

ST JAMES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADVERSE WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURE POLICY

This policy has the School's Motto at its heart.

**Faith in action,
Growing together,
Walking in the footsteps of Christ**

We will endeavor to keep our school open and operating as normal.

However, our first priority will always be to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, families and staff. Therefore, in the event of severe adverse weather it may be necessary to decide to close the school for reasons of safety.

The Headteacher will decide whether the school will close.

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

- There are insufficient staff to keep the school running safely;
- Conditions on site are dangerous;
- Conditions are considered to be too hazardous to travel.

The Headteacher will take into consideration: -

- Local weather forecasts;
- Local information,
- Travel information;

It is recognised that adverse weather conditions will, at times, make travel to and from work difficult. However, staff are asked to make all reasonable efforts to reach school unless they consider it is too dangerous.

If the Headteacher decides the school will close they will issue a message to be communicated to parents. There must be no communication made to parents other than that issued or endorsed by the Headteacher. The Headteacher will release a statement that is communicated to parents via twitter and email. The telephone cascade should only be used if there are emergencies and the Headteacher will authorise the wording of the cascade.

In cases where the weather deteriorates during the day

The school will stay open, including After School Club unless the Headteacher decides it is unsafe to do so. If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school. Should the situation become a concern the Headteacher may issue a statement that asks parents to take regard of their local circumstances and pick up their children if they wish. However, the school will emphasise that it remains open and there is no pressure to collect children early. The school will continue with the curriculum as far as is possible. Where staff must leave for safety reasons those who are able to stay will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be updated in line with any new developments in the school and/or any new government guidance.

It was last reviewed in: summer 2021
It will next be reviewed in: summer 2024

This statement of policy was approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on:-

Date: _____4th May 2021_____

Signed:

_____*Mary Hutchinson*_____ (Chairperson)

_____*L Weedy*_____ (Head teacher)