



# AVANTI COURT

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **Extreme Weather Procedure**

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It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before morning school 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 enable the school to operate safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

A decision to close the school due to bad weather may be necessary with very little warning. This may happen during the day or overnight as conditions deteriorate. If the decision is made to close the school early in the morning, usually after a heavy overnight snowfall, the Trust and LBR will be consulted and then parents and families will be contacted via our Parent/Carer texting service and a notice will be put on the school website by 8am.

It is therefore essential that the school is informed by parents and families as soon as the contact telephone numbers are changed. The LBR website also carries information on school closure, although it is not generally updated until after 9am.

Wherever possible, we will ensure the school office is manned by staff who live in close proximity to school. We would be grateful, however if you would check your mobile telephones for school messages on such days, and keep calls to the school, other than to notify an absence of a child, to a minimum in order to keep the lines as clear as possible for emergency calls.

If, as a result of heavy snowfall during the day we decide to send the children home early we will again contact parents using our Parent/Carer texting service and will notify the Trust and LBR. Parents and families will be informed as soon as possible on the next morning if the school is to remain closed on that day.

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 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 prevent the child coming into school risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence will not be counted as unauthorised. In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared or salted. Parents, children and visitors must be aware that pathways, even where cleared or salted, may remain hazardous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground, or throw snowballs, or access any of the playground

equipment. Parents should also ensure that children are dressed appropriately for snowy weather as, if it is safe and possible to do so – following risk assessment – children are likely to be allowed to play on the field.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt pathways as follows:

From the main entry gate in Carlton Drive to the Reception office door and down the side path to the convenient entry doors into school. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will be salted during snow and ice weather on a daily basis, by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways as clear as possible and to prevent the build-up of ice and snow.

Once again parents, children and visitors need to be aware that pathways, even where salted, may remain hazardous.

In the Head Teacher's absence another member of the Core Leadership Team will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.