. St. Augustine's endeavours to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations for all.

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or adverse weather conditions such as flooding, the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take into account the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

If the school is open in snow or bad weather the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child-care. In event of bad weather, parents should check whether the school is open before travelling to the site.

There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed.

- Listen for lists of school closures on local radio – Wessex FM.
- Check the list of school closures on the Dorset County Council Website.
- Check the school website and your text messages (texting to parents system)

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and will intend to reopen as soon as we can.

If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day at 3.15pm. However this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In this case parents will be contacted and asked to collect their children as soon as possible. Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult. We will also liaise with county transport to discuss the safe transportation of pupils.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day. It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.