

PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Reviewed December 2017

Introduction

The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher. 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 to travel

In the Event of Heavy Snow before the School Day Starts

Parents

When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:-

- Checking Kentclosures.co.uk
- Checking for a text message
- Checking on school website scrolling bar
- Listening to Heart FM (96.6FM)

Please do not call the school phone line.

If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring the school to advise that they are likely to be late.

If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The School

The Headteacher will decide whether the school will open taking in to account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

If the Headteacher decides the school will close the school website will be updated and a text message to staff and parent advising them of the closure by 7.30am.

It is important for parents to undertake the action above under 'Parents' in case the text system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it.

The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning the school may, if appropriate, allow parents to bring their children in to the main halls to wait for school to begin at 8.50am. **Whilst waiting in the halls all parents must supervise their own children.**

Exceptional Circumstances

The school recognises there may be cases where families are 'cut-off' due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live. In such cases parents should advise the Headteacher of their particular circumstances so he can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

In the Event of Heavy Snowfall During the School Day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The office will contact parents and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

The staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather and the decision has not been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher.

Wet Morning Breaks/Windy Conditions

A member of FLT will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet break'. If a wet break is declared no children must be left unsupervised. One member of staff (teacher or teaching assistant) should remain in the classroom to supervise break with all children remaining in their own classes.

Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the 'wet break' can take a break once lessons have resumed.

Wet Lunchtimes/Windy Conditions

A member of FLT will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' lunchtime.

If a 'wet' lunchtime is declared the lunchtime supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff. No children must be left unsupervised.

Equality Implications

There are none associated with this Policy.