



1. INTRODUCTION

In the event of adverse weather it is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. We understand the impact that a school closure can have both on the routine of our pupils and the consequent impact it can have on their parents and carers. Closure will only happen when all considerations have been explored. The Health and Safety of pupils and staff will be of paramount importance in the decision as to whether the school will close and how pupils can safely return home.

Eagle House School can sometimes face a closure when other schools local to it can remain open. This is because pupils travel from a range of 14 local authority areas and have substantial journeys to make. Equally our staff team travel from a range of locations and don't always live in the locality of the school.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head of Education or Executive Principal, in consultation with other members of the schools Senior Leadership Team and /or the school's Site Maintenance Officer where necessary. 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.

Where the school does have to close officially, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

2. SEVERE WEATHER OVERNIGHT

The school will make every effort to be aware of and anticipate adverse weather conditions. If significant weather such as heavy snow fall is expected overnight a decision on school closure will be made as early as possible to provide advance warning to parents and carers.

If the school has to be closed a decision will be made before 7.40am. In the event of a closure a message will be posted by 7.40am on the school website www.eaglehousegroup.co.uk .

All families will be contacted wherever possible by phone about school closures. It is vital we are provided with the correct contact telephone numbers – please notify us of any changes.

Parents/carers need to assume that the school is open if its closure it is not announced on the school website.

3. SEVERE WEATHER DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents and carers will be contacted by phone either at home or work. Where pupils travel to and from school by local authority contracted transport, calls will be made to the Local Authority transport teams to make suitable arrangements for collection of pupils.

4. CONTACT WITH PARENTS/CARERS DURING PERIODS OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parent and carers 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/carers. However parents/carers are expected to check the website and/or contact the school when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents and carers 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/carers should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation.

5. WHEN THE SCHOOL REMAINS OPEN IN ADVERSE WEATHER

Where the school does remain open during adverse weather the Site Maintenance Officer will ensure that the school is kept safe by ensuring paths are cleared, salted and gritted. 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 Site Maintenance Officer, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent a build-up of ice and snow.

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

6. POLICY REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Head of Education supported by the other members of the school's Senior Leadership Team to monitor this policy. It should be reviewed annually or when new legislation is published. The Head of Education reports on Eagle House School (Mitcham) matters to the Executive Principal and in turn to the CEO/Directors.

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