

## ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY SPRING 2026



Joshua 1:9 'Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go'.  
We want our pupils to grow in confidence; to be empowered.

*'Our School is a Christian community in which pupils, staff, parents, governors and parishioners are working together, within a safe, healthy and stimulating learning environment, to achieve education of the highest possible quality, in order to prepare pupils to meet the challenge of their futures.*

*We celebrate the value of each child and set high expectations of them in our endeavours to sustain and develop their gifts and talents.'*

<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Spring 1 2026</b>
<b>Signed (Governors)</b>	<b>R Lord</b>
<b>Signed (Headteacher)</b>	<b>E A Travis</b>
<b>Date for review</b>	<b>Spring 1 2029</b>

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### **What is meant by Severe weather?**

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.

Headteachers 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:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous.
- 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 before school starts

- A text message will be sent out to all parents/carers through Parentapp
- The closure will be recorded on the Oldham Council website and the School's website
- Staff who are able to get into school will use the phones to answer queries.
- We will endeavour to inform parents by 7.30am in order to catch any parent dropping off at before school clubs.

If the school is to close during the day

- Parents will be informed by text via Parentapp

The safe 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/Carer 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 website and messages on Parentapp when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

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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.

It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

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 authorized 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 would include possible closure of after school clubs.

### **School premises**

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitor will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will be reminded by their class teacher.

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.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt pathways as follows:

- From the front gate of school through to the side gates.
- From the Pre-School gate to pre-school door
- From side gate (on Pre-school side) around the building to each classroom.
- From the side gate (year 6) around the building
- School front steps and pathways
- Year 6 outdoor area

Please note that we do not grit the carpark and parents should be extra cautious if using this facility.

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 caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, school will be open from 8.30am for children to come inside into their classrooms.

During adverse weather conditions the playgrounds may be out of bounds to children at break times.

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In the Headteacher' s absence the deputy Headteacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decision relating to the Adverse Weather Policy during the school day.