

Hawkinge Primary School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions



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:

Parent will be texted using the text message service – please make sure your details are up to date.

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 can be very different in Hawkinge than they are in other localities around Hawkinge, and that 'The Hawkinge Hill' can be very difficult to drive on in adverse weather conditions.

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 unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the very unusual event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by the text message to ask them 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 as follows:

- A) from the gate in Mill Lane to the 'double doors' that children enter through in the morning
- B) from the gate on Canterbury Road to Mrs Crooks office

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

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.