



ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

July 2025 - Version 3

Review date: July 2028

Version Control

Version	Date	Notes
1	January 2019	Policy created
2	June 2022 July 2022	Reviewed and reformatted. Equalities statement added. Policy amended – Introduction added and gritting information added to ‘Snow and Ice section – Entry To and From School.’ Ratified by Governors 21.07.22. All staff notified of new policy.
3	July 2025	Reviewed by S. Croucher. Additional bullet points regarding trips and school events added. Approved by Senior Leadership Team. Noted as approved at Curriculum meeting on 07/07/2025.

Equality Statement for Park Hill Infant School

At Park Hill Infant School, we continue to teach our children about what it means to be strong, positive and productive members of society. We have always taught our pupils about equality and this remains an important part of our curriculum. We ensure that we always celebrate diversity, promote equality, demonstrate respect and stand together to challenge all forms of discriminatory language and behaviour.

We recognise that education is a vital tool for powerful, permanent and informative change. Our continuously evolving curriculum demonstrates our determination to use education to tackle issues of racism, homophobia and inequality. We strive to ensure our curriculum and supporting resources reflect values of inclusivity, diversity, equality and belonging. We do this by planning to meet the needs of all genders, of children with special educational needs, of children who are more-able, gifted and talented, of children with disabilities, of children from all socio-economic backgrounds, children from different ethnic groups, religion and cultural backgrounds, and of those from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Introduction

This policy sets out the procedure in the event of adverse weather conditions e.g. Snow, ice or extreme heat. The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school will be made by the Headship Team.

Snow and Ice

In the event of severe weather conditions, we have to consider key issues to make judgements about school closure. Closing the school is the very last option for us:

- We have to weigh up many different risks regarding travelling to school, site safety and pupil supervision on site. Maintaining the level of learning is extremely important, but we have to balance that against the risks to our pupils and staff;
- We will liaise closely with our local transport companies and senior staff in neighbouring schools. We will monitor local weather reports and liaise with our staff members in outlying areas to assess the travel conditions that might be affecting those who come to school by public transport or by car;
- We will assess if we have sufficient numbers of staff on site to allow us to effectively supervise 270 pupils;
- We know that for working parents when the school has to close this presents problems with regard to childcare, so the decision will not be taken lightly;
- A separate risk assessment is completed for every school trip. Weather conditions are considered and, where necessary, any school trips due to take place in snow/ icy conditions where footpaths may be slippery/ inaccessible would be assessed and additional control measures would be taken/ the trip would be postponed or re-scheduled. The decision to postpone/ re-schedule any trips will be made by the Headship Team.

- School events, such as Family Curriculum Workshops, will also be assessed if the weather forecast predicts heavy snow. Additional measures, such as gritting paths, will be implemented if needed. The decision to postpone any events will be made by the Headship Team.

To keep you informed:

- We will send a text message to all parents and staff if we are unable to open and will do this as soon as we can make a reasonable assessment of the conditions
- We will contact Parents/Carers via text message and the school website

Entry to and from School

We intend for the school to remain open, however if there is considerable snow, entry and exit to the school may be restricted as follows:

- **All pupils** - Enter the school via the pedestrian gate, in Cotelands. All pupils should go straight to classes via cleansed, gritted pathways to prevent any unnecessary accidents;
- Children may wear wellington boots/walking shoes to school, but should have their school shoes with them to change into when at school;
- At the end of the school day please can parents avoid congregating around the gates as this delays the children being able to leave the premises safely;
- **Pedestrian visitors** - The pathway from Cotelands to the school reception/office will be made safe for any visitors on foot;
- **Vehicle access (staff, deliveries etc.)** – If you have permission to drive on site you may do so, but at your own risk.

School closure during the school day:

- Parents will be notified via text and via the School website of early closure;
- Any change to the normal collection points for children when closing early will be detailed within the text communication and posted on the website.

Extreme Heat

Sometimes the temperature during the school day will increase to a notifiable level. If this occurs, the school will take the following actions but we will not close the school for this type of weather condition:

- All children to bring their named water bottle to school every day;
- If it is a projected weather warning, children will be asked to come into school wearing sun hats, sun cream and will be encouraged to drink lots of water throughout the day;
- Playtimes and break times maybe shortened to minimise the time the children are out in the heat;
- The staff will keep the school ventilated by leaving windows open, and using the air conditioning in the classes where it is available;
- A separate risk assessment is completed for every school trip. Weather conditions are considered and, where necessary, any school trips due take place in extreme heat where there is no shelter/ shade available would be assessed and additional control measures would be taken/ the trip would be postponed or re-scheduled. The decision to postpone/ re-schedule any trips will be made by the Headship Team.
- School events, such as Sports Day or Family Curriculum Workshops, will also be assessed if the weather forecast predicts extreme heat. Additional measures, such as reminding all parents to ensure children are wearing sunscreen, will be implemented if needed. The decision to postpone any events will be made by the Headship Team.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary. At each review, it will be approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____