



Adlington

Primary School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

Our Mission Statement

At Adlington Primary School we aim to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure. We promote an atmosphere of truth and honesty in which everyone feels valued and shows respect for each other and their surroundings. As a team, we are committed to high expectations and continuous improvement. We adopt a child centred approach to high quality teaching and learning, inspiring everyone to achieve their full potential.

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 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:

1. The closure will be announced on the school website as soon as the decision has been made. www.adlington.cheshire.sch.uk
2. Parents will be individually informed via email and or text from 'Parent mail' (Parents of children who are booked into the afterschool club will be rung by the club manager and or headteacher as soon as possible)
3. The local radio station 'Canalside Radio' and 'Silk FM' will be asked to publicise the closure.

The school will make all efforts to keep parents informed of the situation 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; parents should endeavour 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 and Trust. 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-authorized 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 and or 'Parent mail' 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/gritted. 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 and /or their class teacher.

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

In order that correct and consistent information is available to local residents, if the school has to close the headteacher will notify schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk and inform the Trust and will send a follow-up email when the school re-opens.

Wherever possible in icy conditions the caretaker will salt/grit wide pathways as follows:

A) From the middle green gate to the main entrance to school.

B) From the main carpark to the reception classroom

C) A pathway to the afterschool club (Adlington Extra)

It may not be possible to grit the car park so parents should take extreme care if using the car park in snow or ice. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained and kept as clear as possible throughout the day.

During significant adverse weather conditions, all children should bring waterproof boots or wellingtons, a warm coat and a change of shoes. The school hall will be open from 8.45am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Parents are asked to leave the school as soon as the staff are on duty.

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.

Related policies/documents:

Business Continuity plan

Health and Safety

Diagram of gritting plan

Person responsible: P. Broadhurst

Written November 2012

Reviewed and modified November 2013

Agreed by governors January 2014

Reviewed and agreed by governors February 2015

Reviewed and modified November 2015

Reviewed and modified November 2016

Reviewed and modified December 2017

Reviewed and modified May 2019