



Downsway Primary School

Adverse Weather Policy

Purpose: Our aim is to avoid, as far as possible, any uncertainty and confusion in the event of possible school closure. The safety of the children and staff is paramount.

Roles and responsibilities: The responsibility for making the final decision rests with the Headteacher. Discussions with the Caretaker and other members of staff who live close to the school will establish local conditions from which an informed decision will be made. In addition, contact with Headteachers of local schools will ensure that an informed and united decision can be made.

The Headteacher will arrange for parents and school staff to be notified and inform the Chair of Governors.

The school should be open on every possible occasion. There may however, be occasions when the school will find it necessary to close because adverse weather means that the school site is unsafe and poses health and safety risks to the school community. Untreated roads and hazardous driving conditions will also be taken into consideration.

To make a decision, regular information is obtained from the Met. Office and the Highways Agency, as well as local reports from the BBC. Discussion with key members of staff and contact with other Headteachers in the Link Group will inform the final decision.

Decisions on whether or not to close the school are never taken lightly. The first consideration is always the safety of the children. In adverse weather conditions, where staff live some distance from school, the journey to school may be too hazardous for them to set out and once here, equally hazardous for them to get home. It is expected that where staff live within 2 miles that they are prepared to walk or use public transport if necessary. We cannot open the school if there will be insufficient staff in school to properly supervise the children.

In the event of adverse weather:

A decision will be made between 6.30 am and 7.30 am (or in extended adverse weather conditions, where possible, the day before) whether the school should be open or needs to be closed.

