

## **POLICY FOR SEVERE /SNOW WEATHER CONDITIONS**

### **Rationale**

The school aim is to maintain normal school opening hours at all times of the year, but inevitably there will on occasions be disruption due to severe weather conditions. Whilst we understand that closure can inconvenience parents and carers in making alternative arrangements and creates additional challenges for staff and students in delivering and learning an already packed curriculum, there will be occasions when closure is necessary to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

### **Policy**

#### **Response to snow, or extreme weather conditions where the school is closed**

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher. The school will only be closed due to weather if one or more of the following conditions apply;

- 1 Insufficient staff (CRB checked, first aid trained and fully qualified) are able to travel in to keep the school running safely, (most staff live at a distance and may find roads either too dangerous to travel on or grid-locked due to accidents etc).
- 2 Conditions on site are considered too dangerous for the safety of students and staff. (We will make every effort to clear paths of snow but Redborne is a large site and it is not possible to clear all paths, or confine students to one building)
- 3 Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated to later become, too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close, a decision will be made as soon as it becomes clear that closure is necessary and the following will apply

- 1 The closure will be reported on the school website which will be the main form of communication
- 2 The closure will be announced through staff and student emails
- 3 Where possible staff may set appropriate work for students to complete at home

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed of any closure during adverse weather conditions as early as possible. We appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty placed upon parents can create difficulties. Parents are expected to check the website and/or check emails when it is clear that closure is a possibility. In the event of an expected closure due to snow parents are asked not to telephone the school unnecessarily in order to leave the telephone line free for emergency use. An exception to this would be where parents wish to remove students from school in order to ensure their child can safely reach home where the place of abode is not within walking distance of the school.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances we will inform parents. The key method of communication will be through the website and use of emails. Our aim is to effect an orderly and rapid dismissal of the premises and students will not be allowed to leave school

unless we are certain that there is a safe destination for them to go to. Parents will have agreed to students being dismissed from the school in such circumstances on the initial contract signed by parents and students prior to joining the school in year 9.

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

### **Monitoring Evaluation and Review**

The policy will be evaluated and reviewed every three years by the senior leadership team.

### **Dissemination of the Policy**

This policy is available on the school website, on request to parents and carers, the LA and Ofsted through the Headteacher.

Date approved by governing body	March 2016
Date for review	March 2019

**Internal response to snow, or extreme weather conditions where the school remains open**

In the event of snow and the school remaining open;

- 1 Students are advised to wear more appropriate footwear to, from and in school.
- 2 Main pathways will be cleared and salted as soon as possible. Parents, students and visitors are advised to take care when moving around the school site.
- 3 While the school has no responsibility for footpaths to and from the school site we will make the LA aware of any concerns regarding the condition of public pathways to and from the school site.

In order to manage students more effectively in wet weather, or snow, we need to have an alternative deployment of supervisory staff at break and lunchtimes. All staff should read and note the contingency plan below.

- 1 If there is snow, all staff on duty will be expected to manage doors and corridors near to their duties and control the entry and exit of students from the building.
- 2 An announcement via email will be made that extreme weather arrangements apply and that all members of SLT/SCG are required to be on duty in addition to the normal duty rota.
- 3 We should all be aware that after break and lunch in these conditions it may take longer to clear the corridors and playground.
- 4 Any serious incidents or potential problems should be reported to the office so that senior supervisory staff can be informed.
- 5 Snowballing will not be allowed near the buildings or on the pathways.
- 6 All staff are asked to be proactive in moving students to and from lessons, particularly in the vicinity of the main exit points.
- 7 It would be helpful form tutors could make rooms available for students to use during break and lunchtimes.
- 8 Uniform – Rules to be relaxed to allow alternative appropriate footwear eg wellington boots or walking shoes.

### **Internal Safety Measures/Checks**

Site agents to carry out continuous risk monitoring in particular of:

- 1 Main pathways, fire escapes and routes – to be cleared and salted as priority
- 2 Tree branches – heavy snow laying on branches can cause breakages; students and staff will be kept away from overhanging branches
- 3 Salting – the caretaker will ensure sufficient stock of salt is held for the winter season reviewed early in November. Salting of the road into and around the car park and paths will commence at 7am each day as necessary and during the day if conditions necessitate.
- 4 Uniform – Rules to be relaxed to allow alternative footwear.