

Bleakhouse Primary School Inclement Weather Policy

Guidance for parents/carers and staff in the case of bad weather

1. Criteria

It is our policy to remain open unless we are forced to close because there is a risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff and pupils. The Head Teacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors is responsible for making the decision to close the school due to inclement weather conditions in the immediate locality.

The decision will be taken on the basis of one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Prolonged and/or excessive high temperatures
- b) Prolonged and/or excessively low temperatures
- c) Prolonged and/or excessively high winds that render travel dangerous
- d) Prolonged and excessive snow fall or icy conditions
- e) Excessive and/or prolonged rainfall/flooding

2. How Parents will be Notified that the School will be Closed

a. Closure Before the School Day

If the school is to be closed, there will be an announcement on the Sandwell Council website, Facebook page and Twitter account. Sandwell Council will notify local media and radio stations. Parents will also be sent a message on the School Life app.

Additionally this announcement will be posted on the school website:

www.bleakhouseprimary.school

Details will also be posted on the LA website following notification by the school to the LA.

Such an event is highly unlikely and will be avoided where possible. There is no need for parents to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open. Unless announced using the methods above, the school will be open.

While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were aware of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to literally hundreds of calls. Parents should not telephone the school at these times unless there is an emergency. If the school is forced to close overnight for any reason, a notice will also be displayed outside the school at the entrances.

b. Closure During the School Day

Should the weather turn worse during a school day, pupils will only be sent home if there are satisfactory arrangements for them returning safely.

No child will be sent home without contact being made with parents. No child will be sent home to an empty house. Should any parent/carer wish to make alternative arrangements for their child they should put these in writing to the Head Teacher.

Should the decision to close during the school day be taken the school will contact parents/carers by telephone or the School Life app.

SIPS/Chartwells (the school kitchens) will make necessary arrangements for dealing with School Meal deliveries.

3. Actions for Staff if the School is to Close

If the decision to close is taken prior to the school day staff are contacted using the *school app messaging*. It is each member of staff's responsibility to ensure that their contact details are kept up-to-date.

Should the decision to close during the school day the Head Teacher is responsible for communicating this decision to staff. Those staff who live furthest from the school will be encouraged to leave first.

Parents/carers are to be informed by the Office Staff. Those who live outside the usual catchment area are called first.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring there is appropriate supervision of any children whose parents/carers cannot be contacted. Children who usually walk home alone will be allowed to do so at the end of the usual school day.

4. Organisations and Individuals to Contact if the School is to Close

The external agencies to contact if the school is to close are:

- *Pell Frischmann*
- SIPS Catering
- Chartwells
- External Agencies Running Clubs e.g. Happy Families/WBA Foundation
- Radio stations will be informed by the Local Authority

5. Contact telephone numbers for all necessary organisations and individuals

Sandwell LA:	0121 569 8298
School Organisation Unit	school_organisationunit@sandwell.gov.uk
	paul_hayward@sandwell.gov.uk

R.L. Soudani
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