



St. Jérôme
Church of England
Bilingual School

Adverse Weather Policy

April 2016

Executive Headteacher:.....
(Reverend D Norris)

Chair of the Governing Body:.....
(Ian Fernandes)

Date:.....

Review Date:.....

It is the policy of the St. Jerome Church of England Bilingual School to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

If the school is anticipating closure either at the beginning of the school day or during the school day (or extended services day), the Executive Headteacher will consult with the Chair of the Board of Directors before any decision to close the school is made. The school may be closed if insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school operating safely. The decision to close might also be taken where conditions on site are dangerous, or where weather conditions are advised to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If it is anticipated that the school will be closed for a significant period of time, then teachers will set work to be completed at home.

Procedures

The Health and Safety of children, parents and staff are paramount when taking any decision. If the school is to close:

- Staff will be informed by text message
- Breakfast Club staff and school meal providers will be included in the above
- Families will be informed via e-mail or by text message through our texting service.
- Closure signs will be displayed at the entrance to the school.
- The closure will be made clear on the school website

The text messaging service is accessible through the internet; therefore, if administration staff are unable to get to their place of work, messages can be sent from alternative locations, e.g. from home.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents.

Parental Responsibility and absence reporting

If parents have a reasonable expectation that the adverse weather conditions might reasonably cause the school to be closed, they should contact the school before setting out, even if that creates a slight delay in arrival. 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 office 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 attending school risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

Closure during the Academy day

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 either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren.

Children will be supervised until a parent/carer is able to collect them.

The school will remain open until the end of the school day. However, if parents are delayed due to the adverse weather conditions, they should contact the school as soon as possible to give an anticipated arrival time.

An early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances, e.g. extreme weather conditions, failure of heating/water systems.

Snow Clearing and salted routes

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.

Warm Weather

In the event of the weather being warmer than usual, parents will be responsible for ensuring the school is informed of their children's susceptibility to the sun. The following steps should be put in place:

Access to Water

Children will be encouraged to drink regularly. Children are given water bottles by the Academy and a fountain can be used to fill in their bottles throughout the day. They can re-fill them as necessary and teachers will encourage children to do so.

Access to Shade

Children are encouraged to bring hats to school in hot weather to wear outdoors. Reminders will be given to children and parents about this and about wearing tops with sleeves. In the absence of a canopy, children may be encouraged to stay indoors.

Sun Cream

Parents are reminded that children should have sun cream applied at home before school, as staff cannot apply it. Older children may bring sun-cream to put on themselves at playtime/lunchtime though they may not share this with other children.

Special events and outdoor PE

Careful thought will always be given to outdoor events and PE taking place during hot weather. If necessary, events will be cancelled or postponed.

Consideration will also be given to outdoor extra-curricular activities during hot weather and a decision will be made as to whether they should be cancelled.

Uniform

During the summer months, the children may wear shorts or summer dresses. Parents/carers should refer to the appropriate school policy on types of footwear to be worn in all weathers.