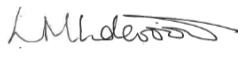


Policy Date:	June 2021	Version: 1.3	Mrs Louise Underwood (Head Teacher)		15.8.2021 12.9.2024
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Adopted by Governing Body:					
Chair Of Governors		C Brown		18.8.2021	
		Dr E Chester		26.9.2024	



Avenue Primary Snow & Adverse Weather Policy 2024- 2027



In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the main concern of the school will always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, is at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of childcare.

The school aims to remain open in the event of snow as this is important for the children's education. However, there are certain factors which may lead to the school closing, such as whether:

- there are enough members of staff to be able to provide satisfactory care;
- the severity of the weather conditions is on such a scale that it is unlikely that many people will be able to make it into school;
- the school can provide lunch for the children;
- the school grounds are sufficiently safe for children, parents and staff;
- the school has sufficient heating, lighting and hot water;
- agencies such as the police, local government and motoring organisations, are advising against travel in our region.

In the event of heavy snowfall, we cannot guarantee a normal school day.

If the school is to be open, we will post this on the website as soon as possible and normally by 7.30am on the day as well as notifying you of this by text. School will then remain open until the end of the normal school day at 3.15pm.

If the safest decision is to close the school, we will post this on the website as soon as possible and normally by 7.30am on the day as well as notifying you of this by text.

If the school is closed it is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that the following events happen:

- The decision is ratified with the Chair/Vice Chair of Governors.
- The school website is updated.
- The Head Teacher sends a text to all staff.
- The information is passed to Radio Leicester (104.9FM) and Local Authority Emergency School Closures who will put it on Leicester City Council website.
- The school office answer phone is amended to a short closure message if possible.
- Notices are placed at school entrances advising visitors, parents and pupils that the school is closed.
- School is appropriately staffed by teachers/teaching assistants and Governors to deal with pupils who arrive unescorted until parents / emergency contacts can collect them.

These tasks do not all have to be completed by the Head Teacher, although they have the overall responsibility for ensuring each has been carried out

Staff Attendance

Although it is recognised that severe weather conditions make it difficult for staff to get to and from work, unless directed by the Head Teacher, then the expectation is that staff will attend for work. Due to pupils living within a short walking distance of the school, it is expected that all staff will 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 school time.

If the school is closed to children, in severe conditions, staff must make a judgment about the safety of travelling and inform the Head Teacher as soon as possible. Staff who live in walking distance of the school must make every effort to attend, provided the paths within the school have been cleared. If staff cannot attend they must work from home on planning, marking and preparation of teaching resources.

Clearance of Snow

The school is responsible for snow clearance within the school site and this is the specific responsibility of the Premises Officers. When severe weather is forecast, the Premises Officers will lay salt and grit the night before / early in the morning. If heavy snow falls over the weekend, the Head Teacher and Premises Officers will be in regular contact to ensure the safety of the premises. The clearance of roads and pavements is the responsibility of the Highways Department and the LA.

Children's safety in school

If there is any question of children's safety being at risk, the school has a responsibility in inclement weather to keep the children indoors. Prior to pupils being allowed to play outside in the grounds, they will be warned by their teachers not to throw snowballs, not to make slides on footpaths and to take extra care when playing in the snow. Classes will take it in turns to go outside with their class teacher, provided it is safe.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will parents be contacted in the event of snow?

Our website www.avenue.leicester.sch.uk should be consulted. We will also endeavour to text everyone to ensure a clear message is sent. This 'Snow Policy' can be found on the school website and gives clear instructions for snow days.

To travel to school or not?

Parents have to decide whether it is safe for them to make the journey into school. If the school is open, and once we have established which pupils we have on site, we will construct a schedule for the day which will include, where possible, relevant academic work and a range of activities aimed at making the day as productive as possible.

Does it matter what time we arrive at school?

We will expect children to arrive at school on time, but appreciate that this may be difficult. If late, then it is important that children sign in and register at the front office.

What will happen if heavy snow arrives during the school day?

We will try to stay open until the end of the day. However, if you wish to collect your child or children from school before this time, you are welcome to do so, but please ensure you come to the school office. Anyone struggling to collect their child by 3.15pm, due to poor road conditions, transport arrangements, etc., should contact the school to inform us of the likely collection time.

Will there be after school activities?

There will be no after school activities or clubs. However, should you be delayed, please ring the school office to keep us informed. We will look after the children until you are able to get here, but please remember that members of staff will also be anxious to get home if the weather and road conditions are poor.