

# **Adverse Weather Conditions Policy**



## **Key Contact Personnel in School**

Nominated Member of Leadership Staff Responsible for the policy: Anthony Hull, Deputy Headteacher

Date written: December 2022

Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: December 2022

Date of next review: December 2025

## **Introduction**

1.1 Katherine Semar Schools will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

1.2 The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher, in conjunction with the senior leadership team and other local Headteachers in conjunction with the Chair of Governors.

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 to travel.

1.3 In the absence of the Head Teacher decisions regarding opening and closure will be made by the Deputy Head Teachers.

## **In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts**

### **2.1 Parents**

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

2.1.2 If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Head Teacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. (see para.

2.3.2)

### **2.2 The School**

2.2.1 The Head Teacher will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there. The Head Teacher may decide to delay the opening of the school until later in the day.

2.2.2 If the Head Teacher decides the school will close she will send a ParentMail message to staff and parents advising them of the closure. She will also update the school website to inform parents regarding the closure on the school. The School fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

### **2.3 Exceptional Circumstances**

2.3.1 The School recognises that there may be cases where families are “cut off” due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live.

2.3.2 In such cases parents should advise the Head Teacher of their particular circumstances so she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

### **3.0 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day**

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

3.2 The Office will contact parents by ParentMail and text message and, if necessary telephone, and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

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

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

3.5 If a parent phones, requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, the Head Teacher will decide how the absence will be recorded.

3.6 See Appendix A for details on ‘snow’ breaks and lunchtimes.

### **4.0 Wet Morning Breaks**

4.1 The teachers on duty will decide if the weather is bad enough for a ‘wet’ break.

4.2 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.

### **5.0 Wet Lunchtimes**

5.1 The Head Mid-day staff will decide if the weather is bad enough for a ‘wet’ lunchtime.

5.2 If a ‘wet’ lunchtime is declared the Lunchtime Supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff if necessary. No children must be left unsupervised.

### **6.0 Equality & Disability Access Implications**

If there were to be any child in school with a disability or mobility impairment consideration will be given to their specific needs and any potential impact of the weather conditions on their ability to get to school and/or around the school site.

### **7.0 Related Policies**

None.

## **Appendix A**

If there is snow on the ground and conditions are good, staff may take the children outside to play in the snow.

Safety will remain the highest priority while outside.

Children who have robust outdoor shoes/boots/wellies, *and* other footwear to change into afterwards may choose to go and play outside. They should also have warm clothing such as coats, gloves and scarves.

Children without suitable warm clothing/ a pair of robust footwear to change into, will be supervised in the school hall or classrooms.

The children may play in the snow, for example, making snowmen or igloos, but may not throw snow at each other.

Typically, infant children will go out at playtime and Junior children over lunchtime.