

Grindleford Primary School

POLICY FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS – SCHOOL CLOSURE/SNOW

The following information is for if the weather reaches extreme conditions.

- If the weather is so severe that you consider it to be unsafe for your child to journey to school, keep your child at home.
- The Head Teacher will not close the school, once it is in session, unless the Area Office suggests it to be advisable or the weather conditions deteriorate to the extent where it is becoming increasingly dangerous for the staff and children to travel home.

In any of these cases the school will not close until **every** child has been collected by a responsible adult.

If the decision is made to close school **before school begins**, a text message will be sent out to all parents/associates on the school's texting system, Peak FM Radio and Derbyshire County Council will also be informed.

The following guidance is for school use only and not to be given to parents.

<p style="text-align: center;">ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS Media - Notification of Closure</p>
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To inform parents of school closure using the media: -

1. A text message will go out to all parents informing them of the closure.
2. An email will be sent to Derbyshire County Council for display on their 'School's Closure' list. The radio stations will take the information from this central list.
3. An official email account must be used e.g. the headteachers

Email: send-UKDCC.UKDCC_3076@request.govdelivery.com
Subject: School Name
Message: Type closure details as known, then follow with END OF MESSAGE

A confirmation email will be sent to the headteacher's email account where a final submission can be made. Further updates can be added to this system if required.

If due to weather the internet is down, then DCC can be contacted on 08456 058 058

4. Inform the Chair of Governors on:

- 0114 2301085
- 07730952650

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Overnight Conditions

In the event of heavy snow falling overnight:

- The Headteacher will make the decision whether the school will close, following consultation with the Cleaner In Charge and a TA/Gov who lives in the village, before 7am.
- Text messages will be sent to all staff informing them of the school's closure. All staff are expected to work on school related activities at home.
- Text messages will be sent to all parents informing them of the school's closure.
- The Headteacher will email Derbyshire County Council to be added to the 'Schools Closure' list on their website.
- The Headteacher will contact the LA and the Chair of Governors to inform them of the school closure.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Early Morning Procedures

In the event of extreme bad weather, but no school closure:

- Staff need to contact school as early as possible to advise that you are making all reasonable attempts to get into school and advise of your estimated arrival time or if you are unable to make it into school.
- Staff must be prepared to cover any class as necessary.
- Parents will be encouraged to use their discretion when sending their children to school.
- If staff have used their discretion to keep their children off school, they must make sure that they attend work if the school is still open.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS Daytime Procedures

In the event of heavy snow falling through the school day:

- The Headteacher will make the decision whether the school will close, following consultation with the staff.
- Parents will be contacted by text and encouraged to collect their children early. Staff will write down the names of ALL the children collected early and the name of the adult who collected them.
- As the pupil numbers reduce, staff will be allowed to leave. Staff living the furthest away will be sent home first.
- The LA and Chair of Governors will be contacted and informed of the decision to close.

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS Breaktimes

The following are guidelines for when the yard is affected by snow.

- The playground will be divided into 'zones' to help ensure the health and safety of the children.
- Only children who have a change of shoes in school and a coat will be allowed outside at breaktime.
- Snowballs are only allowed when the snow is fresh and not icy.
- Any child not following these rules will be sent inside and kept inside for the duration of the bad weather conditions.
- At lunchtime, the same rules apply.
- If the snow has frozen and the playground is icy, the children will be kept inside.

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