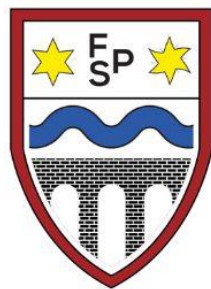




FENISCOWLES PRIMARY SCHOOL
'STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE'



ADVERSE WEATHER PROCEDURE

Revisions

Written by: R. Turner

Review date: January 2023

Next Review: September 2024

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or adverse weather, the prime concern of the school must always be to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils, staff and visitors. The decision will be made by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. The school will stay open in all but exceptional circumstances, as long as it is safe to do so.

School Attendance

If the school is open in snow or adverse weather the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parent, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child care.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; Please **do not** contact school to inform us of lateness unless arriving substantially late (after 10am). In these exceptional circumstances there will be a grace period and no late mark will be given. If you do have to contact school please do so via email (office@feniscowles.blackburn.sch.uk) rather than by telephone.

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 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 un-authorised absence.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day. It may be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

Adverse Weather Procedure

The following is a reminder of our procedures should adverse weather conditions affect the region.

Severe weather overnight:

In the event of bad weather, parents should check to see if the school is open before travelling to the site. There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed. The school will send out a communication to parents via our website (www.feniscowles.primary.com), text message and email.

Notification of a school closure will also be communicated via our Facebook page.

Parents/Carers should also listen for list of school closures on the local radio:

BBC Radio Lancashire

Capital Lancashire

Once a decision has been made to shut the school, the Local Authority will be notified. They will have a list of school closures on the Blackburn with Darwen Council Website.

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible and will intend to re-open as soon as we can.

Continuing severe weather:

The situation for subsequent days will be kept under review and updates will be posted on the school website and an email will be sent as soon as a decision has been made to provide parents with as much time as possible to plan their childcare.

Local weather conditions:

We are aware that some of our pupils travel considerable distances and that the weather conditions where some pupils live may not be the same as in the area around Feniscowles Primary School. Parents are advised that in adverse weather conditions they need to make their own decision as to whether their child attends School based on the conditions in their local area.

Weather deterioration during the school day:

In the event of a sudden deterioration in weather conditions during a school day, the situation will be monitored and we will aim to remain open until the end of the school day. However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In these extreme circumstances, parents will be contacted via our text messaging service and asked to collect their children as soon as possible.

It is important that parents/carers do not attempt to make contact with the school before any decision has been made about closure and wait for a communication to be sent out. This is to ensure that phone lines are kept open for us to liaise with other schools and agencies.

To ensure the safety of the school community, access to the school site will be restricted;

- **Juniors:** the Rec gate is to remain closed and a clear path will be cleared from the main gate to the door in to the Hall. Parents will be directed to the Hall to collect their child/children.
- **Infants:** Paths will be cleared running all around the building, the path through the car park, from Livesey Branch Road to the playground and the Park Farm Road entrance to the Reception area. Parents will collect their child/children from the classroom doors.

Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult. We will require all children who are collected to be signed out by a member of staff. Normal lessons may be curtailed, and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection. Children will not be allowed to walk home, they must be collected by an adult.

Clothing

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. If possible please send you child to school in wellies/outdoor boots and they can change into their school shoes when they get into class.