

Leedon Lower School

Severe Weather Policy



Policy written by:	Louise Harris	Date: November 2023
Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: November 2023
Reviewed by:		Date:
Next review due by:	TBC	

Severe weather is classified as weather conditions which have an impact on service delivery.

The weather may be heavy snow, black ice, fog, floods or strong winds. In the event of disruption caused by severe weather the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

Head teachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance would put the health, safety or welfare of pupils and/ or staff at risk. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff can come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to become too hazardous for travel later in the day.

If the school is to close in the morning:

- A school text/email app notification will be sent out to all parents/carers
- A notice will be posted on the school's Facebook account.
- Staff who are able to get into school to answer any queries
- Staff will be posted outside school to inform parents/ carers as they arrive at school
- Closure will be posted on Facebook and the CBC website

Closure during the school day

The safety and well-being of pupils is paramount. Safe and speedy dismissal of pupils in the event of an emergency closure depends on the school and parents/carers working in partnership.

Parent/carers responsibilities-

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that school has up to date emergency contact details.

Parents are expected to check the school app for text messages when the weather is extreme and 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.

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.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence. If the weather forecast gets worse, then the Headteacher may make the decision to close school early and ask for parents/carers to collect children before the end of the day - this is to elevate the amount of parents/carers coming up to the school at the same time in bad weathers and to ensure most pupils are home before the bad weather sets in.

The Headteacher may also make the decision to close Out of School Club early for the same reasons, and again, parents will be contacted to collect their children as soon as they're able.

School premises

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. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

In icy conditions the Site Agent will salt wide pathways as follows:

- Pathway to the front of school to the office
- Route from front gate to the KS1 block
- Route from front gate to the KS2 entrance
- Route from EYFS playground to the hall

- Route around school to safely access the back playground

Areas affected by ice will be covered in grit and/ or rock salt. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, where possible the above routes will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the Site Agent, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, school will be open earlier for children to come inside into their classrooms.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to children at break times. In the Head teacher's absence the deputy Headteacher/senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy during the school day in correspondence with the Headteacher.

School will offer remote learning through The Oak Academy – Linked on the school website

Before and after school opening hours

Parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide or throw the snow/ice on the school playground.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Board every two years, but can be revised as needed.