



St Nicholas^{CE}
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

Adverse Weather Policy



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Introduction

It is the aim of St Nicholas CE First School to provide an uninterrupted education to all of our pupils throughout the year. To this end, it will be the aim of the school to provide these services in all weather conditions, including periods when there may be extreme ice and snow, whilst ensuring the safety of staff, pupils and visitors.

Snow Procedures

The vast majority of children and parents are able to gain access to school by walking. However if the number of staff required to maintain the safe running of the school were unable to make the journey into school this could result in inadequate levels of pupil supervision.

IMPORTANT – PARENTS SHOULD NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES DROP CHILDREN OFF AT SCHOOL WITHOUT FIRST ENSURING THAT THE SCHOOL IS DEFINITELY OPEN.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors. 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. Please note that it may be that Nursery (non-statutory age pupil education) is closed but the rest of the school remains open as Nursery staff may be required to cover absent teachers in classes where children attend full time statutory education.
- conditions on site are dangerous;
- conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

All notification will be available on the school website www.st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk and we will send a text message to all school users i.e. parents, staff, club providers etc.

During anticipated adverse weather periods there will be daily announcements using the school website.

If the weather were to suddenly deteriorate after school has started it should be remembered that when pupils are in school they are safe, warm and can always be fed. The school would never ask a student to leave the premises in adverse weather conditions.

These arrangements also mean that parents do not have to panic and put themselves at risk by travelling in adverse weather conditions.

Parents acting on the assumption that the school will be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the student coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of snow and or freezing conditions the School will:

- apply salt/grit to main vehicle and pedestrian access routes onto the site in anticipation of ice or snow to attempt to prevent it forming.
- aim to maintain safe passage through the main external pedestrian and vehicle routes as far as is practicable within our resources;
- aim to clear snow/ice from the Car Park as far as is practicable within our resources;
- clear snow/ice from building entrances, steps and the most used pedestrian routes;
- make safe any hazards due to areas becoming unsafe e.g. snow fall from roofs, etc.
- expect staff and pupils to keep to all cleared routes;
- ensure that pupils are safe once they arrive even if this means they remain in the school building long after normal closing time;
- if the weather deteriorates suddenly we will provide advice on the website regarding revised arrangements.
- School will remain open as usual and children should be collected at the normal time. However, if parents/carers do wish to collect their children early, they must "sign out" on a class register before taking them out of school.
- take the decision whether or not to close Extra Nics evening Wraparound Care and of course after school clubs such as running or football, to allow staff to make the journey home before weather conditions worsen or roads and traffic get more congested. Again this will be communicated early on in the day to allow parents to make alternative arrangements.

Our Expectations

- for pupils and staff to wear suitable clothing and footwear; i.e. children should come to school wearing a warm coat / hat / gloves. A pair of wellies is recommended for children to change into so that they can enjoy having a play outside in the snow with their classmates!
- for pupils and staff to keep to routes cleared and maintained;
- to notify the buildings team of any points/areas likely to affect safe passage;
- to ask for support if you need to enter areas that have not been cleared;
- expect that staff, pupils and visitors will take due care for their own safety in adverse conditions;

- to be extra vigilant in less used areas and areas that may have less illumination;
- for you to only use the school website and text messages to obtain accurate information, do not rely on hearsay;
- Please do not telephone to check for closures as this blocks lines.
- Please visit the school website for all correspondence unless in an emergency situation.

In the event of there being snow or freezing conditions for a prolonged period, the Schools Major Incident Plan may take effect. This will only be as a result of a loss of essential services (electricity, water or gas) or a complete lack of safe travel opportunities. You will be informed of all up to date information via the school's text facility and via the school website.

Sun Protection

At St Nicholas CE First School we acknowledge the importance of sun protection and want staff and pupils to enjoy the sun safely. We will do our best to minimise the risk of over exposure to the sun whilst encouraging all the pupils to enjoy the opportunity to learn and play in the outdoor environment. We will work with staff, pupils and parents to achieve this through:

In the event of a Heat Wave (thermal comfort) the School will:

- utilise the natural ventilation systems of the School, opening all vents, windows and doors whilst ensuring the safety and security of the building is not compromised;
- children are encouraged to make use of all available shade provided by buildings, trees, Main playground and Early Years Playground canopies etc.
- monitor temperatures to ensure safety; staff will consider the timing of events to avoid the sun's harmful rays when they are most intense between midday and early afternoon.
- actively encourage pupils to drink water and fluids to ensure they do not become dehydrated; drinks to be made available especially at events where children could be outside for a few hours; children are encouraged and permitted to drink water at any time during the school day. They are also encouraged to bring named water bottles into the classroom for use during lesson time.
- monitor our outdoor lessons (physical education) against our risk assessments.
- educate pupils about how to be safe in the sun in assemblies at the start of the Summer term .
- Reminders re sun protection will be given to parents via the school newsletter and 'Latest News' sections on the school website and in school visit letters.
Staff will minimise the risks by limiting the amount of time that pupils are required to spend exposed to the sun.

Clothing

- Children should be sent to school with a suitable broad brimmed hat which covers the ears, face and neck.
- All pupils to wear sunglasses, bearing in mind, that for safety reasons, eyewear might be inappropriate for certain activities, particularly for physical education.
- Children should be encouraged to wear loose fitting school uniform when they are not participating in physical activities.
- PE uniform is a T-Shirt not vest
- All staff on playground duty and teaching outdoors on sunny days will encourage the children to wear hats to prevent sunburn.
- When it is very hot, children will be kept out of the sun altogether.

Use of Sunscreen

- Use of sunscreen to protect exposed skin is permitted and encouraged in school.
- School are not required to administer sunscreen which should be applied before school. Therefore, parents should apply an appropriate sunscreen product to their child(ren) before school and send in the sunscreen to school labelled with their child's name and class.
- The sunscreen will be kept in a central place in the classroom to enable children to access during the day.
- Parents should show children how to apply sunscreen and encourage it's self-reapplication if needed.
- Teachers and others in positions of responsibility should ensure that sunscreen is used correctly and re-applied as appropriate.
- In certain circumstances, children may need assistance with the application of sunscreen. Where this is the case, staff must avoid compromising situations by always ensuring that a second member of staff is present during the application.
- In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for pupils who are inappropriately dressed or prepared, to avoid or minimise exposure by "sitting out" of the sun as much as possible.

Policy to be reviewed every 2 years or before if required.

Date of next review: February 2021