

Adverse Weather Policy



Pendragon Community Primary School

Reviewed by The Full Governing Body

Date of Review March 2025

Date of next Review March 2028

Version 1.1

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1. Aims

This policy defines and then sets out the actions necessary in the event of significant adverse weather.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 The head teacher

The head teacher will:

- Work with staff, parents and governors to determine the details of the Adverse Weather policy and provision in the school.
- Have overall responsibility for the health and safety of staff children and parents whilst on the school grounds

2.2 The Governor/s

They will:

- Work with the head teacher to ensure the policy maintains the safety of staff, children and parents whilst ensuring the school remains open whenever possible.

The Governing Body will review this policy in line with the Policy review schedule at the FGB committee meetings

3. Adverse Weather

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. 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 onsite are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Cambridgeshire County Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the Cambridgeshire County Council website: http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools_and_learning/281/school_term_dates_and_school_closures/4
2. The media (BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on 95.7FM and 96FM, online, mobile and Freeview 722.) will then broadcast details.
3. The school website will have details of the closure.

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 and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal. 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 prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised 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 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.

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.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the Caretaker will salt wide pathways in accordance with the schools gritting risk assessment.

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 site manager, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up 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 decides it necessary, at break times as well.

In the Head Teacher's absence the Senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

4. Hot Weather

During periods of extreme heat, the school will take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff. These may include, but are not limited to:

1. Encouraging children to drink water regularly throughout the day and ensuring water bottles are easily accessible.
2. Adjusting the school uniform policy to allow for cooler clothing options, including hats and lighter footwear, where appropriate.
3. Modifying timetables to avoid strenuous physical activity during the hottest parts of the day, particularly PE lessons and outdoor play.
4. Seeking shaded areas for outdoor activities or moving these indoors where possible.
5. Monitoring classroom temperatures and using fans or open windows to improve air circulation.
6. Issuing guidance to parents to apply high-factor sunscreen before school and to send children with sunhats.

If conditions become extreme and are deemed to pose a health risk, the Head Teacher may consider partial or full school closure, following the same communication procedures as outlined above for adverse weather. As with other weather-related concerns, parents are encouraged to stay informed through the school website and local media.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy and information report will be reviewed by the Head Teacher every 3 years. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year.

It will be approved by the governing board.

