

INCLEMENT WEATHER & EMERGENCY CLOSURE POLICY

It is the decision of the school's Headteacher as to whether the school closes following any unforeseen circumstances. These may be:

- Snow days
- A critical incident (see school's critical incident policy)
- Other exceptional closings (heating breakdown, transport disruptions etc)

We will endeavour to keep the school open but the essential criteria for a school closure is Health and Safety. Relevant Health and Safety issues are:

- Is it safe, as an employer, to declare the school open for students and staff?
- In the event of adverse weather:
 - Are staff who live distances from the school able to travel?
 - Can the number of children who attend school be adequately supervised?
 - Can the school grounds be made safe for all traffic (on foot, vehicles and cyclists)?

Adverse Weather

The Headteacher will make a decision as early as possible, either in the evening or first thing in the morning before 7.00 am, after consulting with the site staff and checking the weather forecast. Once the decision has been made to close there will be arrangements in place for effective communications to all staff members through cascaded phone calls.

This information will then be available for students/parents/carers on our website, social media, local radio and the Local Authority's school closures web page.

Information on the school's closure can be accessed as follows:

- Bedford Borough Council posts a list of school closures on their [website](#).
- Radio: we will inform local radio stations Heart and Three Counties, who will announce a list of school closures in the region.

In the event of heavy snow fall during the school day that causes us to be concerned about children's welfare in relation to returning home, we will update the Bedford Borough website and inform the local radio stations mentioned above.

It is always difficult to make the right decision due to the unpredictability of the weather; we will aim to do this as swiftly as we can. Please rest assured that any decisions taken will be based around ensuring that your children are kept as safe as possible.

The Headteacher will ensure that all measures aimed at maximising the safety of the school will be in place. These measures include the purchase of sand/grit for paths in the school grounds and that that boilers and pipes are maintained.

Emergency closures within the school day

The school will contact parents/carers through text, social media and a posting on our website.

Date of Next Review: **October 2022**