

Hothfield Junior School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

On the morning following a snowfall the situation needs to be assessed with an aim for a decision on opening/ delay opening or closing to be made by 7:45am

1. Headteacher to liaise with DHT, SBM and premises manager to assess the situation via mobile phone contact.
2. All reasonable efforts should be made by all Staff to reach school including other modes of transport.
3. Staff should text/phone Headteacher as soon as they are aware that they may be delayed / unable to travel to school and aim to do this by 7:30am.

If the school is to close / delay opening :

1. The closure / revised opening time will be recorded on the Bradford Metropolitan District Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the BSO website; bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx#schoolclosures

The media will then broadcast details.

2. Parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using the Schoolcomms Text service activated by the Admin Team once the closure has been logged with on the Bradford website.l.
3. The home page of Hothfield Junior School website (www.hothfield.ngfl.ac.uk) will be updated regularly to communicate the decisions that have been made.
4. Hothfield Twitter feed will be updated by the Headteacher with any relevant messages in relation school opening / closing times.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority.

Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child 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 the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) from the front gate to the front door
- B) from the side gate (next to swimming pool) to the link corridor door
- C) From the gate leading into the yr 5/6 to the main entrance door.

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils children are not allowed within the school grounds. The pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

In the Head Teacher's absence a member of the Senior Leadership Team on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Approved by Governors March 2015

For review in March 2018