

BANDON HILL PRIMARY

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY

Meadow Field - Wood Field - Oak Field

Updated	Spring 2018
Approved by Governors	Spring 2018
Date for Review	Spring 2020

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head teacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

- Parents will receive a text via Teachers2Parents
- The closure will be recorded on “Open Check” on <https://opencheck.atomwide.com>
- Information will also be displayed on the school’s website.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents 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. However parents are expected to look at the Open Check website when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

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 it is unsafe for a minority of families to travel to school, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school 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 coming into school risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence. 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 and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In icy/snowy conditions the site team will salt wide pathways to support access to the school buildings. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained and kept as clear as possible throughout the day. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in school. During significant adverse weather conditions, children will be asked to go indoors straightaway at the beginning of the day. The playground may be out of bounds to children at break times as well.