

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

Updated: January 2016

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 in consultation with the Chair of Governors.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient members of 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.
1. If the school is to close:
1. The Head Teacher will inform Wirral Borough Council (Health & Safety – Mrs Jeanne Fairbrother). The local media will then broadcast details.
 2. 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 school website and/or make themselves aware of the local radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.
 3. In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, the school will endeavour to contact parents by phone either at home or at work and they will be asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. Parents may not pick up any child(ren) other than their own without the express permission of the Head Teacher or her designated representative.
 4. Snow/Ice: On school days where the school is closed to pupils but safe for the caretaker to access, the pathways will continue to be maintained on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep them clear and prevent the build - up of ice and snow.

During Bad Weather:

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. 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 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 run or slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) from the car park pavement gate to the main entrance door,
- B) from the playground pedestrian gate to the main entrance door,
- C) from the playground pedestrian gate to the Infant cloakroom doors.

Where possible, pathways will be cleared throughout the day.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the school will be open from 8.40am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should pass their child directly to the teachers at the main KS2 and Infant entrance doors. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately that they have passed their child(ren) to the member of staff on the school entrance doors.

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 and lunch times as well. In the Head teacher's absence, the Deputy Head teacher will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy. In the absence of the Head teacher and Deputy Head teachers Mrs Bell will assume responsibility.

Contact details: School Number: 0151 652 4909

e-mail address: schooloffice@oxtonstsaviours.wirral.sch.uk

website: www.oxtonstsavioursschool.com

School Business Manager: Mrs S. Ainsworth

Head teacher: Mr A Ramsden

Acting Deputy Head teacher: Mrs A Bell

Senior Leadership Team: Mrs H. Jones Mrs P. Stewart

Site Manager: Mr W. Ross

For review in: January 2018