

## **Federation Of Abbey Infant and Abbey Junior Schools Inclement Weather Policy**

It is our policy to remain open unless we are forced to close because there is a risk to health, safety and welfare of staff and pupils. The decision to close has been delegated to the Executive Head Teacher and is responsible for making the decision to close school due to inclement weather conditions in the immediate locality.

The decision will be taken on the basis of one or more of the following criteria:

- Prolonged and/or excessively high temperatures
- Prolonged and/or excessively low temperatures
- Prolonged and/or excessively high winds that render travel dangerous
- Prolonged and/or excessive snow fall or icy conditions
- Prolonged and/or prolonged rainfall/flooding

Parents and carers will be notified that the school will be closed:

- **Closure before the school day**
  - Such an event is highly unlikely and will be avoided where possible

**THERE IS NO NEED TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL TO CHECK WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL IS OPEN. UNLESS ANNOUNCED ON THE RADIO STATIONS BELOW, THE SCHOOL WILL BE OPEN.**

- Radio WM 08453 009956 [bbcwm@bbc.co.uk](mailto:bbcwm@bbc.co.uk)
- Galaxy/Heart FM Radio 0121 607 7288
- Beacon Radio 01902 461 231  
[snowline@beaconradio.co.uk](mailto:snowline@beaconradio.co.uk)
- BRMB 0121 566 5430 [snowline@brmb.co.uk](mailto:snowline@brmb.co.uk)
- Details will also be published on the LA website following notification by the school to the LA.

**While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were aware of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to literally hundreds of calls. Parents should not telephone school at these times unless there is an emergency. If the school is forced to close overnight for any other reason, a notice will also be placed outside the school entrances.**

- **Closure during the school day**
  - Should the weather turn worse during a school day, pupils will only be sent home if there are satisfactory arrangements for them returning safely.

**NO CHILD WILL BE SENT HOME BEFORE THE USUAL AFTERNOON HOME TIME UNLESS COLLECTED BY THE PARENT/CARER.**

**Staff will be contacted using a 'Round Robin' system of telephone calls but should also listen to local radio stations.**

### **Snow and Icy Conditions**

In order to remain open during snowy and icy conditions Abbey Infant School will clear a path 1m.wide:

- From the Maurice Road entrance to the main office
- From the main path to Reception and Y1 classrooms
- From the Maurice Road entrance to the Nursery
- From Y2 classrooms to the Nursery path

**Please note that the Hamilton Road entrance will be closed and will not be cleared due to the sloping nature of the path and steps.**

In order to remain open during snowy and icy conditions Abbey Junior School will clear a path 1m.wide:

- From the gate entrance to the office
- From the gate entrance to the dining room (main path)
- From the main path to the house
- From the main path to entrances for all year groups

Generally, in snowy conditions children will be allowed out at playtimes and lunch times on the condition that they behave appropriately and safely. Should the conditions deteriorate then children will have 'Indoor' sessions at playtimes and lunch times.

Staff and governors have considered assessing risk in the preparation of this policy.

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 Keeping schools open in inclement weather

Hazard Description	Control Measures
Insufficient staff to ensure safe levels of supervision of the pupils	<p>Network of teacher / staff contacts - early warning of non-attendance.</p> <p>Consider bringing classes together in school hall to ensure adequate supervision levels.</p> <p>Ensure compliance with supervision guidance and if not compliant close school.</p>
Absence of members of staff with key roles for health and safety e.g. fire marshals, first aiders.	<p>School to have contingency arrangements in place, ensuring an adequate number of staff have been trained in these roles to cover any absences.</p>
Snow/ice on playground/entrance and other pathways resulting in slips/trips and personal injury	<p>Clearance of primary routes which are used the most to ensure staff and children have safe access to school buildings.</p> <p>Adequate supply of grit/salt</p> <p>Consider extra supervision levels at playtimes and lunch times.</p> <p>Reduce the extent to which children and staff have to move between school buildings.</p> <p>Consider taking the playground out of use if necessary.</p>
Loss of amenities e.g. failure of heating, lighting, toilets, water causing welfare concerns for pupils and staff.	<p>Supplementary heaters (subject to completion of risk assessment) temporary lighting, independent water supplies.</p> <p>Contact Estate and Facilities Team for advice.</p> <p>Consider partial closure.</p>

Hazard	Control Measures
If weather deteriorates, risk of personal injury to staff during journeys home.	Consider possible arrangements for those living further away or in more remote areas to leave first.

### **Guidance on maximum / minimum temperatures in classrooms**

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations state that 'During working hours, the temperature in all workplaces inside buildings shall be reasonable.' High temperatures, heat stress and dehydration can be serious problems at temperatures above 35 degrees centigrade so that should be regarded as the maximum reasonable temperature for prolonged periods of time in classrooms.

This temperature is above comfort temperatures, but healthy children should be able to cope with this if they are given generous supplies of cool water to drink. More sensitive children may experience problems at much lower temperatures and staff need to watch for signs of heat stress at temperatures above 28 degrees centigrade. Schools need to make arrangements to ensure that they have adequate supplies of drinking water.

Minimum temperatures are specified in the school premises regulations. 18 degrees centigrade is normal for classrooms, 15 degrees centigrade in areas where there is a higher level of activity (e.g. PE), and 21 degrees centigrade in areas where there is a lower than normal level of physical activity because of sickness or physical disability.