

Prenton Primary School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school either before 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:

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

If the school is to close:

The closure will be recorded on the School Website by the Head Teacher. The media (BBC Radio Merseyside/ Radio City and Heart 97.1 FM) will then broadcast details.

1. The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

2. 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.

3. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school, risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. 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.

4. In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

5. 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. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

A) from the front gate to the front door

B) from Northwood to F2 entrance (if the school has enough grit)

C) from Northwood to the Children's Centre

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day

During significant adverse weather conditions children are to come to the School Hall which will be open from 8.40am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance. Parents are requested not to drive along Bramwell Avenue but to park away and collect children from the front gate.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

In the Head Teacher's absence the Deputy Head will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy. Staff must make every effort to attend school.

If staff cannot attend they must ring the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher on their mobile as soon as possible. If the school is closed staff must check the school website daily and will be kept up to date by the Head teacher and Deputy Headteacher by telephone. If instructed to stay at home staff will be expected to work from home.