

Maids Moreton C.E. School



Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

In the event of disruption caused by snow or adverse weather conditions, the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff. It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible, as long as it is safe to do so. 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.

Due to most of our pupils living within walking distance of the school it is expected that all staff will make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school, so long as it is safe to do so. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of school time.

There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed.

- Check the school website. The information will be updated as conditions change.
- Check the list of school closures on the Buckinghamshire County Council website. <http://closures.buckscc.gov.uk>
- Check the text message service via your Parentmail account.
- Listen for lists of school closures on local radio. [Mix 96 and Three Counties Radio]

In the event of bad weather, parents should check whether the school is open **before** travelling to the site. The Head teacher will publish the closure if applicable on the Buckinghamshire Council school closures website and the school website homepage by 7.30am. 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 uncertainty and conditions place considerable difficulties upon

parents. However parents are expected to check their parentmail account, school and County council websites and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility. Where possible, a board will be placed outside the main entrance to the school informing parents and visitors that the school is closed.

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 via the Parentmail texting service and asked to collect their child/children. We will take verbal permission via a telephone call to the school office from parents who are unable to collect their child but are sending a nominated adult on their behalf. Normal lessons may be curtailed and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection. We request that all parents ensure that the school office has up to date contact details. If weather conditions worsen during the school day and parents are concerned, they are welcome to collect their children early. As telephone lines can become extremely busy at such times, parents must call into the school Reception area to sign children out.

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 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, risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence. If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and will intend to reopen as soon as we can.

There may be occasions where the school is not closed but a later start time is decided upon, to enable sufficient time for staff and pupils to travel safely to the school site. Any such changes will be displayed on the Buckinghamshire Council and school website.

In the event of school remaining open during adverse weather, we ask that children come to school dressed in appropriate outdoor warm clothing and suitable footwear [wellingtons] and a change of footwear and clothing for indoor use, including shoes, spare socks/tights/trousers. Parents are requested to send a packed lunch with their child in case the school staff are unable to collect the hot meals from the provider school.

In the event of snow, access pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, can remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this by their class teachers. Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children. We request the children do not slide on the school playground and/or paths and refrain from throwing snowballs. Children should not bring cycles or scooters to school to help reduce risks to themselves and others.

In icy conditions the caretaker will endeavour to salt pathways and steps that lead into the main reception area of the school and the access routes to classrooms. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and icy weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow, if this is practicable. 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 most Senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Policy ratified by governors: March 2021

Review Date: March 2024