



William Westley C of E Primary School

# **Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions**

Last reviewed July 2015

Next review: July 2016

## **William Westley School Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions**

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. 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 they are likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off and children are unable to get to school. In such instances, parents should inform the school as soon as possible so that the school is able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents who fail to inform the school of the circumstances of the absence, or act on the assumption that the school will be closed without gaining confirmation, risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by 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 are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close before the start of the school day or during the school day:

1. The closure will be recorded on the News section of the homepage of the school website [www.williamwestley.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.williamwestley.cambs.sch.uk)
2. Parents will be contacted via email and text message using Parentmail
3. If the school is to close before the start of the school day the media (BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 95.7 /96 FM and Heart 103.0 FM) will also broadcast details.

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

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as soon as possible during adverse weather conditions and appreciates that the uncertainty surrounding such conditions can place considerable difficulties upon parents.

Parents are expected to check the school website, email and mobile telephones regularly and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a school closure is a possibility.

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. In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways in the playground to allow children and parents to enter the school safely. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School will be open from 8.45am for the children to come inside.

***This policy was ratified on: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015***

***and will be reviewed by: July 2016***

***Signed by the Headteacher: Paul Bryant***

***Chair of Governors: Nik Thomas***