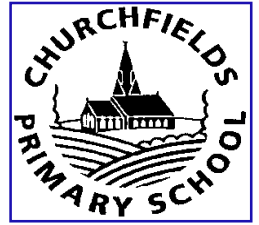


Churchfields Primary School



Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

Decision to Close

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.

Closure Procedures

If the school is to close it is essential to keep the phone lines as free as possible. Therefore we ask that you use the following to ascertain whether the school is open:

The closure will be recorded on the Staffordshire County Council Website by the Head Teacher.

All parents and carers will be informed via the school text message system

The website and the school Facebook group will be updated

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 Facebook group / text messages when there is a possibility that school may close.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavor 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. 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 are 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 text. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Care Club

Where the school makes a decision to close, this will result in the closure of both nursery wrap-around care and before school club.

Treatment of pathways

In the event of snow or icy conditions, 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 pathways leading from all external gates into the main school and EYFS

area. Please stick to the designated pathways.

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.

All staff, parents and visitors are advised that the area surrounding school and the car park will not be cleared of ice and snow and that due care must be taken at all times.

In the Head Teacher's absence the senior member of staff on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.