

# St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School

## Adverse Weather Conditions



Our Vision is  
'to enable our whole school  
community to live life in all its  
fullness.'

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and this policy supports this commitment.

Date: December 2021

Review Date: December 2024

**St. Matthew's  
C of E Primary School**



## **Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions**

In the event of bad weather, it is always the school's policy to remain open and as such the site team will work to ensure that the site is both accessible and safe.

There are however rare instances where the school might not be able to open as normal as a result of severe weather. In such instances any changes to the usual opening arrangements will be communicated on the school website. An email will also be sent to let parents know if the school is closed due to bad weather. Information will also be broadcast on Radio Jackie 107.8 and on their website [www.radiojackie.com](http://www.radiojackie.com)

Where no updates have been provided parents should assume that the school is open as normal.

Given the event of bad weather the school advises all pupils, staff and visitors to wrap up warmly and wear sensible footwear.

## **Closing the School**

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 school 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:**

1. The closure will be recorded on the school website and on Radio Jackie (107.8).
2. Parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using the School Gateway service activated by the school office.

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 website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

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 the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked 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. 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 ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

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 Deputy Head Teacher or most Senior member of staff on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.