



KINGSHILL CHURCH SCHOOL

Adverse Weather Policy

Adverse Weather Procedures.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In times of severe weather, schools within the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust will make every effort to remain open whenever possible. If the school is open on a 'snow day' then please send your child with boots, a coat and gloves.
- 1.2 On rare occasions the weather can be so severe that getting to and from school becomes hazardous. Really bad weather can also be disruptive and can cause anxiety and stress, therefore this document aims to give guidance on when it is appropriate to close a school due to bad weather and the steps to take to minimise disruption and anxiety.

2. Decision to close the school

- 2.1 The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher of the school in consultation with the CEO of the Multi Academy Trust. 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
 2. Conditions on site are dangerous
 3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.
- 2.2 In making the decision to close the school careful consideration is given to the health, safety and welfare of both pupils and staff; the effects on the safety of pupils and staff journeys to and from the school and whether there is likely to be enough staff for a safe teacher-pupil ratio to operate the school, giving consideration to pupils specific needs.

3. Communicating the school closure

- 3.1 If the school is to close the Headteacher will communicate this to parents and carers by:
 - a) e-mailing the MAT. This information will be displayed to the public on the 'Home' page of the MAT website. <http://www.bathandwellsmat.org/>

- b) updating the School website and informing the Local authority
- c) activating the schools text alert service.

3.2 The school will make all practical efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation at the school during adverse weather conditions, as such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check websites and listen to radio broadcasts.

Information for Parents

In the Headteachers' absence the senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Where the school is officially closed, all pupils absence is counted as authorised absence.

Should severe weather conditions prevail, I would be grateful if parents would observe the following procedure:

The school will remain open at all times and children will be expected to attend school unless -

- A) You have previously been notified of school closure by text or on the website
- B) Closure information has been posted under "Emergency School Notices" on:
http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/community/emergency_management/Pages/Emergency-closures-and-information.aspx (for schools in the North Somerset Area)
- C) Closure information has been posted on the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust website <http://www.bathandwellsmat.org/>
- D) Closure information has been posted on the School's own website
- E) Radio announcements have been broadcast, listing the schools as specifically being closed. Please listen to local radio stations
- F) Children live too far and conditions are too bad even to attempt a journey

Parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts 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 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.

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.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of the school day.

If in any doubt, and conditions are very bad indeed, please check the school website. We will endeavour to text parents as soon as possible, ideally before 8 am. **PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL.**

After a period of closure, a message will be sent to the parents/staff below to advise them of the school's reopening. Messages will also be posted on The Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust website and the school website.

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 phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. Children will not be sent home unless accompanied by a parent or adult nominated by a parent. If weather conditions deteriorate very badly we will text all parents and put a message on the school website.

It is unlikely that a prediction will be made about the day following a day of closure due to severe weather. Every effort will be made to keep the school open and parents should ensure that children attend.