

Adverse Weather Policy



Thorn Grove Primary School

Approved by Resources Committee on:

3 November 2022

L. Vose

Headteacher

C. Alcock

Chair of Governors

Next review due by:

November 2024

Based on a Stockport LA policy

Reviewed February 2016

Adverse weather guidance for parents

Thorn Grove will endeavour to keep our school open and operating as normal. However, in the event of severe adverse weather it may be necessary to make a decision to close the school for the safety of the children and staff. The decision to close will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Local Authority and Chair of Governors considering the following:

- Health and safety – Conditions on site are dangerous.
- Availability of staff – has the severe weather meant that a significant number of staff have been unable to attend making it impossible to open.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

Our first priority will always be to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, parents and families. Where practical, we will consider opening later in order to enable staff and children to have additional time to travel to school safely.

We will clear paths within school to make access as safe as possible, and will keep supplies of grit to support this.

School Closure Procedure: Once the decision to close school has been taken, parents and staff will be informed via text message. A headline message will also be posted on the School website (www.thorngroveprimary.co.uk). Where possible, a member of staff will be in school to advise parents and families on arrival that the school is closed, and to answer telephone calls from concerned parents.

The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual. If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. We must insist that parents must not drop their child off at the school gates assuming that school is open to all classes. They must double check the arrangements for that morning.

The School recognises that there may be cases where families are “cut off” due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live. In such cases parents should advise the Headteacher of their particular circumstances so she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day, the Headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school. The office will contact parents by text and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

Staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity. A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected. If a parent requests they pick their child 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 Headteacher.