The Policy and Procedures for Adverse Weather Conditions

Our school helps us to walk with Jesus, to be the best that we can be. Through God's love and guidance, we create an ethos of shared endeavour, friendship and co-operation to help us flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually.

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

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Policy Date	January 2021
Approved by FGM	February 2021
Next Review	January 2023

Table of Contents

Context and rationale	3
Wrap Around Provision	3
Closing before 8.45am	3
Guidance and Advice for Staff	3
Guidance and Advice for Parents	4
Closing During the Day	4

Equality Statement

At Baxenden St John's School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible and the decision to close the school will be made by the headteacher (HT), in consultation with the chair of governors and the senior leadership team. It is an extremely difficult decision to make, and a number of factors involving the health, safety and well-being of the whole school community have to be taken into consideration.

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 (including breakfast and after school club).
2. Conditions on site are dangerous.
3. Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

Wrap Around Provision

Club staff should contact the HT before leaving for work if they feel it is unsafe to travel. If the HT agrees that it is unsafe to travel, a decision to close breakfast club will be made before 7.00am and the HT will inform all relevant staff. The business manager (SBM) will be responsible for informing parents/ carers.

In the event of heavy snowfall before the start of school (8.45am)

Staff

Local weather and road conditions will be assessed by the HT, chair of governors and site supervisor. Further checks will be made by the HT and/or Senior leadership team regarding the ability of staff to get to school and the weather conditions which are predicted during the day.

Staff are expected to make all reasonable efforts to reach their workplace, **but are urged to call the mobile phone of the HT or deputy HT by 7.15am should they feel that it is unsafe for them to travel for any reason.** All staff have been consulted when writing this policy, and are aware of the systems in place.

A decision to close the school will be made by 7.30am at the latest. Depending on predicted weather patterns and availability of staff, a decision will be made whether to:

1. Close the school for the full day and teach remotely
2. Where practical, open at a later time (10.00am) to enable staff to safely travel to school

The following procedures will take place to inform staff:

1. The HT will inform the DHT who will inform the KS1 teaching & support staff
2. The HT will inform the KS2 leader who will inform KS2 teaching & support staff
3. The HT will update the website and Facebook page immediately
4. The SBM will send a text message and an email to all parents
5. The SBM will contact catering staff, welfare assistants, crossing patrol and any external visitors expected during the day
6. The site supervisor will put notices on the main entrance and school gates

Parents

Parents will be informed of a school closure via a text message, email, Facebook and the website. If it is decided that the school will open, but road conditions are difficult, parents should use their own judgement as to whether to bring their child to school that day.

Parents are asked not to ring the school, because there may be nobody available to answer the telephone.

The school appreciates that children may arrive later than expected during severe weather conditions.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, in conjunction with the chair or vice chair of governors, the HT will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The office will contact parents and ask that they pick their children up from school as soon as possible. If a parent phones the school requesting that they pick their children up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the HT.

The staff that live the furthest away will be able to leave at the earliest opportunity. A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.