

# Highfield South Farnham School

## Adverse Weather Policy

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This policy gives guidance to parents on what will happen at Highfield South Farnham School if there is adverse weather and travel becomes difficult.

### **Policy statement**

During any winter period, there is always a possibility that severe weather will necessitate the closure of the school.

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible, as long as it is safe to do so.

This policy ensures the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and ensures parents are clear about their roles and responsibilities in the event of school closure.

### **School closure**

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- A sufficient number of staff are unable to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions onsite are dangerous.
- Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated later to become, too hazardous for travel.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the headteacher. They will endeavour to make any decisions on the closure of the school by 7.45am.

The headteacher of the school will ensure the following is undertaken before any decision is made to close the school:

- A suitable and sufficient risk assessment has been undertaken relating to onsite conditions to ensure all safety issues have been considered and control measures implemented.
- Other options have been considered such as opening the school later in the day and closing earlier.

The school will alert parents to the closure of the school. A group text or email will be sent to all parents that the school has a mobile number/email address for.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation. The school website should also be checked for updates, as well as local radio stations who announce a list of school closures in the region.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day that causes concern for the pupils' welfare in relation to returning home, or continuing onsite, the school will text all parents for collection. Pupils will be supervised until they are collected.

Where a decision has been taken not to close the school, the school recognises that pupils may arrive later than normal due to bad weather. Parents should contact the school to let the school know the pupil is on their way and their expected time of arrival.

The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of pupils can get into school. In such instances, parents should inform the school of the circumstances of each case so the school can formally authorise absence. Parents acting on the assumption that the school will 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.

In the event of closure, pupil absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Care should be taken by all parents and pupils because, even where cleared, pathways do remain dangerous. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school site during these times.